



***US RUGBY  
FOUNDATION***

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**2024**

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**US RUGBY FOUNDATION  
YEAR IN REVIEW**

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Celebrating over six decades of lasting change

# Our Team Captains

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## Thank You, Brian Vizard

After 20+ years as president and CEO until July 2024, Brian Vizard transformed the US Rugby Foundation through financial leadership, fundraising millions, launching the "With You!" podcast, and distributing over 18,300 rugby balls to youth clubs nationwide through "A Ball 4 All."

A former US National Team captain with 22 caps, Viz was inducted into the USA Rugby Hall of Fame in 2016 and received the Craig Sweeney Award. The Foundation thanks him for his tremendous impact on American rugby.



## Welcome, Jon Hinkin

Jon Hinkin joins as the US Rugby Foundation's new CEO, replacing retired Brian Vizard. Previously Executive Director of San Diego Parks Foundation, Hinkin brings valuable sports, business, and non-profit experience.

As a former USA 7's Rugby team captain (1997-1998) who competed in the 1993 Rugby World Cup Sevens, he also spent 13 years (2006-2019) as VP of Competitions for United World Sports overseeing major rugby events. Hinkin possesses nearly three decades of experience building sales, marketing, and support teams across various organizations.



# Letter from the President and CEO

## Dear Friends,

2024 has been an extraordinary year for the US Rugby Foundation as we've continued our mission to grow rugby across America. As the sport expands, particularly at the grassroots level, we've seen tremendous interest from players, coaches, referees, teams, schools, organizations, and community programs nationwide.

I'm proud to report that we provided \$210,000 in grants this year—continuing our tradition of substantial investment in rugby's future.

With your generous support, we:

- Launched a robust and crucial youth & development program 'Youth Rugby Initiative' in partnership with Imagine Rugby
- Distributed 800 rugby balls through our popular "A Ball 4 All" program to youth teams, high schools, and community programs
- Awarded 23 college scholarships, helping develop the next generation of rugby talent and leadership
- Sent 3 student athletes to Nelson College in New Zealand to develop their rugby and educational background, providing them with transformative experiences they'll leverage to elevate their teammates' performance upon return
- Funded 8 crucial Health & Safety initiatives to ensure rugby remains a safe sport for all participants
- Provided 11 additional grants to various programs and organizations working to grow the game

None of this would be possible without the incredible support from the US rugby community. Your contributions have directly impacted thousands of players and programs across the country, creating opportunities that will shape the future of American rugby.

On behalf of the entire US Rugby Foundation, thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping grow the sport we all love. With your continued support, we look forward to reaching even greater heights in 2025.

Sincerely,



**Jon Hinkin**

**PRESIDENT & CEO**  
US RUGBY FOUNDATION

# Rugby Ethos



## Respect

Respecting opponents, coaches, and referees teaches about healthy conflict.



## Teamwork

Learn to collaborate and work as part of a team.



## Confidence

Builds confidence and self-esteem.

## Why Grow Grassroots Rugby?



## Social Skills

Instills developmental thinking and enhances social skills.



## Physical Health

Improves physical fitness and health.



## Competition

Promotes a healthy sense of competition and drive to succeed.

# Our Impact

Since 1963, the US Rugby Foundation has raised millions of dollars and awarded thousands of grants to support the growth of grassroots rugby.

**\$210,000**

**2024 Total Grant Funding Provided**

**Over \$3 Million**

**Lifetime Total Grant Funding Provided**

	In 2024	All Time
<b>A Ball 4 All Rugby Balls</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>19,100</b>
<b>Match Day Tents</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>College Scholarships</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>Pathways Of Excellence</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Coaching</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>351</b>
<b>Referee</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Additional Awarded Grants</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>84</b>

# Pillars of Support



## Youth & Development

From ball grants to match day tents, we are helping to grow the game.



## Pathways to Excellence

Sending players to develop their skills through rugby academies.



## Grant Programs

Supporting organizations through general grant programs.



## Referees

Providing opportunities for referees to improve their skills on the pitch.



