



ALLIANCE RUGBY CLUB

2008-09



NEWCOMER WELCOME PACKET



SIGN UP PACKAGE CONTENTS

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Welcome to the ARC (Alliance Rugby Club)

I want to welcome you to finest rugby club in the country, the Alliance Rugby Club, commonly called "the ARC". We are a 501(c)(3) organization with both youth and adult sides (teams are called "sides" in rugby) and members from all over the northeast Tarrant county area. Our primary season runs from December through May for "15 players a side" rugby and throughout the summer for "7 a side" or "7's". The ARC colors are black, white, and with a little royal blue thrown in and the ARC motto is "Fortes Fortuna Juvat" ("Fortune Favors the Brave") which is integrated in our club logo.

ARC Vision, Mission, and Goals

ARC VISION

Grow ARC into a state and nationally recognized organization for rugby fun, tradition, and excellence while providing a strong "rugby family" for all members, alumni, and supporters.

ARC MISSION

The Alliance Rugby Club is dedicated to the growth of youth rugby in North Texas. We are also members of the Texas Youth Rugby Association (TYRA) and support them in their goal of increasing the numbers of youth playing rugby in all of Texas.

We are a youth oriented club, whose main mission is teaching the wonderful game, and rich traditions of rugby, to children of all ages.

Teaching RESPECT for teammates, opponents, referees, and each other is placed above all else. Good sportsmanship is to be ingrained in all of our players.

Teach all our players that Rugby is a culture all its own, and all rugby players are BROTHERS/SISTERS WORLDWIDE!

ARC GOALS

2008/2009

1. Apply Lessons Learned To Recruiting, Advertising, Fundraising, Etc., To Improve And Simplify ARC Processes And Procedures
2. More Volunteer Participation From Throughout The Club (Parents, Men's Side, Alumni, Youth)
3. Increase In Coaching Staff
4. Start Up Girl's Side
5. Start Up Coed Touch Side (U-9)
6. Full U-19, U-17, U-15, U-13, U-11 Sides
7. Solid Practice Pitch Plan Maximizing Area Recruiting And Having Lights!



8. High School Out-of-State Trip
9. 2009 TX State Championship For U-19 & U-17
10. Establish ARC Scholarship Fund
11. Establish ARC Alumni Tracking & “Hall of Fame”
12. Permanent Pitch Plan
13. Purchase And Outfit An ARC Trailer For Gear Storage

2012

1. Develop a “serious” men’s side along with a social/”old boys” side
2. Completed dedicated rugby pitch in north Tarrant
3. International club trip
4. Multiple U-17, U-15, U-13, U-11 and U-9 sides

2014

1. 2 complete varsity sides
2. 2nd dedicated rugby pitch in north Tarrant
3. Clubhouse



OK, So What, Exactly, Is Rugby?

How about I start with the fact rugby is the second most popular sport in the world. Not yet in the U.S. but that is rapidly changing. The “once-every-4-years” Rugby World Cup (RWC) was held last year (2007) in France, finishing in early October with the crowning of South Africa as the 2007 RWC champion. The U.S. Eagles (the U.S. international competing team) did play in the RWC but had a pretty tough time of it, going 0-for-5.

Rather than me trying to inadequately explain the game of rugby on this piece of paper, let me direct you to:

Links:

Start first with: ;<http://www.geocities.com/myirugby/whatisrugby.htm>

Then go to the ARC website (<http://alliancerugby.org/Web-Page-Rugby-Newcomers.html>) and select “ARC Intro To Rugby” and “Rugby 101 Video”. Finally, on the same page, select “Spectators Guide” to get a good, down loadable pamphlet that explains the game and provides a pocket size guide to take to the matches with you. It is a .pdf file and when you first select it, you have to scroll down once to get to the actual text (first page is blank).

The Benefits of Rugby

Rugby has been called a combination of football (strange since American football evolved from rugby), soccer, basketball, and chess. There can be no denying the fitness rugby demands from running nearly non-stop for 30 minutes with a few minute break at half time followed by another 30 minutes (adult rugby runs for 40 minute halves). Since every player has to play both offense and defense, ball handling, evasive running, and tackling skills are enhanced by playing rugby. Jumping and the associated battle for the ball during the lineout bring out the comparison to basketball. And finally, because each and every rugby player on the pitch (the field) must constantly read and react to both the opposition as well as his own side (team), the mental acuity comparison to chess is brought in. I guarantee if your rugger plays other sports, their performance will be greatly enhanced through their rugby experience.

And of course, there is the culture of rugby. Sportsmanship, camaraderie between teammates and opponents, and the absolute nature of rugby as a team sport are all paramount and considered defining characteristics of the game. It’s also what makes the ARC a rugby “family” more than just a sporting club.



