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About Great Falls Rugby



Great Falls Rugby was founded in 2011 by Buzz McClain, where the first season saw only 22 players register for the club, 18 of them under 9! Those young players were brave pioneers who signed up for a sport they'd never seen, much less played, quickly learned its skills and then took to it with the kind of passion typical of rugby players - they couldn't wait to get to the next practice or game. Because it's fun!

Great Falls Youth Rugby hosted the first-ever multi-team rugby tournament in Great Falls in 2011, when three visiting teams joined us at Lake Fairfax for five hours of games while the parents enjoyed the sideline camaraderie that is the hallmark of the sport around the world.

At the end of 2012 we unfortunately lost Buzz who moved away from the region. The reigns were passed to Gary Coetzee, who has been running the club since.

Now heading towards our 5th season Great Falls Youth Rugby is hoping to grow the sport and bring rugby to more kids in the Reston/Herndon/Sterling/McLean and Great Falls areas. We participated in our first Spring season early 2013 which was a rewarding experience and unearthed some great talent.

We soon saw the start of a Fall season, and the first Annual Great Falls Rugby Tournament in November 2014. Rugby is now year-round!

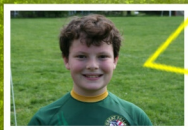
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Try it once, and you are hooked for life!



Luke Coetzee
2011 vs 2015



JP Vinter 2011 vs 2015

EARLY PIONEERS



In front: Luke Coetzee, JP Vinter, Sammy Dallas,
Ashton Willcox, Connor Dankworth, Denis
O'Hara, Shibli Nomanj

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YEAR 1: 2011

Great Falls u9 (2011)



Coaches Buzz and Gary in back
Middle L-R: JP Vinter, Sammy Dallas, Taylor Ray, Ashton
Wilcox, Shilbi Nemanji. Front: Luke Coetzee, Connor Dankworth



Year one: only 22 kids of
which 18 were Under 9! 2011
was a tough baptism for our
kids (and coaches) but we
persevered. Rugby has arrived
in the Great Falls area!



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YEAR 2: 2012

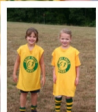
2012 saw Great Falls membership jump to over 60 players. A significant increase which helped the club grow, to now include more age groups (u7, u9, u11, u13 and u15).



Club photo after practice



Trevor Babcock then and now



Great Falls tackle kids

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2012 Tournament: u7 squad
L-R: Cate Coetzee, Gabrielle Bain, Jamie Elliott,
Ryan Drinkuth



2012 Tournament: u9 squad
L-R-B: Sammy Dallas, Luke Coetzee, George
Kane, Garrett Bain L-R-F: JP Vinter, Cameron
Elliott, Denis O'Hara, Christian Drinkuth.

Did not make the tournament and not
pictured:

U9: David Lejeune. U11: Ashton Willcox,
Shannon Lehrke, Corinor Dankworth,
Shibli Nomani, Juan Blanco Ziegler,
Mason Miller, Marcus Lejeune, Ben
Orme-Smith, Tody Lejeune, Joe Muir .
U13: John-Knox Proctor, Ben Linder,
Kieron McKenna, Rayne Menzak, Ryan
Lehrke, Ed McCormack. U15: Dylan
Fitzgerald, Jean-David Lejeune, Patrick
Muir, Jack Heaps.



2012 Tournament: u11 squad
L-R-B: Ernst Mika, Christian Langridge, Morgan
Menzak L-R-F: Matthew Swiacki, Max Dallas, Max
Campbell



Bowl trophy for u15 team



2012 Tournament: u15 squad (with Vienna) in no
particular order: Bradley Torrington, John
Hargadon, Andrew Demorat, Owen Dankworth,
Zackary Zulauf, Jake Hargadon, Regan Upshaw

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YEAR 3: 2013

2013 brought us more players (90+), to include, for the first time; High School teams! Proud of the combined efforts of our players, coaches and parents.



