

VIRGINIA RUGBY UNION
 SPRING NEWSLETTER 2001

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Last Hardcopy Newsletter! That's right – by vote at the AGM, this will be the last hardcopy of the VRU Newsletter. Starting in April, the Newsletter will be distributed via e-mail and the VRU website. The Newsletter, currently seen at the website in HTML format, will be printed in PDF format for easy downloading. When a new Newsletter is posted there, all club presidents, captains, and coaches will receive an e-mail stating so. This e-mail will also contain the hypertext link to the VRU homepage, an attachment of the Newsletter, and, if there is not that much new news, the new sections will be highlighted. It will be up to the club contacts to let their players know of the new Newsletter! The players are then responsible to go to the website and read it. The club contacts may want to download several copies from the e-mail attachment. This electronic distribution will speed up the dissemination of information several times a year instead of having to wait for quarterly Newsletters being printed.

Elected at the AGM were the following:

President: Mr. Kris Kabza, Mary Washington College WRFC. president@rugby.org

Vice President: Dr. Bill Lucas, Mary Washington College WRFC. vp@rugby.org

Secretary: Greg Markham, Blackwater RFC. secretary@rugby.org

Treasurer: David Chapman, Norfolk RFC. treasurer@rugby.org

MARFU/USA Rugby Rep.: Reyn Kinzey, United RFC. usa@rugby.org

Men's Club Coordinator: Reid McClure, Roanoke RFC. men@rugby.org

Women's Club Coordinator: Kam Kelly, Norfolk Storm WRFC. women@rugby.org

Men's College Coordinator: Carl Schmitt, United RFC. collegemen@rugby.org

Women's College Coordinator: Julie Comer, BRATS WRFC and UVA WRFC.

collegewomen@rugby.org

Youth Coordinator: Dan Bicehouse, United RFC. youth@rugby.org

Disciplinary Chair: Rodney Hall, Blackwater RFC. discipline@rugby.org

Newsletter Editor: Jeffrey Anderson, Norfolk RFC. news@rugby.org

Referee's Rep (appointed): David Chapman, Norfolk RFC. ref@rugby.org

Equipment: The USA Rugby Referees Association has issued three rulings regarding equipment.

1. Shoulder pads MUST have the official IRB mark on them or they will not be considered legal.
2. Scrum helmets may NOT be black.
3. Blade soled shoes are legal. HOWEVER, they must be entirely molded from rubber. If not, they are unacceptable. Also, they must not have sharp edges or ridges. Who determines what is sharp? The referee of your day's match, that's who. Also, if the referee thinks that your boot is liable to cause injury it is illegal.

MEN'S CLUB:

Blacksburg RFC won the men's club Sportsmanship Award for 2000. They get \$150 credit on their VRU dues and \$100 credit on their RSV fees.

Coming into the Spring season, the standings for the Championship Division are as follows:

Championship Division:	
PAC	9-0
Washington	7-2
Maryland Exiles	6-2
Brandywine	6-2
Media	5-3
Philly-Whitemarsh	5-4
Baltimore-Chesapeake	3-5
NOVA	3-5
Raleigh	2-6
Norfolk Blues	2-5
Frederick	1-7
Washington Irish	0-8

COLLEGE MEN:

Virginia Tech RFC won the college men Sportsmanship Award for 2000. They get \$150 credit on their VRU dues and \$100 credit on their RSV fees.

Going on in the MARFU playoffs in the Spring are Virginia Tech and James Madison in Division I and Radford and Longwood in Division II.

The Division I and II Final 4 for Collegiate Men have been awarded to the Virginia Beach Sportsplex.

Join the VRU as an Associate Member after a several year hiatus is Christopher Newport University.

Errata: Left off the list of VRU College Men All-Stars were Radford players Daniel Finley-Notman and Nick Bruffey. Also, Radford was undefeated in Division II play at 4-0, not 3-1 as previously reported.

COLLEGE WOMEN:

Mary Washington WRFC won the college and club women Sportsmanship Award for 2000. They get \$150 credit on their VRU dues and \$100 credit on their RSV fees.

