



ASPEN RUGGERFEST 2026

SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2026

WAGNER FIELD AND RIO GRANDE PARK

Aspen Ruggerfest returns for its 58th edition! Our small mountain town plays host to one of North America's greatest fifteens rugby tournaments every year. Attracting over 30 teams across all brackets, the center of Aspen turns into rugby paradise for 4 full days.

EVENT SCHEDULE:

- **THURSDAY (9/17):** The 55s and 60s divisions opens the weekend of rugby;
- **FRIDAY (9/18):** The over 35s and 45s take center stage;
- **SATURDAY (9/19):** Men's & Women's Open divisions pool play and initial knock-outs;
- **SUNDAY (9/20):** Championship final for each division.

Social events will be held throughout Ruggerfest Weekend. Please check the schedule listed in the program for times and locations.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

The Aspen Ruggerfest Tournament Committee oversees scheduling, eligibility, protests, discipline, and competition operations. Its decisions are final. Tournament Committee contacts are as followed:

- **Tournament Director:** Jeffrey Barnhill
- **Tournament Administrator:** Risteard Mulcahy
- **Tournament Disciplinary Officer:** Megan Braun
- **Tournament Operations Manager:** Renee Forsythe

MERCHANDISES & EQUIPMENT SALES

We are excited to welcome back American Rugby Outfitters to Ruggerfest! They will operate a pitch-side store at Wagner Park featuring rugby merchandise, equipment, official Ruggerfest T-shirts, and other Ruggerfest-branded gear. Proceeds from Ruggerfest merchandise sales will directly support the Club and help offset tournament costs.

Gentlemen of Aspen Rugby Club merchandise will also be available for purchase at the Registration Tent on the Monarch side of the pitch.

ALCOHOL

Outside alcohol is strictly prohibited at all tournament venues. Participants and spectators may not bring or consume any outside alcoholic beverages on tournament grounds. Beer and liquor will be available for purchase through designated tournament sponsors and approved venue locations, including Wagner Park and Rio Grande. All alcohol consumption must comply with venue policies and applicable laws.

OPERATIONS/ZERO WASTE

There are well-maintained public facilities available beside the pitch. Trash, Recycling and Composting stations will be provided. The City of Aspen requires a zero-waste event. Our GREEN Team will be on site to assist with this requirement. Please use the stations and if there are any issues with one, please contact an event staff member. There are no shower facilities or locker rooms available at the pitch.

TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

These Competition Rules govern participation in Aspen Ruggerfest. Unless specifically modified herein, all matches shall be played under the current World Rugby Laws of the Game and applicable USA Rugby regulations. Participation constitutes acceptance of these rules. The Tournament Committee has final authority over tournament administration except where jurisdiction rests with USA Rugby or World Rugby.

REGISTRATION

Teams need to provide a completed team roster, waivers and signed logistics page to the Tournament Organizers prior to arriving at the tournament (via email to aspenruggerfest@gmail.com).

Individual waiver signatures can be delivered at the time of check-in (prior to the team's first scheduled match). Players will now have to register for the weekend tournament through USA rugby. We will email instructions on how players can do this ahead of time.

PLAYER CHECK-IN:

All players and coaches must check in prior to participating in tournament matches. Check-in will take place at the Tournament Administration tent near the 50-meter line at Wagner Park. Staff will verify Rugby Xplorer Event Registration and player identification (driver's license or approved government-issued photo ID). Photos of acceptable IDs will be accepted.

COMPETITION FORMAT

The match schedule will be determined by open draw. All teams are guaranteed three matches, provided there are enough registered teams in the division.

Teams must be ready to play five minutes before kick-off. Failure to field a team within three minutes may result in a penalty try, and after six minutes may result in a forfeit loss.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to adjust schedules or cancel/reschedule matches due to delays, weather, injuries, or other unforeseen circumstances.

PLAYER WELFARE/MEDICAL STAFF

Medical Staff We will have trained medical staff at the Tournament to evaluate injuries and determine the best course of action for those injuries. Please report any injuries to the medical team at the event.

