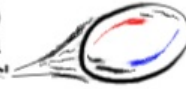




# THE GRUBBER



## COVID-19 Return to Play

We are excited to see recreation and businesses cautiously returning to some operational status. Rugby Ohio continues to urge caution in returning to play. The risk is too great that opening up too soon will lead to further spread of the virus.

### Competitions

Rugby is a contact sport. It cannot be played as a scrimmage or game until we get word from the State of Ohio that we are allowed to organize competitions. Therefore, Rugby Ohio will not be organizing competitions during the summer. Looking ahead, it is also uncertain if we will be able to resume with a 7s season in the fall. We expect to make a final decision on this matter in August. We are hopeful that spring rugby will be back in full session.

### Training

We encourage all players to continue to work individually on developing their skills and fitness. The State of Ohio is now allowing small groups to assemble to conduct skills training.

- The state guidance is clearly informed by CDC considerations of how the virus might be transmitted in youth sports.
- The mandated guidelines are in close agreement with USA Rugby's Return to Play at Stage 3
- USA Rugby provides a checklist that meets much of the State mandate, but not all of it. OSHAA gives a detailed protocol that addresses all of the State's concerns
- We highly recommend you follow the OSHAA protocols.

If you are a High School program operating under an athletic department, you will need to follow the OHSAA protocols—please check with your athletic department and/or local public health officials.

### Athletic Trainers Available

Rugby Ohio will provide an athletic trainer for your team's first practice to help you establish reasonable protocols. Please inform [standish@rugbyohio.com](mailto:standish@rugbyohio.com) if you intend to start group skills training, and if we can arrange an athletic trainer to attend your practice. He will be able to ensure that your players have registered and are covered by insurance.

### References:

- [State of Ohio – Responsible Restart Mandatory Practices for Skills Training](#)
- [CDC Consideration for Youth Sports](#)
- [USA Rugby Return to Play Guidelines](#)
- [OSHAA](#)

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## USA Youth & High School Rugby

Representatives from all State Governing Bodies (SGBs), formerly referred to as State Rugby Organizations (SROs), have been working diligently to establish a new entity, USA Youth & High School Rugby, USAYHS, to manage and oversee the game for youth participants through high school age.

The SGBs voted unanimously to support Terms of Reference (TORs) that have been drafted to guide that process. These were required by USA Rugby's bankruptcy court dealings and their largest debtor, World Rugby. These TORs simply state an intention to continue on this path. An election is underway to select regional representatives to sit on the new national Council. Rugby Ohio falls in the Midwest region, along with Rugby Indiana, Rugby Illinois, Rugby Michigan, Rugby Wisconsin, Rugby Kentucky and Rugby

Minnesota/North Dakota. One member of the new Youth Council will sit on the USA Rugby Board. Previously, there was one seat on the board that represented Youth, College and Club combined. Now there will be one representative for each of these.

USAYHS Rugby will have the opportunity to contract for services/products with USA Rugby as an affiliate. World Rugby will continue to certify coaches and referees through this process. This was a critical piece for Rugby Ohio. USAYHS will now have the option of purchasing CIPP through USA Rugby or pursuing its own insurance. The bottom line is that the national youth rugby community will have more options and more representation, better control over the management of the youth game and finances that are completely independent from USA Rugby.

Stay tuned for continued updates on this important evolution in the organization of our game. The new registration cycle will be with USAYHS Rugby, as an affiliate of USA Rugby.

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## Annual Nominations & Elections

Rugby Ohio conducts annual elections to its Board of Directors. The nomination period is now open for 2020/2021. Terms of office begin with Rugby Ohio's fiscal year, on September 1st.

There are currently 17 members on the Board. Rugby Ohio looks to ensure representation on the Board across stakeholder groups and regions. If you feel you, or someone you know, could help work on the Board to strengthen and grow our efforts, please consider submitting a nomination. Nominations will close on August 1st and elections held at the August 18th Board meeting.

Would you like to learn more? Please visit the [Contacts](#) and [Organizational Documents](#) pages of our website where you will find the [Board Member Expectations](#) document for reference.

Nomination Form

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