Going on in the MARFU playoffs next Spring are James Madison and UVA in Division I and William & Mary, Mary Washington, and Longwood in Division II.

The Mary Washington College WRFC had a nice story with lots of photos done on their team in the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star newspaper December 31.

WOMEN’S CLUB:

Blue Ridge will be playing in the MARFU Playoffs this Spring representing the VRU.

Blacksburg WRFC has folded.

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Youth/U-19

There is a non contact rugby coaching clinic being held at Falling Creek Middle School in Richmond, VA on Sunday, February 18. For more information or a brochure, contact Dan Bicehouse, the VRU Youth/U19 coordinator, at 804-717-2736 or youth@rugby.org

The Virginia Tech Men's Rugby Club is going to be hosting an Under 19 Youth Rugby Clinic in Blacksburg, VA on February 24-25. The program is going to be bringing in high school age rugby players from up and down the east coast in an attempt to spread the game of rugby and to improve the skill set of young rugby players. The clinic is being overseen by Virginia Tech players and former coaches. For more information, contact Mike Beckner at mbeckner@vt.edu

The U-19’s will hold four tryout camps for its National U-19 Team. The nearest one to the VRU is Washington DC on April 21-22. The fee is \$65 and includes a T-shirt and player handbook. Applications and an information sheet can be found at <http://www.usarugby.org>

REFEREES:

In a study done in Australia it was found that a referee makes approximately 600 decisions every game, eight per minute. If a referee makes a bad call only 1% of the time, that would be tremendous. However, if you extrapolate out the 1%, that’s six bad calls per game. If a referee, therefore, has a game with two or three bad calls, that’s a game that has been reffed 99.5% correctly! The players should play so well. (Thanks to **Referee**, the official newsletter for the New Zealand Rugby Referees for the information.)

COACHING:

There will be a Level I and Level III coaching clinic in Richmond the last weekend of August. One person from each club will be able to attend free. Watch for more information on the VRU website in the future.

SEVENS:

There will be four MARFU qualifying tournaments this summer. Those awarded to date include:

June 9	Lehigh Valley 7's
July 14	Norfolk 7's
July 28	MARFU Championships, Norfolk, VA

Only eight (8) teams will qualify this year for the MARFU Championships.

Former Raleigh fullback Dave DiSorbo, now with OMBAC, made the cut and was named to the USA squad for the Rugby World Cup 7's. Dave played prop.

USA 7's coach Tommy Smith has resigned. The team's technical advisor John McKittrick is now the interim coach.

In the Rugby World Cup of Sevens, played at Mar del Plata in Argentina, the USA squad bowed out of the Plate quarterfinals by losing to Spain, 26-5.

MARFU:

Eagle selectors have named 21 players from December's All-Star Championship to be part of the 2001 National Team training squad. None were from MARFU.

INTERNATIONAL:

Here are the current rankings for the top 20 countries:

1. New Zealand 2. England 3. Australia 4. South Africa 5. France 6. Wales 7. Argentina 8. Ireland 9. Scotland 10. Samoa 11. Fiji 12. Canada 13. Tonga 14. Italy 15. Romania 16. United States 17. Uruguay 18. Japan 19. Chile 20. Russia. There are currently 60 countries that have qualified for world rankings.

OF INTEREST:

USA Rugby is now sending out a Club News e-mail newsletter. It goes to all club contacts, LAU Presidents, and TU Presidents. If your club contact did not receive the first one on Feb. 1, please contact Angie Fredrickson of the national office at afredrickson@usarugby.org

Here are two noteworthy pieces of information from the USA Rugby newsletter:

As we head into the 2001 season, we wanted to make you aware of a new offer from our liability insurance broker, Acordia. It's called Directors & Officers (D&O) Insurance coverage. The liability insurance that USA Rugby provides is designed to protect clubs against lawsuits arising out of physical injury to a player, coach, referee or spectator. Conversely, D & O coverage protects clubs and their officers against liability claims arising from non-injury related claims, such as wrongful discharge of a club member, libel and slander, etc. These claims are not covered on the USA Rugby liability insurance program.

