



WELCOME TO HIGHLANDER RUGBY! IMPORTANT PARENT INFORMATION FOR THE 2016 SEASON!

February 22, 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2016 season of Highlander and AYRU youth rugby! Our number one goal is to promote a fun and safe playing environment for your kids to learn and enjoy non-contact and contact rugby. Please take some time to read these important details and information about our team:

PRACTICE, CLOTHING & MOUTH GUARDS

Practice schedule will be as follows unless otherwise notified:

- **TUESDAYS** – All players from 4:00-5:00pm at North Domingo Baca Park (NE corner).
- **THURSDAYS** – Contact (U13/U15) players only from 4:00-5:30pm at North Domingo Baca Park (NE corner by the dog park).

If you need to arrive late that is OK. All players are encouraged to bring water and dress for our crazy New Mexico weather. A soccer style cleat or sneakers are the best type of shoes to wear. Mouth guards are required for non-contact and contact play as kids do bump into each other.

MATCH, TOURNAMENT & EVENT SCHEDULE

- **12 March (Sat)** – AYRU season kick-off “Snowballs” Jamboree (10:00am – Balloon Fiesta Park)
- **19 March (Sat)** – First match (10:00 or 11:30 – BFP)
- **2 April (Sat)** – Match (Time TBA – BFP)
- **9 April (Sat)** – Match (Time TBA – BFP)
- **16 April (Sat)** – Match (Time TBA – BFP)
- **23 April (Sat)** – Match (Time TBA – BFP)
- **7 May (Sat)** – Match (Time TBA – BFP)
- **14 May (Sat)** – League BBQ and Pool Party (Details coming...)
- **21 May (Sat)** – Celtic Fest 7’s Tournament (All teams at 8:15am – BFP)

AYRU REGISTRATION

We kindly ask that you complete this as soon as possible if you haven’t done so already. The total cost of AYRU registration is \$80 per player plus a \$4.40 processing fee. If you register multiple players in your family you will receive a 10% discount per additional player. The AYRU registration fee includes a ball, league polo, tournament registrations, and meals after all matches. Follow these steps to register your players online:

- Go to www.ayru.com
- Click on the "AYRU Registration" tab in the left bar menu.
- There follow “Step 1” and click on the “2016 AYRU Youth Rugby Registration” link at the bottom of the page.
- Follow the simple instructions there. Have your medical information handy, and credit card for payment. Be sure to choose “Young Highlanders” when prompted for the team you have played for.
- Process should take 5-10 minutes.
- After you complete the registration there are no documents to print out. All registration items are electronically filed and you will receive digital confirmation by email.
- If you have any problems please don't hesitate to contact me.

USA RUGBY “CIPP” REGISTRATION (IMPORTANT!)

In addition to the AYRU registration players will need to complete a separate registration with USA Rugby, our governing body as soon as possible. This registration (also known as “CIPP”) is either \$10 (for non-contact players) or \$30 (for contact players) and provides valuable medical, liability and accident insurance for all players. Players absolutely cannot participate in matches if they do not have a USA Rugby registration. If you haven’t already done so, please do the following to register:

- You can start at the AYRU website and click on the “USA Rugby Registration” tab in the left bar menu. Follow the instructions and link there. OR,
- Go to www.usarugby.org click on “Register / Login.”
- In the next page click on “Join USA Rugby” if you are registering for the first time at USA Rugby, or click “Login” if you’re a returning member. Follow the prompts from there.
- When prompted for a “club” please type in: **Albuquerque Youth Rugby United** if your player is a contact U13 or U15 player, or **Albuquerque Youth Rugby United Non-contact** if your player is a non contact player only (at any age level).
- Fill out payment details as noted.
- When finished you will receive a confirmation/receipt by email. Please forward this to team parents Tom Goslau or Mojgan Madandar at the email addresses below so we can keep it our team records.

