

Minnesota Rugby Union COVID-19 Update



Minnesota Rugby
Football Union

Members of the Minnesota Rugby Union, Supporters, and Friends,

I am writing to provide you an update regarding the state of rugby in Minnesota during the COVID-19 pandemic, explain our Union's initial response, and outline what the Union board has been working on to allow us all a safe return to play as soon as possible.

Shortly after the COVID-19 crisis developed, USA Rugby released [Return to Play Guidelines](#) designed to minimize health risks to players, referees and spectators. These guidelines are based off local health mandates regarding gathering size – which in Minnesota is [less than 25 individuals \(including spectators, administrators/referees, and participants\)](#). This places MN Rugby under “Stage Three” in the USAR guidelines, which prohibits competition and contact activities. This led to the Union's cancellation of any sanctioned activities including Summer Sevens or any other competitive play.

The Midwest Rugby Football Union, which is the Territorial Union Minnesota is a part of, later released their own [Return to Play Handbook](#) that further outlines the guidelines and requirements for a return to sanctioned play in our region – restricting any competition until gatherings of 50+ are allowed by the State.

With these guidelines in mind, elected members of the Minnesota Rugby Union Board have been meeting regularly to determine how we can safely return to play. While we are optimistic that Minnesota will be able to reduce our incidence of viral transmission through adherence to CDC and MDH recommendations, we also want to be realistic in planning for what will likely be a non-traditional season in the fall – *if we are able to return to play at all.*

In order to accomplish this, the Board has created a Task Force to explore different formats of play and novel scheduling in order to both keep our members safe and keep our game alive in Minnesota in a time where many clubs may be struggling. We are also exploring services that we, as a Union, can offer during this trying time to add value for our members as well as maintain interest and community in the sport we love. Please feel free to reach out to your representative member if you have ideas or would like to contribute – as we value your input.

Task Force Representatives:

Greg White, President; **Dan Franklin**, Vice President & Club Representative; **Kim Krattley** and **Roger Riley**, Collegiate Commissioners; **Annika Culver**, Collegiate Representative; **Tammy Cowan**, Referee Society Representative

We will release the recommendations of this Task Force no later than August 1.

In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Greg White
President, Minnesota Rugby Football Union
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