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2013 Tournament: u7 squad with Coach Rich



2013 Tournament: u9 squad being goofy



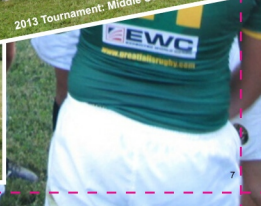
2013 Tournament: u11's did great



2013 Tournament: Middle School squad



2013 Tournament: HS squad



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YEAR 4: 2014

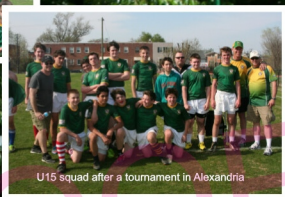
Year 4 our numbers stayed around the same but our teams grew in stature and confidence. We had GF players selected to All Stars. We started getting a strong base of younger kids (the future HS kids, right!). The club is growing ...



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U11's had a great year under Coach Martin



U15 squad after a tournament in Alexandria



Walter in full flight



Coaches Nick & Gary



Our U15 team posing

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2015 U7 TEAM



U7's at home tournament



U7's at home tournament

U7 SQUAD 2015:

COACHES: Kathy Lett, Dave Lett,
Braden Glodano

Cemovic	Petar
Coetzee	Catherine
Dvoranchik	Joshua
Fernandez	Camila
Giordano	Ellis
Giordano	Robert
Hakes	Kealana
Hakes	Kekoa
Kunkel	Mary
Kunkel	Richie
Lejeune	Emmanuel
Lett	Benjamin
Lubbers	Jonah
Lubbers	Noah
Northington	Julian

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2015 U7 TOURNAMENT



U7's posing before final tournament

The U7 team had a great day at the final tournament of the season. We have a young team this year, but the pool play games showed off the kids' progress in their individual fundamental skills and their team play. The players were trusting their teammates and supporting each other, resulting in tries spread out amongst the players. We finished the day with a win in a third game that showed some great passing and group efforts. I look forward to seeing what this group can do together next summer as 5 and 6 year olds. --

Coach: Kathy Lett (also Coaches David Lett and Braden Giordano)

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2015 U9 TEAM

U9 SQUAD 2015:

COACHES: Richard Cestero and Ben Bjorge

Araneda	Agustin
Bjorge	Wesley
Callahan	Andrew Patrick
Callanan	Browne
Cestero	Colin
Day	Carson
Eschmann	John
Gomez-Torres	Walter
Korn	Aidan
Korn	Brendan
Kunkel	Rita
Lejeune	Raphael
Menendez Hassel	Lucas
Milkiewicz	Jack
Muller Bedell	Liam
Sosnitsky	John Paul



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2015 U9 TOURNAMENT

This was the most kids we had at a tournament all year and it took the kids a little time to gel together. In the end, they were bested by a Loudon team that went on to play for the championship.

In the 2nd match the kids really gelled and capitalized the entire match beating SYA by 6 tries.

After pool play, GF took the pitch against Alexandria and played a hard fought match all the way to the buzzer. In the end, GF came up a little unlucky losing by a conversion.

The final match for the Plague pitted GF up against another SYA club. Once again, GF played a heck of a game and fell short again by a conversion.

All in all, it was a phenomenal tournament for the U9 team. We had a great mix of experienced players and newcomers coming together for the final tournament. I couldn't be more proud and more honored to coach this great group of kids. They worked hard, played with great sportsmanship and came together as a team. It was a great season and I hope to see all the kids out next year. -- Coach: Rich Cestero (also Coach Ben Bjorge)



Some of the U9's before main tournament

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2015 U11 TEAM

U11 SQUAD 2015:
COACHES: Kate Sandusky
and John Milkiewicz

Alves	Duarte
Araneda	Joaquin
Ashton	Will
Coetzee	Luke
Dunlop	Luke
Garay	Matias
Grant	Olivia
Hakes	Kana'i
Knowlton	Parker
Menendez	Hassel Alejandro
Milkiewicz	Michael



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2015 U11 TOURNAMENT



I'm so proud of every single player that came out to play with the U11s this weekend! Even though this team had never played together as a complete unit, they all came together in an impressive display of camaraderie and teamwork. Every player stayed focused on the game; learning from each match and applying it to the next, helping their teammates to succeed, and even learning to play brand-new positions! Their sportsmanship shone throughout the tournament, and we were all thrilled to see them end the season with a well-deserved win!