## Coaches

Growing grassroots rugby starts with proper techniques provided by coaches.



## Health & Safety

Minimizing the risk of youth and high school rugby injuries.

# Youth Rugby Initiative



In the fall of 2024, the US Rugby Foundation launched the **Youth Rugby Initiative Powered by Imagine Rugby**. As a grant making organization, the USRF will provide free rugby balls, flags, and field markers to elementary and middle schools throughout the country as well as free instruction on how to play flag rugby. We are working in partnership with **Imagine Rugby, Major League Rugby**, and the **USA Youth and High School Rugby** organization. Our goal is to help physical education teachers incorporate flag rugby into their school programs to promote aerobic fitness and to teach teamwork and ball handling skills to students.



### YRI Imagine Rugby Equipment Kit

**Includes:**

- 8 kid size rugby balls
- 30 flag belts
- 50 field markers
- 1 mesh bag to carry all the items

**Access to:**

- Coaches
- Digital Skill Cards
- Game Cards
- Flag Rugby handbook

Initiative Milestones	Nationwide	States	Schools	Students
	2024 Fall	21	227	119,000

“My class came back from PE so excited— they didn’t realize rugby could be so much fun! They wished they could tackle, and even the shyest kids had a chance to run with the ball. Everyone is already looking forward to doing it again!”

**Harris Elementary School  
Cardiff, CA**



# USA Youth & High School Grants



USA Youth & High School Rugby, in partnership with US Rugby Foundation, established a national program to provide seed funding to new high school programs in an effort to increase the number of high school rugby programs throughout the United States. **The US Rugby Foundation contributed \$100,000 of funding to the program.** These new programs must be on campus programs via full varsity status or an adopted club sport by the school's athletic department.

## Since 2022, we have funded 20 new high school programs

### Final Round of 8 Grant Recipients



**East Jefferson Warriors  
High School**  
LA



**Great Hearts  
Forest Heights**  
TX



**Maui  
High School**  
HI



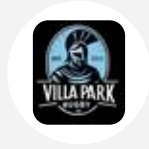
**St. Ignatius  
College Preparatory**  
CA



**St. Rita of Cascia  
High School**  
IL



**Sun Valley  
High School**  
NC



**Villa Park  
High School**  
CA

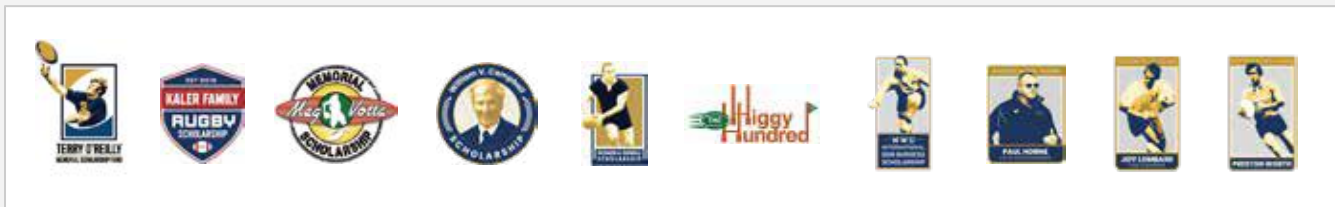


**Warren  
Easton**  
LA

[Learn More →](#)

# 2023-2024 College Scholarships

Scholarships are open to incoming college freshmen who are pursuing their rugby career while continuing their education at the collegiate level.



