

RUGBY INDIANA ANNUAL CLUB/TEAM AGREEMENT



2026-2027 USA Rugby Membership Year

Rugby Indiana (RI) Affiliate Clubs/Teams have an ongoing responsibility to comply with the standards and policies that RI sets to ensure that youth rugby in Indiana is safe, fun, accessible, and true to the spirit of the game. As the Club Administrator/Leader, I am responsible for ensuring that our Club/Team policies and culture support these goals and that we are compliant with RI standards, policies, and procedures.

In consideration for participation in Rugby Indiana, with my initials and signature below, our club applies to be part of the Rugby Indiana programs for the year and I agree to ensure that:

1. **Athlete registration**

All athletes participating with our Club are properly and fully registered within the RI registration system for the correct season before practicing or competing with us. Further, all athletes participating in any competition will be listed on the team's official match roster.

2. **Coach training, certification, and registration**

All Club coaches are properly trained, certified as required, and registered and in good standing with USA Rugby. Only coaches with USA Rugby Level 1 (formerly L200) or higher certification may coach contact/tackle players. Non-contact/flag coaches must meet any minimum standards established by RI and USA Rugby. All Club coaches must be trained to put the welfare and safety, including SafeSport principles, of the athletes above performance outcomes. All Club coaches must also sign and submit the Coach Agreement specific to the season they are coaching (e.g., Spring, Travel, Fall)

3. **SafeSport, MAAPP, and in-program contact requirements for adults**

Our Club complies with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) and Rugby Indiana's SafeSport Policy. MAAPP defines "In-Program Contact" as any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in sport, including practices, competitions, team travel, team meetings, club events, and other program activities. All adults who have in-program contact with players, including but not limited to Club Administrators, Coaches, Referees, Board Members, Team Parents, and Volunteers, must:

- Be registered with USA Rugby in an appropriate role (Coach, Administrator, Referee, or other USA Rugby-defined role) and be current and in good standing for the applicable year.

- Complete required SafeSport training and maintain current status as required by USA Rugby and Rugby Indiana.
- Successfully pass required background screening in accordance with USA Rugby and Rugby Indiana policies.

1. Club registration and rostering of adults with in-program contact

All adults who have in-program contact with players for our program (including administrators, volunteers, board members, referees, and team parents with regular contact) must be registered with our Club in an appropriate role and appear on our Club's annual membership list within the membership system. Only coaches are required to appear on individual team rosters. Failure of any such adult to appear on our Club's membership list, or of any coach to appear on the appropriate team roster, is a violation of policy, regardless of whether the individual is registered and in good standing with a college, adult club, or other rugby program.

2. Player safety, welfare, weather, and concussion

Our Club places player safety and welfare at the highest priority and will consider weather conditions, environmental factors, and individual player health in all rugby activities, including practices, competitions, team travel, and club events. We will adjust or suspend activities when heat, cold, storms, field conditions, or other environmental concerns present a risk to player safety.

Our Club will follow Rugby Indiana's concussion policy, which is intended to follow World Rugby Regulation 10 and World Rugby/USA Rugby concussion guidance, including "Recognize and Remove" and Graduated Return to Play principles. Any player with a suspected or diagnosed concussion will be removed from play immediately, will not return the same day, and will follow the minimum stand-down and return-to-play requirements established by Rugby Indiana, USA Youth & High School Rugby, and World Rugby before resuming contact rugby.

3. Club responsibility for behavior and culture

Our Club is responsible for the behavior of our coaches, administrators, athletes, and supporters/spectators, and we will work to create a positive culture that celebrates compliance with the RI Code of Conduct. We will take immediate corrective action when violations occur.

4. Compliance with RI Policies & Procedures

Our Club will follow all RI Policies & Procedures (P&Ps) to the absolute best of our ability, and we will abide by rulings made by the Disciplinary Committee, the Executive Director, and/or the appropriate Commissioners Committee if we should fail to follow the P&Ps. Our Club is responsible for ensuring that our coaches, administrators, athletes, and supporters are aware of all RI Policies & Procedures, including policies governing competition, player safety and welfare, nondiscrimination and diversity, SafeSport and MAAPP compliance, and RI's Youth Variations. We agree that "I didn't know" is not an acceptable reason for non-compliance

5. Accurate and up-to-date contact information

I am responsible for ensuring that our Club's key contact information is accurate and up to date with the League Administrator prior to each season. I will ensure that the following positions are clearly named with the League Administrator and in the RI system, including all contact information: Club Administrator, Club Secondary Contact, and the Head Coach and Assistant Coaches of every one of our Club's teams. I understand that RI will use this contact information to convey official notices to Club Administrators and Coaches and that if our data is not accurate and up to date, we are responsible for missing key information updates.

6. Sanctions for non-compliance

I understand that failure to comply with these requirements, and with all Rugby Indiana Policies & Procedures and applicable USA Rugby and World Rugby policies and regulations, including SafeSport and MAAPP obligations, Rugby Indiana's concussion policy, and the registration and rostering of all adults with in-program contact, may result in sanctions or other disciplinary action applied to individuals, Club leaders, and/or the Club.

Club Administrator/Leader Name (Printed): _____

Club Administrator/Leader Signature: _____

Club Name: _____ **Date:** _____