



THE BREAKDOWN

Financial Update

Rugby Ohio strives to be transparent with financial updates throughout the year. Below are a few important items related to Rugby Ohio finances:

- The financial review of Rugby Ohio is complete. The results of the review can be found on the [Rugby Ohio](#) website. The report states, "...not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with the cash basis of accounting used by the Association." Rugby Ohio is already working to implement some updates to the chart of accounts, as was recommended in the review.
- The refund process is now complete. Over 700 refund requests were processed. For more information on the refunds, please see the 'Spring Registration Refunds' article below.
- When return to play is available, CIPP will be honored and in effect from USA Rugby, as approved by the bankruptcy courts. Any player who was not yet registered with USA Rugby when the shutdown began will be covered through a supplemental policy provided by Rugby Ohio.

Spring Registration Refunds

Refunds for the spring season have been issued. Some of you have asked for more detail as to the reason for only refunding 50% of registration fees. Here are some important factors that played into that calculation:

- Rugby Ohio processes registrations two times each year. Those registration fees are used to cover costs of programming for the entire year. Registration fees currently comprise 84% of Rugby Ohio's revenue.
- Overhead Costs: Staff is retained between seasons, per past practice and similar to how teachers are retained between classroom sessions. This created institutional stability for all stakeholders.
- Registration software, InjureFree, other ongoing fees for tools used by the organization
- Face-to-face coaches meetings and clinics
- External costs of the third-party financial review
- CIPP registration to USA Rugby. RO processed bulk uploads as usual, until the shutdown.
 - Fall players are CIPP'd out of spring registration fees
 - CIPP will be honored if return to play is offered
- Retention of reserve funds
 - Reserves are projected to decrease by 50% as compared to August 2019 levels
 - Reserves were needed in light of USA Rugby reorganization and possible restart of play
- Ongoing operations

SportLoMo

USA Rugby has been working for several years on a new registration platform to replace Webpoint. That effort was interrupted with the Chapter 11 filing. The platform is SportLoMo. The contract is being honored and two SROs are already using SportLoMo through a [pilot program](#). Rugby Ohio intends to transition to SportLoMo and is beginning that process. You will receive further information regarding this change in the future. The plan is for the next batch of registrations to be processed through SportLoMo. Advantages of the new system include:

- One registration system for all levels of rugby in the US
- Bulk uploads to USA Rugby no longer necessary
- Integration of registration system and officiating system

Rugby Ohio has heard the concerns of coaches both in Ohio and across the country about the need to reduce the number of platforms in use. This will be a great next step in realizing long overdue progress on that front. Stay tuned for more information.

Curious to see what SportLoMo looks like? Visit their website for a quick tour.

Check out SportLoMo

Questions about Youth Leagues

Youth rugby growth in Cincinnati and Cleveland is in a dynamic transition. Rugby Ohio feels it is better for the players, coaches, parents and organizers to be unified and under one umbrella, affiliated at the national and international level with USA Rugby and World Rugby. Consistent with our mission, Rugby Ohio will continue to offer youth a chance to learn the game with exciting leagues in both cities.

Cleveland Rookie Rugby and Rookie Rugby Cincinnati continue to generate a tremendous amount of excitement around youth rugby. Rugby Ohio Board members worked with those organizers to try to strike a mutually beneficial arrangement to keep them under our umbrella. We could not get there, and they made a business decision to split from Rugby Ohio. We expect kids coming out of both programs to learn to love the game and continue to participate at higher levels.

Obviously this is a sensitive topic as we have long standing relationships with these coaches and many are involved in high school programs. We appreciate everyone's attention to this difficult topic. We are all in this together, and we can try different approaches to build interest. Rugby Ohio reiterates its commitment to all youth players, parents, coaches and referees throughout Ohio.

USA Rugby Files Chapter 11

On March 31, 2020, USA Rugby filed for Chapter 11 reorganization in Delaware courts. USA Rugby is a member of World Rugby, the international rugby governing body which provides standards for safety, play, coaching, referees, and administration. World Rugby has agreed to financial support of USA Rugby for the reorganization. As such, World Rugby will have some control over any proposed organizational structure changes. World Rugby is largely a member-based organization with a requirement that there only be one governing body per region (i.e. North America). More about World Rugby can be found on their [website](#). Please find below some further explanations and predictions regarding how the USA Rugby reorganization might impact you, your players, and your teams.

USA Rugby is expected to emerge from Chapter 11. A mostly volunteer group of dedicated rugby enthusiasts with bankruptcy and reorganization experience are leading proposed changes that should positively impact the youth and high school rugby experience in America. This group is planning to be ready for a return to play September 1, 2020 dependent, of course, upon any restrictions from the bankruptcy court or from government COVID-19 policies.

Safety remains the top Rugby Ohio priority. Regardless of when we return to play or the exact organizational structure of a national rugby governing body, safety remains the top Rugby Ohio priority for players. You can expect that coaches and others that impact players will continue to be subject to robust background checks, demonstrated coaching/referee competence, training in SafeSport and governance from the independent Ohio Rugby Disciplinary Board. Rugby Ohio is monitoring all changes in service offerings from USA Rugby and will secure liability insurance prior to the restart of play whether from USA Rugby or private sources.

Rugby Ohio is open and planning for play. Although Rugby Ohio is operating with a dramatically reduced resource base, we are prepared to facilitate competition as soon as it becomes allowable. A host of volunteer board members are supporting our skeleton staff and are actively engaged with the Rugby Ohio internal transition forced by COVID-19, the reorganization of USA Rugby, and planning for the restart of play in the near future.



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