



Alberta Rugby Union

11759 Groat Road
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6

Rugby Alberta President's Report

Return To Competition

Most clubs across the province participated in league competitions during the 2022 season and supported flexible game variations for all competitions other than our Premier ones. While it is important to remain flexible and adaptable as a province, we must continue to build back from the pandemic by striving for excellence and not settling for mediocrity in our competitions.

As decided by the entire Rugby Alberta board, Rugby Alberta will take the lead in scheduling the Premier competition in early 2022 so that the Calgary and Edmonton Rugby Unions can plan their competitions around those fixtures.

We had provincial finals for the Premier Leagues in 2022, and we look forward to returning to a full provincial championship competition in 2023.

Wolfpack Rugby

Rugby Alberta did see the return of our provincial representative program in 2022. Rugby Alberta hosted the Alberta Regional Championships in 7s and 15s and had the teams participate in the Western Canadian Championship in 2022. Exploration with the western provinces is ongoing for holding the Western Canadian Championship in Alberta in 2023.

Governance and Policy Updates

Allowing our athletes to participate safely in our sport will continue to be a focus in 2023. Rugby Alberta is leading several major initiatives.

1. We are finalizing and rolling out our safe sports policy suite, which defines athlete protection standards which will apply to all members of Rugby Alberta.
2. Rugby Alberta is updating our Rugby Alberta Bylaws to represent the current provincial and sporting environment better. This will trigger a Special AGM in early 2023 to pass the new bylaws into effect.
3. Updating the Rules and Regulations, so they are clear, concise, and void of inconsistency. The Rules and Regulations will govern all Alberta competitions, including age-grade competitions and allowable game variations.
4. Contracted a third-party investigation and dispute resolution firm to manage instances where as a community, we are ill-equipped to handle complaints and to allow for anonymous complaints from our members.

Changes Updates

Peter Houlihan has accepted the role of executive director of Rugby Alberta. We added Breanne Morgan as a development officer in 2022 based on a partnership with Rugby Canada, which partially funds that position. Christi-Sue Nesbitt continued to manage the financial administration of Rugby Alberta, and several contract staff supported the Rugby Alberta team throughout 2022. We were unsure what our staff needed to look like in 2022, not knowing how many would return to our sport in 2022. We will be posting a new FTE position in early 2022 which will take us back to our pre-pandemic staffing levels for 2023.





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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 build from the pandemic without their support. Our community has shown remarkable resilience during 2022, and we look forward to retaining and building on our numbers in 2023.

Finally, I want to take this time to thank the Rugby Alberta Board for all their time this past year, and I look forward to the new Board getting even more accomplished in 2023. I will be stepping away as president, but Chris Cooke will do an excellent job leading Rugby Alberta in the coming years.

Sean Hofstetter

President, Rugby Alberta