What is D & O Insurance? If a club, its directors, officers, staff or volunteers make a decision which could lead to a potential discrimination (age, race, sex, or handicap) suit, fail to enforce rules or by-laws, make decisions beyond their authority, fail to manage club financial affairs, violate state or federal laws, wrongfully dismiss, reject, or suspend club personnel, coaches or players or fail to conduct due diligence regarding coaches, whether with or without merit, they will need to defend themselves. The D & O Insurance will provide the defense whether you are found legally liable or not. It will also cover up to the limit of the amount you are found to be legally liable to pay.

Why is D & O Insurance Important? The average cost incurred by a non-profit organization in the defense of a Director's and Officers claim is approximately \$145,000. Can your club or organization afford not to have this protection?

How and where do I get this coverage? The application and a brief description of the coverage as well as the costs are available on our website at www.usarugby.org, or you can contact Rita Nicholson at Acordia at 719-785-8176. She will be happy to work directly with you to get your coverage in place.

Can I get this coverage through USA Rugby? No. This coverage is in addition to the liability coverage provided by USA Rugby and USA Rugby is not responsible for the issuance of D & O coverage for it's members.

If you have any questions, please contact Rita Nicholson at Acordia. Her telephone number is 719-785-8176, or you can contact her by email at Rita_Nicholson@acordia.com.

Need to get in touch with someone at USA Rugby's national office? Here is the staff:
Note: the main phone number is (719) 637-1022.

Executive Director: Mark Rudolph. Ext. 14 mrudolph@usarugby.org

Officiating Programs: Angie Fredrickson. Ext. 10 afredrickson@usarugby.org
 Finance/Accounting: Kathleen Schneider. Ext. 15 kschneider@usarugby.org
 Membership/Insurance/CIPP: Lori Doty. Ext. 12 ldoty@usarugby.org
 Membership Assistant: Joyce Grooms. Ext. 17 jgrooms@usarugby.org
 Tournaments/Collegiate Programs: Clint Henderson. Ext. 16 chenderson@usarugby.org
 Coaching & Technical Programs: Geoff Old. Ext. 19 gold@usarugby.org
 Youth Programs: Scott Novack. Ext. 20 snovack@usarugby.org
 Youth & Technical Programs Assistant: Shari Montgomery. Ext. 21
smontgomery@usarugby.org
 Public Relations/Magazine/General Info: Allison Swickard. Ext. 18
aswickard@usarugby.org

Don't forget about the on-line services for rugby. Some of the main ones are:

<p>The rugby newsgroup:</p> <p>On the World Wide Web:</p> <p>VRU WWW Site: EPRU Web Site: PRU Web Site: MARFU Web Site: USA Women's Rugby: WWW Rugby Score Reporting: US National Team: Rugby Today: Rugby magazine: USA Rugby: IRFB: Planet Rugby: Rugbyrugby:</p> <p>E-mail: majordomo@rugby.org</p>	<p>rec.sport.rugby.union</p> <p>http://www.rugby.org http://www.libertynet.org/~djrugby http://www.pru.org http://www.rugby.org/marfu.htm http://www.tiac.net/users/chapin/rugby/ http://www.rugby.net/RSS/ http://www.usa-eagles.org http://www.scrum.com/rugbytoday/default.asp http://www.rugbymag.com http://www.USARUGBY.org http://www.irfb.com/ http://www.planet-rugby.com http://www.Rugbyrugby.com</p> <p>1. David Chapman's e-mail report with scores and collected commentary of the VRU, the East, and big matches around the country. To subscribe, put in the message: subscribe stuff-list (your e-mail address) without the parens.</p> <p>2. To receive VRU, PRU, EPRU, MARFU general news releases, put in the message: subscribe marfu-news (your e-mail address) without the parens. The same majordomo address handles both.</p> <p>USA Women's rugby mailing list. To</p>
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majordomo@world.std.com	subscribe, put in the message: subscribe usrugby-discussion (your e-mail address) without the parens.
listserv@listserv.uoguelph.ca	Rugby coaches' mailing list. To subscribe, put in the message: SUB RUGBYCOACH (your full name) without the parens.
walshpj@erols.com	This address gets you on the U-15 Youth Rugby listserv. Send your name, address, phone number, and rugby responsibilities to get on.
tacticalrugby-subscribe@egroups.com	Tactical Rugby listserv. For coaches, administrators, players, and referees.
rugbymag@aol.com	Rugby magazine. Hey, can reporting a tourney result get any easier???
info@usarugby.org	USA Rugby's e-mail address. To reach an employee, e-mail (first initial)(last name)@usarugby.org
vru@rugby.org	The VRU official e-mail address.
scompton@usa-eagles.org	The U.S. National Team's e-mail list.