I look forward to seeing everyone back next year! --
Coach: Kate Sandusky, and John Milkiewicz



U11's at the tournament

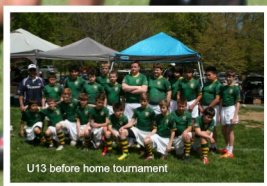


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2015 U13 TEAM

MIDDLE SCHOOL U13 (Spring and Summer):
COACHES: JC ARANEDA, BAHA AHMED,
BILL ASHTON, GARY COETZEE

Ahmed	Muhammad
Araneda	Diego
Ashton	William
Bolha	Caleb
Bolha	Jonathan
Chrisman	Nathan
Coetzee	Luke
Dankworth	Connor
Fritsche	Adam
Kane	George
Kim	Christopher
Korade	Matthew
Kunkel	John
Lejeune	Marcus
Lejeune	Toby
Lejeune	David
Lucas	Cole
Misch	William
Nugent	Parker
Vinter	J.p.
Wright	Paul
Wright	Maxim



U13 before home tournament



Boys pumped up at Spring Tournament

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2015 U13 TOURNAMENT



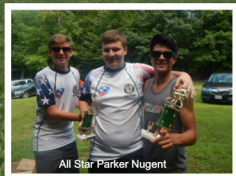
The U13 team, who's core has now been together for nearly a year, has developed nicely into a well balanced team. It is always a struggle against the larger teams but I am proud to say that they just don't give up! It has been tough most of the time, with 5 of the kids still U11 playing up and others young U13's. We often fronted opposing U13 kids who looked like young men! We hope to continue working with the same kids this fall and next year!



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2015 U15 TEAM



All Star Parker Nugent

MIDDLE SCHOOL U15

(Spring and Summer):

COACHES: JARED NUGENT, GARY
COETZEE, RICH BABCOCK

Buxton	Thomas
Corrigan	Patrick
Heard	George
Nogle	John
Nugent	Parker
Sequeira	Luc

Despite only having a small number of u15 participants, the squad persevered and performed amazingly during the summer tournament. Every coach we played commented on the teams performance, whether to tell other coaches how unbeatable we were in the rucks and scrums or how even without subs we wore teams down, never backing off or backing down. One referee mentioned that the score did not reflect the performance. ---
Coach: Jared Nugent



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2015 HS (U17/19) TEAMS

HS (U17/19) SQUAD 2015
**COACHES: GARY COETZEE &
RICHARD BABCOCK**

Babcock	Trevor
Bechara	George
Bouchoux	Aubrey
Busidan	Aymeric
Buxton	Charles
Christie	Lewis
Dankworth	Owen
Diaz	Evan W.
Humpton	Andrew
Lewis	Timothy
Lewis	Quinn
McAuliffe	Connor
O'Donnell	Garrett
Owczarski	John
Pickett	Ryan
Pugh	Jackson
Snyder	Taylor
Toofey	Joshua
Wiggins	John Joseph
Williams	Dominic



Trevor about to 'jackle' the ball



Action Jackson making some ground against

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2015 HS (U17/19) TOURNAMENT

High School JV - On the upbeat side all of our guys played individually well. Even though they played four matches in the heat, I had to drag some guys off of the pitch to take a break.

Unfortunately, the match scores do not reflect the amount of effort and heart that our guys played with. It was great to have had the opportunity to coach with these young men this season. -- Coach: Rick Babcock

High School Varsity - Thanks guys you made me proud, losing in the final to a very good Springfield team is pretty decent! For me, this was our best tournament yet, I loved your spirit and fight, especially in the matches that counted. You guys stepped up the intensity when needed. And off the field you all rallied when needed despite the long waits between games. Good luck to Jack, George and Connor (my tournament MVP!), I hope you continue to play rugby in college. We will miss you. It was a pleasure to work with you all -- Coach: Gary Coetzee.



Connor, on the run.
Tournament MVP!