ARC History

In late 2002 five former Rugby Players, all with kids of various ages, began discussing the forming of a Rugby Club focused on Youth participation. All had been long time Rugby players and have realized the benefits of the sport, fitness, camaraderie, sportsmanship and competition and the ethics that come with participation in team sports. Alliance Rugby Club was formed and began competing in the Texas Rugby Union (TRU) with Under 12 and Under 15 years of age and HS teams. The club was formed as a 501(c)(3) organization, giving contributions to the ARC a tax deductible status.

Since then we have won many TRU matches and several tournaments. We have had several hundred kids compete for us in the past 4 years. These kids include boys and girls of all ages and backgrounds. We have had several free Youth Rugby Clinics in nearby communities that are less fortunate than ours. While we are sports oriented we believe education comes first. We support parents' efforts to keep their kids in school and getting good grades. We currently have several former HS players attending local colleges and are still playing Rugby. Rugby is a life time sport and many of our coaches and administrators played well into their 30s and 40s. The game of Rugby is played around the world and is growing in popularity in the US. Several Universities have Rugby scholarship programs and we hope to see our kids getting some of those benefits.

For a copy of the "ARC Bylaws", go to the club website, <http://alliancerugby.org/Web-Page-Club-admin.html> and select "By Laws of Alliance Rugby Club".

Youth Rugby Structure In Texas

Youth rugby starts at the either the local club level, drawing it's players from numerous schools in it's area (the ARC is an example of this) or a single school rugby team (Jesuit and Allen High Schools are examples of this). All youth rugby organizations in Texas belong to the *Texas Youth Rugby Association (TYRA)* which was formed in the spring of 2007 and is the organization responsible for the growth and playing of youth rugby in Texas. Adult and collegiate rugby in Texas is governed by the *Texas Rugby Union (TRU)* which in turn works through the *Western Regional Rugby Union (WRFU)*, then through USA Rugby, and finally to the international ruling body for rugby, the *International Rugby Union (IRU)*.



New Player Information

Required Equipment

As a parent, this is one of the great things about rugby! Required equipment consists of: (1) cleats (no toe cleat unless the cleats are molded), (2) mouth guard, (3) kit (jersey, shorts, socks).

We will need your player's jersey, shorts, and sock sizes for ordering their kit as soon as possible. Please fill out the kit sizing sheet (attachment 1 in the "Forms" section).

Required Forms

There is a section Under "Sign Up For ARC Rugby" labeled "Required Forms" and these forms can be downloaded, filled out and turned into the personnel manager for each side.

In brief, these are the forms required:

ARC Player Profile Form

-this form includes medical history on the player

USA Rugby CIPP Form: all players MUST BE CIPP'd ("Club & Individual Participation Program") which is the registration process for USA Rugby, the governing body for all organized rugby activities in the U.S.

The preferred method for CIPPING is to register yourself on the USA Rugby web site. Step-by-Step instructions are available in the document "How To Self CIPP Register" located in the "Required Forms" folder. This document was created by the Alliance Rugby Club CIPP Administrator, Mr. Matt Tanzer and is very explicit on how to CIPP register. The actual form will need to be printed off by the parent/player and turned into their side's administrator. For the varsity and JV sides, that will be the VP for Personnel and for the younger sides that will be an adult appointed as side administrator.

Alliance Rugby Waiver Form

Other Required Documentation: we also need to keep 2 other pieces of documentation on file for youth players (3 for high school players).

- Copy of birth certificate or passport (if previously submitted, won't need another)
- Copy of health insurance card (new each year)
- Copy of photo ID (**high school only**)



Dues & Fundraising

Dues

The dues structure are based on 3 “costs of doing business” with youth rugby.

The first is the CIPP registration. When the player CIPP’s online on their own there are two important things to remember. First, since USA Rugby will charge you at the time you CIPP, the ARC dues do not include the CIPP fee (\$35 for varsity players, \$10 for all other youth). Two, remember to register with the correct Alliance Rugby Club as listed in the above “How To Self CIPP Register”.

The second “cost” is the cost of the kit. This will vary depending on the deal the club can get and the amount of any “jersey sponsor” monies the club can raise.

The third “cost” is the cost of running the club. Even though we are a volunteer organization, there are many costs of operating the club, both one time and recurrent. Foremost amongst our costs are the costs of field rental, referee fees, and field lighting charges. We also have costs associated with training equipment, field setup/marketing, club administration costs, and advertising.

The annual dues structure is as follows (kit, and club dues):

note: if the player has their kit (ARC black shorts & socks) from the previous season, the below amounts are reduced by \$25 [replacement shorts are \$20 and socks are \$5]; also, if the player requires the club to register them with USA Rugby, the CIPP fee noted above is in addition to the below amounts

Varsity & JV:	\$150
Under-15:	\$145
Under-13:	\$125

The players will receive a jersey at the conclusion of the season, which is theirs to keep.