## Gabrielle Bryant

The Kevin Higgins College Scholarship Program

## Olivia George

The Kevin Higgins College Scholarship Program

## Michaela Gleason

Kaler Family Rugby Scholarship

## Barton Hacker

Meg Votta Memorial Scholarship Program

## Oliver Kelleher

Paul Horne Out-Of-State Resident Scholarship

WWU SCHOLARSHIP

## Euan Latimer

The Kevin Higgins College Scholarship Program

## Isaiah Little

Kaler Family Rugby Scholarship

## Jacob Mandel

The Kevin Higgins College Scholarship Program

## Jack Martin

Jeff Lombard Eagle Scholarship  
WWU SCHOLARSHIP

## Patrick McCann

William V. Campbell Memorial Scholarship

## Joe Merlino

Preston Worth Rugby Scholarship

WWU SCHOLARSHIP

## Harry Moore

Preston Worth Rugby Scholarship

WWU SCHOLARSHIP

## Ned O'Brien

Preston Worth Rugby Scholarship

WWU SCHOLARSHIP

## Roan O'Connell

The Kevin Higgins College Scholarship Program

## Jeremiah Odvina

The Kevin Higgins College Scholarship Program

## Aiden Pickston

The Kevin Higgins College Scholarship Program

## Ryan Putka

The Kevin Higgins College Scholarship Program

## Callie Rautenbach

Richard A. Donelli Memorial Scholarship

## Mykaela Reed

Meg Votta Memorial Scholarship Program

## Ava Reuter

Terry O'Reilly Memorial Scholarship Program

## Dylan Saucedo

The Kevin Higgins College Scholarship Program

## Quinn Spieker

The Kevin Higgins College Scholarship Program

## Max Stone

Don Burgess International Scholarship  
WWU SCHOLARSHIP

# Nelson College Scholarship

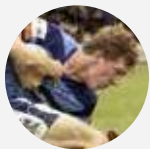


The US Rugby Foundation’s Nelson College Rugby Scholarship sends male high school students to Nelson College in New Zealand for four and a half months over the spring and summer. The goal is to advance the personal, cultural, and academic development of the student athletes while also giving them the opportunity to become better rugby players and use their experience in New Zealand to influence and help elevate the play of their high school teammates when they returned.

## 2022 Recipients

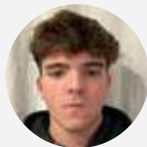


**Max Doerfler**  
*Overland Park, KS*



**Oliver Kirk**  
*Chicago, IL*

## 2023 Recipients

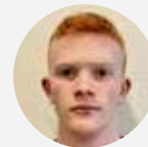


**Connor Bender**  
*Cleveland, OH*



**Joseph Walter "JW" Sarkees**  
*Central, SC*

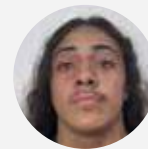
## 2024 Recipients



**Jamison Clegg**  
*Bozeman, MT*



**Charles Gehl**  
*Missoula, MT*



**Kolomona Kahanu**  
*Pahoa, HI*



*Connor Bender, Oliver Kirk, Joseph "JW" Sarkees*

## Brotherhood Beyond Borders

In a testament to the transformative power of USRF’s Nelson College Scholarship, the connections forged transcend continents. When 2023 recipients Connor Bender and Joseph "JW" Sarkees arrived in New Zealand, they found more than just a rugby opportunity – they discovered a global brotherhood. Welcomed by 2022 scholarship recipient Oliver Kirk, who returned to Nelson College for the 2024 season, the American athletes embraced the challenge, ultimately triumphing by winning both the Whangamoia Challenge Trophy and the Trustee Bank Cup. Their journey exemplifies the scholarship’s core mission: developing athletes who grow not just in skill, but in character and international understanding.

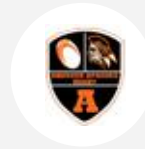
# Medical Bag Grant Recipients



The Medical Bag Grant program is designed to enhance safety in youth and high school rugby across the United States. This initiative provides fully-equipped field-side first aid kits to eligible programs, supporting our commitment to player health and safety. The comprehensive medical bags contain essential supplies for immediate, on-field care, including bandages, gauze, cold packs, and more.



