

11th Annual MedStar Benefit Rugby Tournament Kicks Off Sunday, November 16

Great Falls, VA - November, 2025 - Great Falls Village in Northern Virginia is going to be a busy place on Sunday, November 16th as the Great Falls/McLean Youth Rugby Club hosts its 11th annual youth rugby tournament to benefit the MedStar Adaptive Sports Program. To date, this benefit tournament has raised nearly \$20,000. This year 40 teams are registered, including two teams from the Young Glory Academy, which is sponsored by Major League Rugby team Old Glory DC. Old Glory coaching staff will also host a free midday clinic for youth players.

Gary Coetzee, president of Great Falls Rugby and himself a spinal cord injury survivor, says, "The MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) is a national leader in rehabilitation services. I suffered a spinal cord injury and their therapists and staff got me mobile again. I'm so very grateful to them and this tournament is a way to give back while raising awareness in the rugby community."

The MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) is the DC-Maryland-Virginia region's largest acute rehabilitation hospital, treating some of the nation's most complex cases. With a research partnership with Georgetown University School of Medicine, the MedStar National Rehabilitation Network is a national leader in rehabilitation services for treatment, research, education, and assistive technology.

The rugby event is a youth tournament, for all age groups U6 through High School. A number of Youth, Middle School, and High School teams from DC, Maryland, and Virginia are already registered. Play begins at 8:00 a.m. and will run all day. Along with rugby, there will be music and vendors selling food and rugby merch.

"It is heartwarming when we have the opportunity to bring the rugby community together to support a good cause," said an Old Glory representative. "The MedStar Benefit Tournament is a reflection of the inclusive and supportive culture of rugby."

Great Falls Youth Rugby gets a large amount of support in the community, including Old Glory DC, Indigo IT, Nandos PERi-PERi Chicken and Kiwi Kuisine Pies. A portion of the proceeds from all participating teams and vendors will be donated to MedStar's Adaptive Sports Program, which includes wheelchair rugby among many other free adaptive sports programs.

About Great Falls Youth Rugby Club

Great Falls Youth Rugby is committed to growing the sport and introducing rugby to boys and girls across Northern Virginia, developing young athletes through sport, instilling core values, teamwork, and strong character. Tackle and touch options in a year-round program that emphasizes fun, fitness, and camaraderie. Find your local club: play-rugby.us/findrugby

About Old Glory DC and Young Glory

Old Glory DC is the professional rugby team in DC. Committed to growing the sport at every level, Old Glory DC has established the Young Glory and Junior Glory Academy Programs to provide pathways for young athletes ages 10-18 to learn, develop, and excel in rugby. The programs emphasize skill, development, teamwork, and sportsmanship while offering high-level coaching and competitive opportunities. Inspiring the next generation of players and fans.

About MedStar Health Adaptive Sports Program

The Adaptive Sports and Fitness program at MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital offers different programs that are open to anyone in the community with a physical disability, at no cost to the individual. Wheelchair rugby, Wheelchair basketball, and adaptive cycling are just a few sports offered.

Learn more: <https://www.medstarhealth.org/services/adaptive-sports-fitness-program>

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