UNIFORMS & SHORTS/SOCKS

As part of the registration fee every player will receive an AYRU uniform polo that is suitable for non-contact play. These will be available by mid-March. For contact play each team has a set of special jerseys for the teams to wear. This year the Highlanders will usually compete in blue “tops.” Our second color for contact play is green. All players need to provide their own black shorts and socks for play. Shorts should be durable cotton, mid-thigh length. Long basketball shorts are not advised.

LA CUEVA HIGH SCHOOL RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB – THE BEARS!

The Young Highlanders are the feeder and development side for the La Cueva High School Boys Rugby Team who are the current and three time consecutive state champions in boys high school rugby. There are 13 former Highlanders on the 2016 Bear team! The Bears also practice at North Domingo Baca Tue/Wed/Thr from 4:00-6:00pm. From time to time the U13 and U15 players will work in with the Bears, and the high school boys will also work with the kids from time-to-time as rugby mentors and refereeing non-contact matches.

CONTACT or NON-CONTACT – CONCUSSION POLICY (separate hand-out to sign)

The AYRU offers contact play at the U13 and U15 age levels of play. Non-contact play is offered for all players at U9, U11, U13 and U15. If you have any questions or concerns about your player playing contact, please ask your coaches or team parents. Our coaches are all trained and certified by USA Rugby to coach contact rugby at the Youth and High School levels. We have also passed concussion training as mandated by the State of New Mexico. Maintaining a safe and fun playing environment is our top priority. To accomplish that we take into consideration playing experience and physical abilities in consultation with parents before a final green light is given to a player to participate in contact. Please be sure to review and sign the AYRU’s concussion policy and return to the coaches or team parents at practice.

RUGBY SPORTSMANSHIP & CULTURE – KNOW YOUR ROOTS! (separate hand-out to sign)

Rugby is well known as the toughest, yet friendliest sport. The culture of rugby is to promote hard and aggressive play, and then develop strong friendship between players of opposing teams after the matches. To this end the AYRU provides a full “FEED” or meal after matches for players from both teams to enjoy together. We also promote “ROOTS” as the basis of our culture for sportsmanship. ROOTS means respect for the rules, officials, opponents, team, and self. All players and parents are required to sign the ROOTS pledge and return to the coaches or team parents at practice. We ask parents to provide great sideline examples of sportsmanship and promote our culture of friendship between all players, and to help with the feed. Thank you!

COMMUNICATION

We prefer to maintain communication to all of you by email. But if you have an urgent question you are welcome to contact the team parents or coaches by telephone. The Highlanders don’t have a Facebook page or Team Website since most players are under 15 years of age.

VOLUNTEER – GET MORE KIDS INVOLVED

The AYRU is an all-volunteer non-profit organization. If you have any interest in getting involved as a coach, team parent or referee please don't hesitate to contact us. All of us work for smiles and we get paid with a lot of them. Funding also limits our league marketing to grassroots efforts only. Thus if you know any child interested in playing please bring them out to practice. The AYRU has a "give it a try" policy and children can try a practice or two without fee or registration. Our registration will stay open throughout the season.

Again, welcome to the Highlanders and thank you for supporting the AYRU! We are sure that you are going to have a great time this season. Your coaches have spent most of their lives around this game, and have thoroughly enjoyed and been blessed by the fun, competition, sportsmanship and camaraderie that it has brought into their lives. We hope all the kids can get a bit of that too!

Please don't hesitate to contact any of your coaches or team parents at the details below if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Ruck, roll and rugby happiness!

YOUR COACHES:

Brook Jilek
st.brook@gmail.com
505-306-0632

Matt Ely
dmely505@gmail.com
206-992-2980

Johan Botha
johanfb@gmail.com
505-559-0333

Gerro Prinsloo
gerroprinsloo@gmail.com
505-604-2324

YOUR TEAM PARENTS:

Tom Goslau
tgoslau@mac.com
505-301-9053

Mojgan Madandar
mmadandar@gmail.com
505-506-5925