**Green Hornets Youth Rugby**  
*Severna Park, MD*



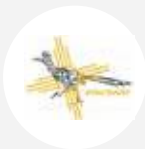
**Andover Apaches Rugby**  
*Baltimore, MD*



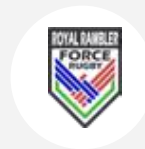
**Southern Pines Youth Rugby Club**  
*Pinehurst, NC*



**Falcon Youth Rugby Club**  
*Spring, TX*



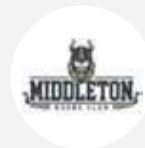
**Albuquerque Youth Rugby United**  
*Rio Rancho, NM*



**Royal Rambler Force Rugby Club**  
*Saint Charles, MO*



**Mira Costa Girls Rugby SCO**  
*Manhattan Beach, CA*



**Middleton Rugby Club**  
*Middleton, ID*

Without the support of Dr. Micheli and the Division of Sports Medicine at Boston Children’s Hospital, these medical kits would not be available for youth clubs across the US. We appreciate Dr. Micheli and his team for making this happen in hopes to provide rugby organizations with equipment and knowledge to keep players safe.

[Learn More →](#)



# Awarded Grants



## 2024 Boys High School & Club National Championships

Awarded \$4,000 to support referees at the Boys High School and Club National Championships.



## USA Rugby Boys U18 Junior National Team

\$15,000 to support the U18 Boy's 7s Tour to New Zealand.



## 2024 Girls High School and Club National Championships

Awarded \$3,000 to support referees at the Girls High School and Club National Championships.



## USA Rugby U20 Boy's Training Camp

Awarded \$5,000 to USA Rugby for the USA Boy's U20s team for their training camp in Washington.

[View Website](#)



## USA Youth & High School Rugby

Awarded \$30,000 and partnered with USA Youth & High School Rugby to operate a national program that provides seed funding to new high school rugby programs.

[Learn More](#) [View Website](#)



## USA Rugby Boy's U20s Junior World Trophy

Awarded \$20,000 to USA Rugby for the Boy's U20s program as they prepare for the 8-team Junior World Trophy

[View Website](#)



## USA Youth & High School Rugby

Awarded \$10,000 To USA Youth & High School Rugby for marketing and website updates

[View Website](#)



## Chuck Gehl

\$1,000 for player development at Eagle Impact Rugby Academy.



## USA Youth & High School Rugby

Contributed \$18,000 to USA Youth & High School Rugby to develop a Virtual Skills Platform

[View Website](#)



## Urban Rugby Championship

USRF awarded \$25,000 to Urban Rugby America for the Urban Rugby Championship, which is dedicated to minority students from under-resourced communities across the country.

[Learn More](#) [Testimonials](#)



## Together we exceeded our goal of **\$50,000**

On behalf of the Board, Governors, Ambassadors, and the entire rugby community, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support. Your contributions not only play a crucial role in our mission, but also inspire others to step forward and make a difference.

In 2024, our first year participating in Giving Tuesday, we exceeded our fundraising goals, and it's all thanks to the dedication and passion of supporters like you. Your commitment allows us to continue our youth rugby development programs nationwide, college scholarships for promising young athletes, essential coach and referee training, critical health and safety initiatives, and more!

Together, we are creating lasting change and making a significant impact in the lives of those we serve. Your belief in our cause motivates us to keep striving for excellence. Thank you once again for your generosity and support. We are excited to see what we can accomplish together in the future!

### Double Your Impact

A special thanks to those donors who doubled their impact through company matching! Did you know many employers offer matching gift programs? Want to learn more? Reach out to us at [hello@usrugbyfoundation.com](mailto:hello@usrugbyfoundation.com)

### Thank You to Our Donors!

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Anne Barry             | William Leversee       |
| Richard Bell           | Shawn Lipman           |
| Thomas Bender          | Mark Marcanio          |
| Will Brewington        | Klaus Mendenhall       |
| Craig Brown            | Kurt Mockenhaupt       |
| Ron Brown              | Alec Montgomery        |
| David Bruck            | Brad Pagano            |
| John Chase             | Aurelio Perez          |
| Bill Cisne             | Mark Pidcock           |
| Peter Codevilla        | Bob Pitula             |
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| Claudia Delgado        | Jason Severson         |
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| James Eversole         | David Skidmore         |
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| Alex Goff              | Michael Tanghe         |
| Stephen Gouthro        | Bill Taute             |
| Andrew Guzanski        | Clayton Thompson       |
| John Harper            | Marty Trinkino         |
| Tom Hendrix            | Katherynne VanderMolen |
| Jon Hinkin             | Bobby Voth             |
| John Jelaco            | Travis Warrington      |
| G Paul Kaler           | Keith White            |
| Sung Kang              | Maxwell Wyckoff        |
| Kevin Kujawa           | David Yancey           |
| Tom Law                | Michael Yancey         |
| Adam Lejeunekopp       | Marc Zimmerman         |

