



## Welcome to the Spring 2022 Season!

Rugby Ohio looks forward to spending the next couple of months with you, watching these young rugby players learn and enjoy our great game! There are already more players this spring than last so we're glad to see things heading back to pre-Covid numbers.

Please take a moment to read the below excerpt from USA Rugby's Spectator's Guide, and its section on Rugby Ethos.

"Rugby owes much of its appeal to the fact that it is played both to the letter and within the spirit of the Laws. The responsibility for ensuring this practice lies not with one individual – it involves coaches, captains, players and referees. It is through discipline, control and mutual respect that the spirit of the game flourishes and, in the context of a game as physically challenging as Rugby, these are the qualities which forge the fellowship and sense of fair play so essential to the game's ongoing success and survival.

Rugby is valued as a sport for men and women, boys and girls. It builds teamwork, understanding, co-operation and respect for fellow athletes. It is because of, not despite, rugby's intensely physical and athletic characteristics that such great camaraderie exists before and after matches."

Players – Best of luck with the matches to come!

Parents - Thank you for your support of these young athletes!

Coaches – Your dedication to the players in your care is greatly appreciated!

Referees – We couldn't hold our games without you!

Trainers – Thank you for helping to care for our young players!

All - Thank you to all for keeping the spirit of the game at the forefront of your actions this season!

## Rugger of the Week



**Jordyn Barr**  
**Highland Rugby**  
**Fullback**

Jordyn is an avid skier, outdoorswoman and plays in a big charity concert annually called *The Christmas Groove*. It seeks to raise awareness and benefit those in need in Northeast Ohio.

Rugby Ohio is excited to announce a new initiative for our athletes during the 2022 spring season. The "Rugger of the Week" will be posted via Instagram (@rugbyohio) story and will be saved to the archive section on the profile's page.

The goal of this segment is to provide an opportunity to spotlight our spectacular high school girls and boys. We kindly ask you to nominate a rugby player by direct messaging @rugbyohio on Instagram. Nominations should include the candidate's name, team, position, and a fun fact. This honor will be posted every Friday during the season.

We would like to emphasize that the nominations do not need to focus solely on performance-based results on the pitch. Rather, we encourage those to spotlight other "off the pitch" accomplishments, such as academic excellence. For example, someone may earn "Rugger of the Week" whether he/she made a fifty-yard conversion or just became an Eagle Scout! This is designed to be a flexible and fun way to give our athletes some exposure, so please spread the word and feel free to reach out!

## Disciplinary Process

Rugby Ohio players are learning the game. Sometimes mistakes are made. These mistakes are an

important part of learning and, as with anything else in life, there are consequences to our actions. The laws of the game are designed to protect player safety. The referee has full discretion to determine when a card is issued.

The season consists of a several hundred games, across all age levels. Each year there are a small number of red cards issued for foul play. The process for handling cards can be found in the Policies & Procedures document that is stored on the Rugby Ohio [website](#). The review of and sanctions imposed as the result of a card being issued are managed by the Ohio Rugby Disciplinary Board (ORDB). The sanctions issued are defined by World Rugby and can be found in this summary [document](#). Each card is reviewed and sanctions imposed will be within this range. Repeated infractions will result in a harsher sanction.

From the Rugby Ohio Representative to ORDB:

As we start Spring 15s, we wanted to take the time to remind everyone about a few important disciplinary matters:

- Coaches can be held accountable for negative behavior on the sidelines. This can include being suspended.
- Please remember to be respectful toward referees, assistant referees, and game managers. Remind your players and parents to do the same.
  - Referee abuse will not be tolerated
- If a player receives a red card they are automatically suspended for the next game.
  - They can, and more than likely will, face further sanction.
- If a player receives two or more yellow cards during season, they can be suspended for 1 or more games, depending upon the severity of the cards.
- If a player is carded:
  - The card details (player name/number & infraction) are submitted by the referee immediately following the game (within 24 hours)
  - The appropriate ORDB representative will conduct an Initial Review and then issue a Written Decision
  - The coach will be sent the Written Decision ( The player is not eligible to be rostered until the sanction letter has been received by the coach)
  - The player and coach have 72 hours to submit a written appeal to ORDB Chair Monica Christian ([monicarchristian@gmail.com](mailto:monicarchristian@gmail.com)) and cc Ryan Moton ([ryan.moton.sr@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.moton.sr@gmail.com))
    - Once an appeal is submitted, the carded player is not eligible to play while the appeal is under review
    - The appeal is only for the sanction but not the Red Card itself
  - The committee will notify the coach, and Rugby Ohio staff, of the committee decision on the appeal
  - Rugby Ohio staff will manage the eligibility of the carded player in the registration system
- High tackle infractions received the highest number of yellow cards
  - Please remind your players to get those tackles down
  - [High Tackle Law Review](#) - quick and concise review of the tackle laws
- Please remember that none of your players are ALL BLACKS, SPRINGBOKS, or EAGLES. The refs are not Nigel Owens (one last time for old time's sake), Kat Roche and Wayne Barnes. Please act accordingly. This is about having fun, developing your team and so developing a better caliber of rugby throughout the state of Ohio. With that being said, winning a game 100-0 accomplishes nothing. If you are given the opportunity, take your foot off of the gas.

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