



Alberta Rugby Union

11759 Groat Road
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6

Rugby Alberta President's Report

Return To Play

Most clubs across the province did participate in either a tournament, festival, league competition, or some modified rugby activities during the 2021 season. Rugby in 2021 is a testament to our clubs' commitment to putting on programs and ensuring safety for our athletes.

We are all excited to understand what the 2022 season will be. Being flexible and adaptable will continue to be critical to Rugby's future. Planning a 2022 competition structure will begin in the new year through engagement with our Subunion presidents.

COVID

Allowing our athletes to participate safely in our sport will continue to be a focus in 2022. Participants over the age of 12 will be required to be vaccinated to participate in Rugby in 2022. Being vaccinated is the standard for sport and participation in most activities that take place outside of the home. Rugby Alberta will shortly roll out the vaccine policy for participation aligned with the national Rugby policy. As more information becomes available will be updating our policy on youth athletes between 5 and 11 years of age. We are still in pandemic with the number of arising variants. We can be assured that we will continue to have to deal with COVID in 2022.

HSBC Sevens Series

In 2022 Edmonton, Alberta, was afforded a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to host a World Rugby Sevens stop. Alberta continues to be considered a destination for international rugby events. Alberta will continue to have opportunities, but we need to continue building Rugby's profile and attendance at these games.

Community Investment

Rugby Alberta did invest back into Rugby in Alberta in three main areas. First, through our partnership with Respect in Sport, Rugby Alberta made 200 Activity Leader training programs available for registered coaches. Second, Rugby Alberta provided funding to subsidize participation in the coast-to-coast rugby conference. Third, Rugby Alberta donated 50/50 funds back from the World Rugby stop in 2021 back to the Judy Seddon Scholarship fund and directly back to the Calgary and Edmonton Rugby Union. Our partnership with World Rugby and Rugby Canada will continue in 2022, and Rugby Alberta will hire a community development officer to work directly with the clubs in 2022.

Changes in Staffing

Rugby Alberta had a ton of changes in their team in 2021. Graeme Moffat, Even Fletcher, and Hubert Buydens all accepted opportunities outside elsewhere. The fact that Rugby Alberta is a team whose resources were in high demand is a testament to the strength of our organization.

Peter Houlihan stepped in as the acting Executive Director, and we were fortunate enough to be able to Contract Ashely Stacey for the season. We are currently actively recruiting for several positions, including membership services support to help our members with registration.





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Closing

First, I want to take the time to thank the various leaders of our sub-unions and clubs. We would not have been able to get Rugby back on the field without their support. Our community has shown remarkable resilience during this difficult time.

Finally, I want to take this time to thank the Rugby Alberta Board for all their time this past year and look forward to the new Board getting even more accomplished next year. I want to thank the Rugby Alberta team current and departed for their hard work in 2021, including Peter, Christi Sue, Hubert, Ashley, and Graeme and the numerous summer students Rugby Alberta had.

Sean Hofstetter

President, Rugby Alberta

