



Chicago Blaze

Rugby Academy

2015 Inaugural Season





Chicago Blaze Rugby Club New Clubhouse

Rugby is currently the fastest growing sport in the United States. With the inclusion of Rugby 7s in the 2016 Olympics the growth of rugby in the USA and throughout the world will continue to skyrocket.

The Chicago Blaze Rugby Club (CBRC) has a rich 32-year history. The Blaze competes in the top level of USA Rugby, has a tremendous network of current and former players, is well supported by staff and sponsors, and maintains the premiere Rugby Complex in the Midwest and USA.

CBRC is comprised of dedicated management staff including: Executive Committee, Building Corporation, Coaches and Trainers. Our teams include: Chicago Blaze Rugby Academy our HS Boys team, USA Rugby Men's Div.2, USA Rugby Men's Div. 4, Blaze Old Boys (Fossils), associated University and College teams, and more than 10 associated high school and youth teams. We are supported by many generous sponsors and a strong and a loyal fan base.

CBRC Complex includes:

- 20 acres in the rapidly growing SW suburbs of Chicago, IL USA
- Three lighted fields with bleachers
- Three locker rooms with showers
- Clubhouse with bar
- Concession room
- Game-day pavilion
- Maintenance garage
- Parking lots
- Top-line Rhino training equipment



Over the past 32 years, the CBRC has hosted many special events, including:

- USA Rugby 15s Championships
- Midwest Rugby 15s Championships
- Midwest Rugby 7s Championships
- Midwest Rugby Collegiate Championships
- Illinois High School Championships
- Illinois Youth Championships
- Various Youth and Community Events

There are currently over 100 teams at all levels (youth, high school, college, and senior) and genders (men and women) that utilize the CBRC complex. The CBRC is in use most every day of the year. Single events at the CBRC have drawn large numbers of up to 10,000 fans, 1,000 players and 50 teams. Going forward the CBRC will continue to host these events and explore many more opportunities to remain at the forefront of USA Rugby.

CBRC New Clubhouse - 2015

To solidify the Blaze as the rugby epicenter of the Midwest and USA we are excited to announce our campaign to build a New Clubhouse for Chicago Blaze Rugby. The New Clubhouse will be over 4,500 sq-ft, and include locker rooms for home and visiting teams, referees, and trainers. The building will have player and guest bathrooms and shower rooms. The building will have a 2,500 sq-ft bar and banquet room, full kitchen, and a 1,500 sq-ft second story viewing deck with patio. The installation will also include a new parking lot.





Chicago Blaze Rugby Academy

High School Rugby '15

Rugby Illinois

The Academy's Debut Season

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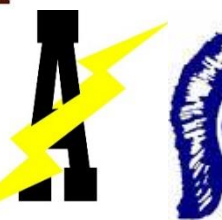
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Chicago Blaze Rugby Academy
Inaugural Campaign
SPRING 2015 SCHEDULE & Results
Rugby Illinois Division 3 Runner's Up

Preseason

March 22 **Glen Ellyn** 11am

March 28 **Elgin** 11am

League Matches

April 3 **Barrington** 7pm 29-0

April 10 **Elmwood Park** 6:30pm 63-0

April 17 **Hope Academy** 7pm 5-44

April 23 **Wells Academy** 6:30pm 46-0

May 1 **Taft** 7pm 88-0

Week 6 Round 1 Playoff **Bye**

Week 7 Round 2 Playoff **Elmwood Park** 44-5

May 25 **State Championship Hope Academy** 10-29

*Home Games in **Red** and played at
Chicago Blaze Rugby Club
 13011 Smith Rd. Lemont, Il.





Chicago Blaze Rugby Academy Players, Coaches, Family, and Supporters,

You all became founding members in our inaugural ***Chicago Blaze Academy*** Season playing our home matches on Thornley Fields at the Chicago Blaze Rugby Complex.

I want to thank the Blaze Building Corporation, Blaze Men's Officer's/Players, Coaches Nolan Day, Ryan Stoddard, Jason Brusa, the Academy players and your families.

I'm very proud of everyone that came together and made this season a great success.

The following pages represent all the hard work you fine gentlemen and ***Blaze Brothers*** put in to become ***Rugby Illinois Division 3 Runner's Up***.

