



**HOUSTON ATHLETIC RUGBY CLUB**

**INFORMATION & SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE**

**5090 Richmond Avenue, #250, Houston, Texas 77056**  
**[www.HoustonRugby.org](http://www.HoustonRugby.org)**



# HOUSTON ATHLETIC RUGBY CLUB

## Club Overview

The Houston Athletic Rugby Club (HARC) was established in 1998 and registered as a 501(c) 4 nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion and development of rugby football in the greater Houston metropolitan area. The combined club draws upon a cumulative 73 years of rugby in Houston, through a merger composed of the former Houston Old Boys Rugby Football Club, Houston Rugby Football Club, and the Houston Hurricanes Women's Rugby Football Club.

HARC operates under the governance of the United States of America Rugby Football Union <http://www.usarugby.org/> and participates in the Texas Rugby Football Union <http://www.texasrugbyunion.com/> and West Rugby Union <http://www.wrfu.org/>. The Club fields a total of eight teams in two different formats including: Men's Division I, II and 7s, Women's 15s and 7s, High School (Under 19) 15s and 7s and Over 35 Men's 15s.

With decades of history in Houston, the club has developed a robust network of fans, former players, and active social members in addition to those who suit up and play each weekend. The club has a combined registered membership of over 150 individuals and between former players and fans in the Houston Area reaches well over 500. The majority of the club members are college-educated males and females between 21 and 35 years of age. This group includes a diverse mix of professionals, government employees, doctors, and small business owners.

## Men's 15s

The Men's Division teams (First Side and Fire Ants) have traditionally comprised the largest component of the HARC. Since inception these playing sides have established themselves among the elite competitors in the Texas Rugby Union and the Western Rugby Football Union. The First Side has qualified for the Western Rugby Football Union championships several times throughout the clubs history and in the 2007-8 season, the Men's side claimed 4th place the West but fell just shy of reaching the USA Sweet 16. New for 2008-9 the Fire Ants will compete in USA Division II instead of the more local the Texas 2<sup>nd</sup> Side competition.

## Men's 7s

The rugby version of 3-on-3 basketball 7s rugby is played in the summer (15s off-season) as a series of tournaments. Annually the HARC hosts the Jaime Varano Memorial 7s tournament in June hosting 14-20 teams. In the first seven years the club competed at the national level vying for one of the three berths at the national championships. Due to the loss of its 7s specialists and a lack of quality local opposition as well as intensive travel requirements the club has opted to play regionally the past couple years and this year leads in the newly formed Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana (TOLA) regional Championship series. Several of the clubs more dedicated 7s players have joined the Texas Elite squad to play at the national level each of the past four years.

## Over 35 Men's 15s

Rugby, like soccer, has many wishing to continue playing later in life when time commitments and recovery don't allow for week in and week out training and competition. For that the Over 35 games exist. Made up of former players they play a few times a year (limited training) against other Texas sides and join forces for annual far flung tournaments.



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## **Women's 15s**

In their first year the Women brought home the Texas Rugby Union Championship Title. Over the years the women have prospered despite the folding of several traditional (regional) opponents and restructuring at the national level. Despite the difficulties of fewer numbers and further travel they managed to rebuild ending the 2007-8 season on a high note with wins over perennial rivals Austin and Baton Rouge. The women's side recently joined the newly formed West Division II and now competes against teams in New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and Texas. They won the Div II West Championships in 2009 and hosted and placed 6th in the DII National Championships in 2009. We placed 3rd in the Div II West Championships in 2010. We continue to play regional friendly matches against college teams in Texas and club teams in Louisiana.

## **Women's 7s**

Unlike men's competition women's rugby does not have national or regional championships however it doesn't prevent them from playing. In addition to attending tournaments further afield (Boulder in 2007 and Las Vegas in 2008) many of the same tournaments the men attend host women's divisions. Playing thru the summer helps the women to enhance their skills, stay fit and socialize with friends.

## **High School (Under 19s) 15s**

HARC has been working with Houston's Youth Rugby teams since their conception in 1999 and is committed to developing Youth Rugby in Houston. The club has provided a rugby option for youth with no school team since 2004. Their 15s season is from January thru May and like the Men and Women culminates in a yearly national championship.

## **High School (Under 19s) 7s**

Recognizing the brevity of the youth 15s season a 7s division was started in 2007 to offer players an alternative to traditional high school sports during the fall, however unlike 15s there is no national championship. For those not engaged in other sports this is an opportunity to stay active and further hone their rugby skills. HARC has fielded a team since inception.

## **Summer Touch League**

During the summer HARC joins forces with local area clubs and universities to participate in a summer long Touch League (co-ed / all ages) at our home pitch.



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## Sponsor Level & Opportunities

### Platinum - \$3000

Platinum sponsorship of the HARC receives many benefits for participation including the following:

- **Company logo on front of HARC Jerseys (1 set of 22).**
- Opportunity for your Company Banner to hang at home matches.
- Placement on HARC media and website.
- HARC Game Jersey & Game Ball

### Gold - \$2000

Gold sponsorship of the HARC receives many benefits for participation including the following:

- **Company logo on HARC Jersey\* (1 set of 22).**
- Opportunity for your Company Banner to hang at home matches.
- Placement on HARC media and website.
- HARC T-Shirt & Game Ball

### Silver - \$1000

Silver sponsorship of the HARC receives many benefits for participation including the following:

- **Company logo on HARC Jerseys\* (1 set of 22).**
- Opportunity for your Company Banner to hang at home matches.
- Placement on HARC media and website.
- HARC T-Shirt

### Supporter - \$500

Bronze sponsorship of the HARC receives many benefits for participation including the following:

- Opportunity for your Company Banner to hang at home matches.
- Placement on media and HARC website.

Custom Sponsor Packages Available Upon Request

The Houston Athletic Rugby Club is a 501 c 4 Non-Profit organization

\*Logo size and placement to be determined by HARC

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**2011-2012**