High School Varsity
tournament squad



Jack O always leading from the front

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1ST ANNUAL MEDSTAR TOURNAMENT



First ever Fall rugby tournament in Great Falls! Our beneficiary is Medstar Hospital, specifically the great work they do at the Spinal Cord Injury research program. Year one: \$1600 raised! Look forward to next year!



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FALL TOURNAMENT PICS

The 2015 Medstar
Tournament will expand to 2
fields and a lot more teams.



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2015 AWARDS

U7 MVP: Ben Lett >>>



<<< U7 Rookie of the year: Bobby Giordano

U9 MVP: Walter Gomes-Torres >>>



<<< U9 Rookie of the year: Brendan Korn

U11 MVP: Parker Knowlton >>>

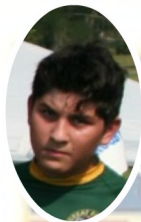


<<< U11 Rookie of the year: Olivia Grant

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2015 AWARDS



U13 MVP
<<<< Diego Araneda



U13 Rookie of the year
<<<< Jack Kunkel

Middle School MVP: >>>
Thomas Buxton



<<< **High School MVP:**
Trevor Babcock

High School Rookie of the Year: >>>
Andrew Humpton



This year we had only one player reach the final All-Stars selection. Parker Nugent, still U13, made the final U15 cut. One of our hardest workers, I predict a bright future for Parker. The following players were nominated for JV All Star and continued with the squad, only to be released at the final practice. Trevor Babcock, as a 1st year JV player, will surely be back next year and expect him to go one further. Andrew Humpton, a complete rookie, was noticed and will also be back next year! Congratulations!



Parker Nugent, U15 ALL STAR

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THANKS TO OUR FAMILY!



Mandy Mathis, our GF Fire Station EMT, thanks for all your support!

Coaches, referees, and families, we could not do this without you. Thanks!

Buzz, thanks for your continued support! Always there for us!



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THE GREAT FALLS BRAND



Match jersey (all teams)
with custom shorts for
tackle teams



2015 continued with the same
sublimated match jerseys and a
newly-styled really cool practice
jersey. As well as shorts, balls and
socks for each player.



Our mascot



Changed up the Practice
jersey in 2015, switched
from green and the gold.



Great Falls Rugby t-shirts

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OUR SPONSORS 2015

Thank you so much to our sponsors. Your generosity helped us provide unmatched jerseys and gear to our kids. Not many others club in our state-wide league can boast the quality and quantity of Great Falls Youth Rugby!

Contact us if you want to sponsor GFR: gary@greatfallsrugby.com



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EAGLES RUGBY



Well folks, so ends another season! It is going to be a little strange without regular rugby practice! But, not for too long, look out for some fall activities coming up.

Our first big event of season 2015-2016 will be the annual Great Falls/Medstar Charity Tournament on 21 November.

Thank you all, again, for entrusting your kids to us. Hopefully everyone continues to embrace rugby. All those little tag kids are going to become fantastic, experienced tackle kids (and All-Stars!).

Thanks to the parents who were always willing to step up and help with the socials, bringing food and setting up. It is not always fun to set it all up but it is very satisfying at the end of a successful day! It's a little something that makes us a little different to other sports. It's a tradition we will embrace so look out for my emails!

I would like to thank our 3 referees: you may not realize but it is really tough to arrange home field tackle refs. We are lucky to have our 3 musketeers in Buzz McLain, Patrick Le Floch and Vinny Panigot – so far we have always managed to have at least one show up and cover us at home. And now we also have our own Rich Babcock who is a newly certified ref!

We're also very fortunate to have medical coverage on the side of our home field. This is a USA Rugby requirement that is not always met by clubs. Great Falls Fire Department has been at every home tournament and we are very grateful for thier support.

Shane van Wyngaardt from Indigo IT continues to support our crusade and is our biggest sponsor. A huge thank you for their continued help!

We need to work together to build this great club further. Please let me know if you can assist with our development!

We will be practicing and offering clinics and other rugby-related activities in the fall. Stay tuned.

All the best
Gary