



Rugby at Fairfield



Friends of
Fairfield Rugby

*Over 55 years of Excellence,
on the Pitch and Beyond*



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Thank You for Your Interest in Playing Rugby at Fairfield University!

In its more than 55-year history, Fairfield Rugby has built a powerful legacy of excellence on and off the field. Our players, coaches, administrators, and alumni are a formidable team in support of the program—and each other.

A Dynamic Network of Support, On and Off the Pitch.

Those who wear the Fairfield Rugby colors form a special bond with one another that generally lasts a lifetime. Ruggers push each other to excel in training, persevere in the most intense competitions, celebrate victories, and remain united in adversity—even long after they have graduated.

Perhaps the greatest testimony of the power of Fairfield Rugby is its alumni network. Hundreds return for alumni events, over 800 gathered for our anniversary gala, and former players take an active role in assisting current players with internships, career advice, and job placement.



Check out [Friends of Fairfield Rugby](#) on Facebook.

Why Play Rugby at Fairfield?

- **DIVISION I PROGRAM (MEN):** Our men's program enjoys an outstanding level of competition and national exposure playing in the DIA Liberty Conference, under the NCR umbrella. League opponents include Northeastern, UConn, Fordham, Boston College, URI, Tufts, and UMass. We have top shelf rugby leading to the Liberty Bowl series finale. Visit libertyrugbyconference.com.
- **DIVISION II PROGRAM (WOMEN):** Competing in the Tri-State Rugby Conference, our women's program continues to build on its success, reaching the Sweet 16 Nationals. League opponents include Rutgers, Stony Brook, Hofstra, and Vassar. Visit tristaterugby.com.
- **PROFESSIONAL COACHING:** Fairfield has actively pursued top-level coaches with outstanding credentials on an international level to elevate players' performances. All coaches, including our Director of Rugby, are USA Rugby certified.
- **COMPREHENSIVE FITNESS PROGRAM:** Team members receive professional fitness training with access to the Varsity Athletics training facility under the guidance of professional strength and conditioning coaches.
- **HISTORIC LT. HANS GRAUERT MEMORIAL FIELD:** Donated by the Grauert family (Chris Grauert '68, FURFC President), the field is named for Chris's brother, Lt. Hans Grauert, a Naval Aviator, whose plane was lost at sea during a combat mission in Vietnam. It is the first pitch built expressly for rugby on an American college campus. With its natural amphitheater and beautiful surroundings, Grauert Field is a jewel treasured by Fairfield ruggers and visitors alike.
- **RUGBY SCHOLARSHIP:** A growing endowment has been created to provide financial assistance to select male and female rugby players at Fairfield. Our players also have access to merit, Jesuit, need-based, and privately funded rugby scholarships.
- **DYNAMIC RUGBY EVENTS AND SUPPORT:** Over 2,500 Fairfield rugby alumni and friends passionately support the program. This includes our annual Rugby Fest & Homecoming in October, "Ruck and Roll" tailgates at away games, Rugby networking nights, international tours, life at the beach, and more. Plus, University President Mark R. Nemec, PhD is an active rugby player and laces up the boots with us!
- **ACTIVE ALUMNI NETWORK:** Our alumni network extends into every corner of the business and professional community. Rugby alumni make significant annual financial contributions to the University and the men's and women's teams. Through our non-profit, Friends of Fairfield Rugby, hundreds of members support the program and players, including with career advisory and placement. Over 800 alumni and friends returned to campus for our anniversary gala in what is believed to be one of the largest alumni events in the history of U.S. college rugby.
- **RUGBY LEGACY:** To date, six rugby alumni and one team have been elected to the University's Athletics Hall of Fame, with many more admitted to the Rugby Club Hall of Honor. A number of players have enjoyed distinguished careers after Fairfield, including selection to all-star and regional select teams, and being "capped" by the U.S. national team.
- **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP:** Team sponsors provide financial resources to help ensure the optimal player experience at Fairfield.
- **SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:** Fairfield Rugby is committed to giving back. In partnership with the City of Bridgeport Rugby Alliance (COBRA), many former and current rugby players volunteer in an afterschool program to mentor Bridgeport public school kids in grades 5-8 who want to play touch rugby.

What Does Fairfield Offer Off the Field?

- **SUPERIOR ACADEMICS:** Fairfield is ranked #3 in the Northern Region in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges 2021 ranking. The University offers 48 undergraduate majors and minors, 24 interdisciplinary minors, and a 12:1 student-faculty ratio, ensuring that each student's experience is individualized based on their goals.
- **MODERN JESUIT CAMPUS:** Fairfield continues to enhance the student academic and social experience by providing access to state-of-the-art facilities. In addition to the new Charles F. Dolan School of Business and Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing & Health Studies buildings, and the beautifully renovated Tully Dining Commons, we recently said farewell to Alumni Hall and began construction of the new Arena & Convocation Center to host future athletic competitions, academic forums, special events, concerts, and more.
- **PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Fairfield is committed to the idea of *cura personalis*—caring for the whole person. Through Fairfield's Campus Ministry and Center for Social Impact, the University helps form men and women for others through various service opportunities. Fairfield also prepares students for their careers after college, ranking in the top 33% of Kiplinger's highest 'salary yardstick', which estimated that Fairfield students median earnings top **\$72,000 following graduation**.

For more information, please visit fairfield.edu/rugby.

What can a Fairfield Rugby experience mean for you? Find out by speaking with our coaches, players, and supporters. We can even arrange a personalized rugby tour of Fairfield just for you! **Simply email the Director of Rugby at rugby@fairfield.edu.**

About Fairfield University

Founded in 1942, *Fairfield University is a modern Jesuit Catholic university rooted in one of the world's oldest intellectual and spiritual traditions. More than 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students from the U.S. and across the globe are pursuing degrees in the University's five schools. Fairfield embraces a liberal humanistic approach to education, encouraging critical thinking, cultivating free and open inquiry, and fostering ethical and religious values.*

The University is located on a stunning 200-acre campus on the scenic Connecticut coast just an hour from New York City.



This material is provided by the Friends of Fairfield Rugby, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, which supports Fairfield University Rugby, its members, and alumni.

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