Fundraising

We don’t want playing for the ARC to be cost prohibitive for any of our players and so we’ve tried to set up a method for players to defray some or all of their costs through fund raising. The ARC has ongoing fundraising efforts of selling club t-shirts. Each player has a “player account” that is used to defray their expenses. The players contribute to this account by getting \$9.00 credit for every 2008-09 ARC club t-shirt they sell. T-shirts sell for \$15 each. Varsity and JV players see ARC Varsity VP for Special Events (for 2008-09 it is Steve Davidson) for order forms and U-15/13 players see ARC Fundraising Chair Jacque Bachman (jacque.bachman@fedex.com; 817-881-6228) for the order forms.

Sponsorships are an important part of any 501(c)(3) organizations (contributions to the ARC are tax deductible!), and the ARC is no exception. If you are willing to sponsor or donate, or know someone who would like to sponsor, please contact ARC Sponsorship Chair Patty Jefferson (pattyjeffer@aol.com; 817-881-5182). Sponsorships and/or donations can be to the general ARC for or for specific purposes (scholarships, jerseys/equipment, youth only, etc.).



An additional form of fundraising and one that takes very little effort but has potentially substantial rewards for the ARC, is the donation program run by 2 of the largest local groceries in our area, Tom Thumb and Albertsons. ARC is a registered charitable organization at each grocer and when shoppers use their cards while checking out at the stores, the store automatically donates a percentage of the sale to the ARC. This is at absolutely no cost to the supporter and is part of the grocers' preferred customer programs which offer substantial discounts to shoppers. At Albertsons, each time you check out you simply present a card we supply you with that has the ARC donation barcode imprinted on the card. The other grocer program, Tom Thumb, utilizes their existing "Reward Card" program, and once you have a Tom Thumb "Reward Card", you submit a very short "Reward Application" form (Attachment 1 in this packet) to the ARC Treasurer, Erik Moorhead, or Fundraising Chair, Jacquie Bachman. We will turn it in to Tom Thumb for you and from that point on anytime you use your Tom Thumb "Reward Card" a percentage donation is given to the club.

Volunteers

The ARC is an all volunteer organization. As such, without adequate volunteer help from the membership, we will cease to function. There are some tremendously talented and hard working, coaches, administrators, and volunteers working for the ARC right now but we need more help and support in order to continue functioning as the world class organization we are. I know everyone has many, many demands on their time and talents and each of us vary from one another with what we can offer, how much, and when. For some of us, we have some time to offer, for others it may be specific skill sets, a strong desire to volunteer, financial, personal connections, or any number of other things. I would just ask each of you to please let us know if you can help in any way for any amount of time. There are constantly things that need to be done. And if you do have a little time, we desperately need help with some of our standing committees: administrators for each of our sides, audio visual support, equipment, facilities, fundraising, marketing & PR, and scholarships are some places we where we are in dire need of help.

If you are willing to help when you have time, please let myself or ARC Vice President Sam Wilcox know and we'll just put you down for "maybe" and we'll know we can ask and if you can help great and if not, no big thing.



ARC Communications

The primary means of communication of ARC information is via the weekly "ARC This Week" where we try to keep an up-to-date listing of calendar events and activities and the ARC web site (<http://alliancerugby.org/>). Also, the calendar linked onto the web site puts out reminders of events specifically targeted to the appropriate groups. If there are special, short notice events, we put out "ARC Blasts" to get the information out in a timely manner. While I personally prefer to talk to folks in person, with the size of the club it is not practical to pass information that way most of the time. So we'll save the "jawing" for the games and practices when we can all get together and socialize as a "rugby family". That said, please don't hesitate to call me anytime you have a question, comment, complaint, suggestion, or just want to talk.

Mike "Kentucky" Jefferson

Alliance Rugby Club (ARC) President

2007 Texas State High School Champions

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COACHES' CODE OF ETHICS

As a coach of youth rugby, a member of USA Rugby and the Texas Rugby Union, I pledge to uphold the following guidelines.

- I will place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing environment for my players.
- I will promise to review and practice basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship.
- I will be knowledgeable in the laws of rugby, and will teach these laws to my players.

PARENTS' CODE OF ETHICS

As a parent and supporter of the Alliance Rugby Club, an organization that is committed to fostering the growth of its youth and rugby in the North Texas area, I will abide by the following guidelines. I understand that deterring from these guidelines could result in a revocation of my rights as a member.

- I will be responsible for my conduct while at practice and games.
- I will be responsible for the conduct of others who attend team functions in my behalf (friends, relatives, etc.).
- I will follow all rules pertaining to the facilities that hold team functions.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, and event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well being of the children ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will remember that the game is for youth, not for adults.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect.
- I will honor the rules, ethics, and code of conduct for rugby, the Alliance Rugby Club, the Texas Rugby Union, and USA Rugby.