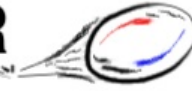




THE GRUBBER



## COVID-19 Shutdown Continues

Rugby Ohio looks forward to seeing our players engaged in the sport again soon! Until we receive approval to do that, we hope that everyone stays healthy and works to stay fit. We will reach out immediately as soon as we receive the all clear to offer programming.

The USOPC released updates on how and when a return to sports might take place. Read their press releases [here](#).

OHSAA cancelled all spring sports and extended the no-contact period through June. Read their press release [here](#).



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## USA Rugby Files Chapter 11

On March 31, 2020, USA Rugby filed for Chapter 11 reorganization in Delaware courts. USA Rugby is a member of World Rugby, the international rugby governing body which provides standards for safety, play, coaching, referees, and administration. World Rugby has agreed to financial support of USA Rugby for the reorganization. As such, World Rugby will have some control over any proposed organizational structure changes. World Rugby is largely a member-based organization with a requirement that there only be one governing body per region (i.e. North America). More about World Rugby can be found on their [website](#). Please find below some further explanations and predictions regarding how the USA Rugby reorganization might impact you, your players, and your teams.

**USA Rugby is expected to emerge from Chapter 11.** A mostly volunteer group of dedicated rugby enthusiasts with bankruptcy and reorganization experience are leading proposed changes that should positively impact the youth and high school rugby experience in America. This group is planning to be ready for a return to play September 1, 2020 dependent, of course, upon any restrictions from the bankruptcy court or from government COVID-19 policies.

**Safety remains the top Rugby Ohio priority.** Regardless of when we return to play or the exact organizational structure of a national rugby governing body, safety remains the top Rugby Ohio priority for players. You can expect that coaches and others that impact players will continue to be subject to robust background checks, demonstrated coaching/referee competence, training in SafeSport and governance from the independent Ohio Rugby Disciplinary Board. Rugby Ohio is monitoring all changes in service offerings from USA Rugby and will secure liability insurance prior to the restart of play whether from USA Rugby or private sources.

**Rugby Ohio is open and planning for play.** Although Rugby Ohio is operating with a dramatically reduced resource base, we are prepared to facilitate competition as soon as it becomes allowable. A host of volunteer board members are supporting our skeleton staff and are actively engaged with the Rugby Ohio internal transition forced by COVID-19, the reorganization of USA Rugby, and planning for the restart of play in the near future.

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## New Team Planning

Rugby supporters throughout the state are taking the opportunity of a break from play to think about plans

for the future.

Rugby Ohio Youth Leagues are already in place in various regions of the state. These are fairly easy to start as Rugby Ohio has that program laid out for you and will walk you through every step of the way. There are programs across the state for ages Pre-K through 8th grade, in both non-contact and tackle versions.

For High School teams, some new teams are realizing success when they begin with a Fall 7s team. It is a shorter season and requires fewer players to be successful.

**Would you like to help?** Rugby Ohio plans to utilize college rugby players as interns to serve as game day organizers and act as a local resource. If you'd like to get involved in this way, please contact [Chris Northup](#).

Resources:

- Youth - Contact [Chris Northup](#), Rugby Ohio Board Member & Youth Committee Chair
- High School - Contact [Standish Fortin](#), Rugby Ohio General Manager
- <https://www.usa.rugby/start-a-team/>



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**Looking for a new workout routine? Check out what the USA Eagles are doing to stay fit! Click [here](#) to *Work Out with the Eagles*.**

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