Rugby is considered one of the most unique athletic competitions there is.

It is enjoyed by a worldwide audience that numbers in the tens of millions. Its players demonstrate a respect for the game and for their opponent not seen in any other sport.

It is truly a bond that unites and elevates the players and fans above all others.

This level of sportsmanship is what makes us all so proud to say that we are a part of this game.

The Chicago Blaze Men's Rugby Club & Blaze Fossils Old Boys welcome you and your families as life long members as we begin construction of our new clubhouse/locker rooms later this month.

With you and Blaze On,

Norm Smyth

Chicago Blaze Academy & Alumni Director



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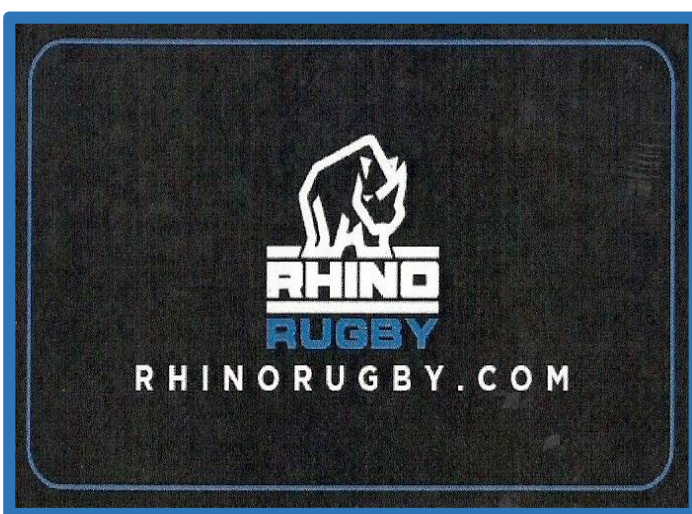
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Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

Rugby is a great option for your son or daughter, giving them the opportunity to play a game that will teach them how to be a leader on and off the field. Our coaches and advisory board are happy to answer any questions or address any concerns you have. Please contact us at any time and we look forward to seeing you on the pitch.

Q: I'VE HEARD RUGBY DESCRIBED AS 'FOOTBALL WITHOUT PADS' – IS THIS ACCURATE?

A: Football is a sport that originated from the game of rugby, but it is a much different game. Rugby is a very controlled game with a lot of rules in place to keep all players safe on the field. Although rugby players do not wear pads and protection, they are taught the necessary skills to stay safe and successful on the field.

Q: HOW CAN MY SON/DAUGHTER TRY THE SPORT WITHOUT GETTING THROWN INTO A FULL CONTACT GAME?

A: Flag rugby is a great option for kids of any age to try the sport without any contact elements. Flag rugby can be played indoors and outdoors in schools or communities. Many kids start playing flag rugby in P.E. class and move into contact programs after learning the basics. To learn more about flag rugby, visit RookieRugby.com.

Q: HOW MUCH WILL IT COST FOR MY CHILD TO PLAY RUGBY?

A: Rugby is one of the lowest cost options for children in the U.S. The only equipment required is a mouth guard, compression shorts and cleated shoes.

Q: HOW DOES USA RUGBY PROTECT ITS ATHLETES?

A: USA Rugby believes in putting a player's safety above everything else. USA Rugby requires that all rugby coaches register and complete our Level 100 Coaching Certification, which includes a Player Protection Package and a Background Check. Additionally, with every player registration USA Rugby provides Third Party Liability Insurance and Rugby Accident Insurance. We feel that providing these levels of protections keeps our athletes safe and enjoying the game.



Rugby 101 - The basics



During the game:

The goal of the game is to advance the ball forward through running, passing and kicking to carry the ball into your opponents 'try zone' and ground the ball for a 'try' (like a touchdown). The defense will use strategy, tackling and competing for the ball to prevent this from happening and try to recover possession of the ball.

Although resembling a bit of chaos, rugby is governed by a set of 'Laws', not rules, so the referee may interpret each situation a little differently according to circumstances.

For more information on the laws of rugby or the sport in general, visit usarugby.org!

Why did the whistle blow?

Penalty



Scrum



Offside Player is offside when in front of the player carrying the ball. No blocking allowed in rugby.