The referees have a mailing list, but it's closed to non-referees. Weekly, more and more Internet rugby services go on-line. Get on-line yourself and see what there is! One great place to start:

<http://www.sportszineuk.co.uk>

FINAL WORD:

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. – Norman MacEwan

VRU CALENDAR

Mar	3-4	VWIT	Charlottesville, VA
Mar 31-Apr 1		MARFU Collegiate Men Div. I Final 4	Roanoke, VA
		MARFU Collegiate Men Div. II Final 4	Roanoke, VA
		MARFU Collegiate Women Div. I Final 4	Roanoke, VA
		MARFU Collegiate Women Div. II Final 4	Roanoke, VA
		Porter Cup	Richmond, VA

Apr	7-8	MARFU Women's Club Final 4	TBA
	21-22	Collegiate Men Div. I Sweet 16	West Point, NY & Columbus OH
		Collegiate Men Div. II Elite 8	Providence, RI
	21	Collegiate Women Div. I Sweet 16	Orlando, FL
		MARFU Men's Club Div. I Playoffs	#3 at #2
	28	MARFU Men's Club Div. II Playoffs	At top-seeded venues
28-29		MARFU Men's Club Div. I Playoffs	#3 or #2 at #1
		MARFU Men's Club Div. II Final 4	Annapolis, MD
		MARFU Men's Club Div. III Tournament	State College, PA
May	5-6	Collegiate Men Div. I Final 4	Virginia Beach
		Collegiate Men Div. II Final 4	Virginia Beach
		Collegiate Women Div. I Final 4	Rockford, IL
		Collegiate Women Div. II Final 4	Rockford, IL
		Military Club Championships	Columbus, GA
	12-13	Men's Club Div. I Sweet 16	Sacramento, CA & Ft. Worth, TX
		Men's Club Div. II Sweet 16	New Haven, CT. & Ft. Worth, TX
		Men's Club Div. III Elite 8	New Haven, CT. & Rockford, IL
		Women's Club Div. I Sweet 16	Sacramento, CA, New Haven, CT, & Rockford, IL
	18-19	Boy's High School Championship	Columbus, OH
19-20	Girl's High School N'tional Invit. Tourn.	Ft. Collins, CO	
Jun	2-3	Men's Super League Championship	TBD
		Men's Club Div. I Championship	Pittsburgh, PA
		Men's Club Div. II Championship	Rockford, IL
		Men's Club Div. III Championship	Rockford, IL
		Women's Club Div. I Championship	Rockford, IL
9	Lehigh Valley 7's (Qualifier)	Bethlehem, PA	
8-10	Men's Collegiate All-Star Championship	TBA	
Jul	14	Norfolk 7's (Qualifier)	Norfolk, VA
Aug	11-12	Men's National Club 7's	Conshohocken, PA
		Women's National Club 7's	Conshohocken, PA
	25-26	Men's ITT 7's	Palo Alto, CA
		Women's ITT 7's	Palo Alto, CA
Oct	27-28	Ed & Sandy Lee Cup	TBA
Nov 30-Dec 2		Men's ITT 15's	TBA
		Women's ITT 15's	TBA