# 2024 US Rugby Hall of Fame

Presented by Major League Rugby

Celebrate the history, honor the heroes, inspire the youth, and preserve the legacy of rugby in the United States.



Denis Shanagher  
*2024 Inductee*



Alec Parker  
*2024 Inductee*



Larry Gelwix  
*2024 Inductee*



Lou Stanfill  
*2024 Inductee*



Mike Tolkin  
*2024 Inductee*



Jami Jordan  
*2024 Inductee*



Nancy Fitz  
*2024 Inductee*



Victoria Folayan  
*2024 Inductee*

## Special Award Recipients



Lee Kelly  
*Chairman's Award*



Tom Pirelli  
*Lifetime Achievement Award*



Cameron Fields  
*Prusmack Award*



Johnny Everett  
*Sweeney Award*

[Learn More →](#)

# THE CLUBHOUSE

**The Clubhouse is an annual giving membership comprised of individuals who are taking a personal responsibility to grow grassroots rugby in America.**

## 2024 CLUBHOUSE MEMBERS

Adelinda Leon • Andrea Morrell • Anthony Forbes-Roberts • Anthony Ridnell • Art Garland • Austin Robbins • Barbara Bond • Bill Goren • Bill Leversee • Bob Pitula • Bobby Hacker • Bradley Sharp • Bryan Bevel • Byron Deeter • C Diane Poole • Cassandra Law • Charles Hulne • Charlie Kinzie • Chris Davis • Chris Littler • Chris Osentowski • Dan Larsen • Daniel Kirk • David Ballarotto • David Castillo • David Fee • David Skidmore • Dennis Tominaga • Donna Stutzman • Eileen Scariano • Emma Woods • Eric Fisk • Frank Martinet • Gabriel Goodman • Gareth Giles Knopp • Gent Agency • Glenn Irvine • Gordian Knot Consulting • Grant Cole • Greg Stelluti • Hanoi Nelson • Hardwood Floors of Lancaster • Harry Clever • Henry Heim • Hugh O'Neill • International Athletic • J Douglas French • James Bain • James Eversole • James Herschlein • James T Dierker • Jason McVeigh • Jeanne and Jerry Gallion • Jeffrey Edmeades • Jill Giri • Jim Johnson • John and Julie Tomasin • John Dacey • John Hickey • John Mayer • John Sullivan • Jon Hinkin • Jon Hunsberger • Kerry Kelly • Kevin Ballard • Kevin Barrett • Kevin Flynn • Kevin Kavanaugh • Khader Rantisi • Kim Smith • Klaus Mendenhall • Krista Grigg • Lacie Miller • Larry Huber • Lauren Behnke • Lawrence Leahy • Leversee Insurance Services, Inc. • Lisa Huff Henrich • Lisa Mendonca • Lorcan O'Connor • Louisa Weix • Lucas Haan • Mark Pidcock • Matthew Wyckoff • Mechanical Systems Company, LLC • Michael Kress • Michael Lau • Michael Liscovitz • Michael Malone • Michelle See • Mick Hogan • Mika McLeod • Mike Girton • Monica Miller • Nelson Spencer • Patrick Hughes • Patrick Wallace • Paul Yahnke • Paul/Lana Bergman • Peter Dennis • Peter Engstrom • Peter Hamilton • Phil Camm • Ray Green • Richard Ederle • Richard Rudolph • Richard Rutledge • Rick Humm • Robby Butler • Robert Edmundson • Robert Knoepfel • Robin Harris • Roger Melhuish • Ron Bowers • RT Flanagan • Sara Kraus • Sarah Watson • Scott Littell • Scott MacDonald • Sean Duffy • Stephen Cohen • Stephen Gouthro • Stephen McPhail • Steven Hernandez • Steven Hiatt • Steven Zimrick • Stuart Levine • Suzanne Shanahan • Tam Breckenridge • Tancred Agius • Thomas O'Brien • Timothy O'Brien • Toby Lawrence • Tony Poti • Will Brewington • William DeMar • William Moore • William Sexton • Zachary Doerfler