Forward pass Only lateral and backward passes are allowed in rugby. If the ball is passed forward a scrum will be awarded to the non-offending team.

Knock-On A knock-on is when a player fumbles the ball forward. The non-infringing team is awarded a scrum.

Failure to release player/ball After a tackle, the tackler must immediately release the ball carrier and the ball carrier must immediately release the ball. If either of these does not occur within a reasonable time a penalty is rewarded to the non-infringing team.

Restarting play:

Scrums A scrum restarts play after a minor infringement like a knock on. It consists of eight players from each team (known as the pack) that bind together in three rows and interlock with the opposite team's pack. The ball is then fed into the gap between the two forward packs. The packs then begin push against each other while the 'Hook' tries to hook the ball back with their feet. Use of hands is not allowed inside the scrum.

Lineouts A lineout restarts play after the ball has gone out of bounds. Players from each team line up in two lines that are parallel to the goal line and approximately one meter apart from each other. A player from the team not responsible for the ball going into touch then throws the ball between the lines. A player from each team is lifted up in order to catch the ball.

Rugby Positions:



What is a ruck?

A 'ruck' is what occurs after a player has been tackled. Both teams will compete for the ball by driving the other team away from the ball, allowing their players to pick it up out of the back and continue play. No, this is not just chaos, there are some rules around the ruck!

Illegal action in the ruck All players must join a ruck from their own side of the ball, through what is called a 'gate'. They should not join the pile from the side, only the back. A penalty will be called if done incorrectly. If the ball becomes unplayable in a ruck and neither team is at fault, a scrum will be awarded to the team in possession of the ball prior to the ruck.

How are points scored?

Try (5 pts) A try is scored by touching the ball to the ground in the opponent's try zone.

Conversion Kick (2 pts) After a try, teams attempt to score by placekicking the ball through the goalposts.

Penalty Kick (3 pts) A team awarded a penalty has a chance to kick for 3 points at their opponents goalpost.

Drop Kick (3 pts) A drop goal is scored by dropkicking the ball through the goalposts in open play.

Learn the lingo

Lineout

The free pass that is used to restart the game of play after a stoppage in the game.

Free Pass

An uncontested pass that is used to restart play.

Knock On

Losing, dropping, or kicking the ball forward from a player's hands. Results in a penalty.

Try Zone

The rugby equivalent of the endzone in American football. This is where you touch the ball down to score a try.

Lateral Pass

When the ball carrier throws the ball parallel or away from the opponent's try zone.

People often think of rugby as "football without the pads," but football involves collisions whereas rugby involves contact. In fact, teaching players to make contact safely is a central concept of the sport, says Mathew Brown's "Rugby for Dummies."



What is my player's role?

Props (1 & 3) Like linemen in football. Their primary role is to anchor the scrum and provide lifting strength and support for the lineout jumpers. They also play a crucial role in securing the ball for their team in rucks and mauls,

Hook (2) Like linemen in football. This is the player who wins possession in the scrum. They also usually throw the ball in for a lineout.

2nd Rows (4 & 5) Like centers in basketball. These players win the ball from lineouts and restarts, and are also the force that drives scrums, rucks and mauls forward.

Flankers (6 & 7) Like linebackers in football. Their key task is to win possession during turnovers, using force in the tackle and speed to the breakdown.

Number 8 (8) Like linebackers in football. They secure possession at the base of the scrum and carry the ball into open play. Also the link between the forwards and back.

Scrumhalf (9) Like a point guard in basketball. This person is the link between forwards and backs at the scrum and lineouts. This person judges whether to distribute a quick ball to the back or keep it close to the forwards.

Flyhalf (10) Like a quarterback in football. This player orchestrates the team's performance. They will receive the ball from the 9 and choose to pass, kick, or run based upon a quick analysis of the play.

Centers (12 & 13) Like runningbacks in football. They are key in both offense and defense. In offense they use their speed and power to breach defenses, while in defense they attempt to tackle attacking players.

Wings (11 & 14) Like a striker in soccer. The wings use their speed to outrun an opponent and score a try. It is also important they provide a solid defense.