## Join The Clubhouse

Becoming a member by making an annual donation, of any amount, is the most effective thing you can do to support rugby in the United States.

[Join The Clubhouse →](#)

# The Board

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**Bill Fraumann**  
CHAIRMAN



**Jon Hinkin**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Anne Barry**



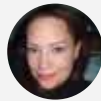
**Bill Fraumann**



**Dr. Lyle Micheli**



**David Bruck**



**Liz Goldenberg**



**Denis Shanagher**



**Ed Burlingham**



**Don Haider**



**David Skidmore**



**John Decker**



**Don James Jr.**



**Jay Waldron**



**Bob Erwin**



**Paul Kaler**



**Bob Watkins**

# The Board

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## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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**Robert Benson**



**Terry Fleener**



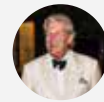
**Blaine Scully**



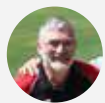
**George Betzler**



**Ray Green**



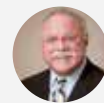
**Tim Du Val**



**Phil Bryant**



**Jay Hanson**



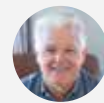
**Dick Smith**



**Dr. John Chase**



**Robert Latham**



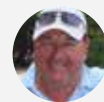
**Eric Swanson**



**Jim DiMatteo**



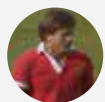
**Jim Perkins**



**David Yancey**



**Steve Finkel**



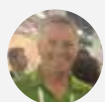
**Mike Purcell**

## STATE AMBASSADORS

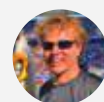
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**Kevin Flynn**



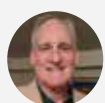
**Filip Keuppens**



**Brian Silkwood**



**Gareth Giles Knopp**



**Kurt Mockenhaupt**



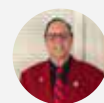
**Robert Voth**



**Daryl Jackson**



**Kevin Phillipson**



**James Wolfinger**



**Sarah Kaler**

# Get Involved

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No matter how old you are, where you live, or whether or not you can give, you can help grow grassroots rugby - and you can start right now.



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## Make A Donation

There are a number of ways in which you can support the US Rugby Foundation. Starting with a donation, of any amount, is the easiest way to get involved.

[Donate Now →](#)

*With You!*  
**FOREVER**

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## Create A Lasting Legacy

With your investment in the future of rugby you can make a profound and lasting impact on the US rugby community.

[Donate Now →](#)

# Thank You!

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We couldn't provide the opportunities we do without the generous support of the rugby community. Thank you to all of those who have made this year the best one yet! If you want to make a contribution, that would be great! If you want to volunteer to help, that would be great too!

## Visit Our Website

[www.usrugbyfoundation.org](http://www.usrugbyfoundation.org)

## Email Us

[hello@usrugbyfoundation.com](mailto:hello@usrugbyfoundation.com)

## Call Us

619-233-0765

## Send Us Mail

404 Euclid Avenue, Suite 302,  
San Diego, CA 92114

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[@US Rugby Foundation](https://www.youtube.com/USRugbyFoundation)



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[@us.rugby.foundation](https://www.tiktok.com/@us.rugby.foundation)

*The US Rugby Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization (EIN: 81-5187776).  
Our latest Form 990 is available for review on our website at [usrugbyfoundation.org](http://usrugbyfoundation.org)*



The US Rugby Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization, which has for six decades supported the growth and development of youth rugby in the United States. The Foundation accomplishes this by funding and promoting grassroots programs, college scholarships, coach & referee development, and health & safety.

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**Celebrating over six decades of lasting change**