Full Back (15) Like a sweeper in soccer. This player is the last line of defense. They have a good leg to dropkick the ball to clear the lines, and also make tackles to prevent scoring.





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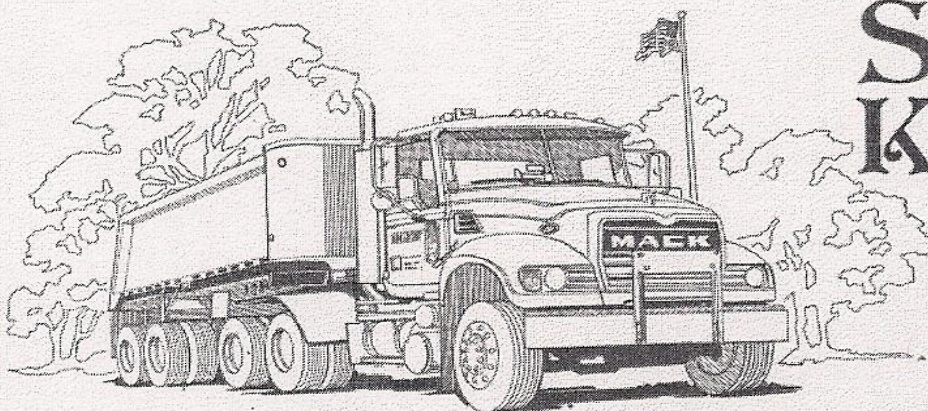
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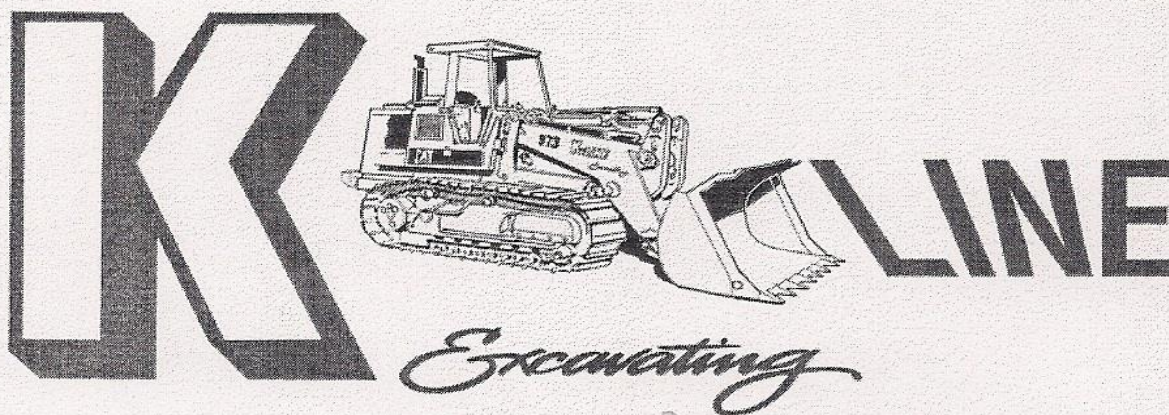
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Nick Lindgren - Lock



Jack Lundquist - Lock



Eddie Mahoney - Flanker



Tom Mayo - Wing



Jaydon Mills Center/Wing



Ryan Newsom Hooker/Flanker



Nathan Palermo - Prop



Collin Papoccia – Fly Half



Jack Ruiz – Scrum Half/Center



Quinn Ruiz – Center/Fullback



Joey Simmons – 8 Man/Flanker



Gino Savaria – Lock/Flanker



Derrick Weidner – Scrum/Fly Half



Chalk Talk



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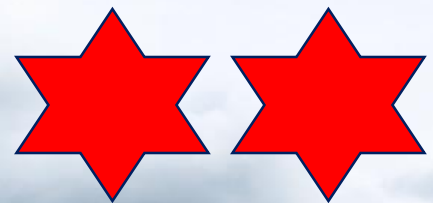
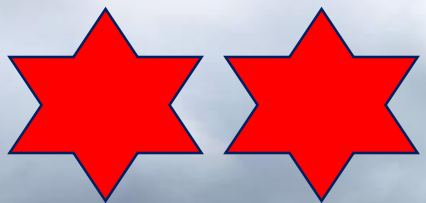
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