Any player suspected of sustaining a concussion shall be removed from play and evaluated by designated medical personnel. Return-to-play decisions rest solely with the attending medical professional. World Rugby concussion protocols apply.

WEATHER POLICY

The safety of all players, coaches, officials, staff, and spectators is the tournament's highest priority. The Tournament Disciplinarian will monitor weather conditions throughout the event and has sole authority to make decisions regarding delays, suspensions, cancellations, or modifications to the tournament schedule.

The Tournament Disciplinarian may consult with tournament officials, referees, venue staff, and applicable weather resources when assessing conditions. Decisions may include temporary stoppages, relocation, shortened match times, rescheduling, or cancellation of matches when necessary due to lightning, severe weather, unsafe field conditions, extreme temperatures, or other safety concerns.

All participants, teams, and spectators are expected to follow instructions from tournament officials during weather-related delays or emergencies. Tournament decisions made for safety reasons are final.

MATCH PROCEDURES

Referees apply World Rugby Laws. Contested scrums will be played unless deemed unsafe. The referee's watch is official time, the referee's scorecard is the official result, and all decisions of fact are final. Teams must report five minutes before kickoff. Failure to field a team within three minutes may result in a penalty try; after six minutes the match may be forfeited 7-0. The Tournament Committee may adjust schedules as necessary.

TEAM ROSTERS AND ELIGIBILITY

All players and coaches must be registered with USA Rugby and rostered to the Aspen Ruggerfest event in Rugby Xplorer (RX) prior to participating in any match.

A player may compete for only one team. Teams using ineligible or unregistered players may be subject to sanctions, including match forfeiture, disqualification, or other disciplinary action as determined by the Tournament Committee. Players are eligible for an age division if they reach the qualifying age during the calendar year.

ROSTER sizes are as follows:

- Open Division teams are limited to 35 players. For any match 23 may suit up and be available for play. Open substitutions are allowed in pool play, substitutions are limited to 8 per game for the final.
- 40s Division teams are limited to 40 players. For any game 32 may be suited up. All suited up players are available as substitutions.
- 50s and 55s are limited to 40-man rosters. All may suit up and be available to play. Open substitutions are allowed; however, all subs must wait for a stoppage in play and must announce their substitution to the referee.

MATCH RESULTS AND TIE-BREAK PROCEDURES

The official scores of each match will be kept by the referee and reported to the appointed Tournament Committee member, to be posted at the tournament HQ and/or other media available. All matches must produce a result.

POOL PLAY MATCHES: If a pool play match is tied at the end of regular time, the winner will be determined by a kicking competition.

The referee will select a goalpost, and each team captain will nominate a player to participate. Players will attempt drop kicks from anywhere behind the 22-meter line. Kicking will continue until a winner is determined. No player may attempt a second kick until all eligible players from their team have had an opportunity to kick.

Once one team successfully scores and the opposing team misses, the team that scores will be declared the winner. The winning team will be awarded three (3) additional match points for the purpose of pool standings.

KNOCKOUT STAGE MATCHES AND FINALS: If a knockout stage match or final is tied at the end of regular time, one (1) ten-minute extra-time period will be played.

If the score remains tied after the first extra-time period, additional ten-minute sudden-death periods will be played until a winner is determined. The first team to score during sudden death will be declared the winner.

POOL PLAY MATCH POINTS: Teams will be awarded match points during pool play as follows:

- **Win:** 4 points
- **Draw (if applicable):** 2 points
- **Loss:** 0 points
- **Four (4) or more tries scored:** 1 bonus point
- **Loss by seven (7) points or fewer:** 1 bonus point

At the conclusion of pool play, teams will be ranked based on their total match points.

If two or more teams are tied on match points, the following tie-break criteria will be applied in order until a higher-ranked team is determined:

1. Point differential in all matches played.
2. Total tries scored in all matches.
3. Total converted tries scored in all matches.
4. Head-to-head scores between common opponents.
5. Coin toss.

Final pool standings will determine placement in the knockout bracket. Tournament Directors reserve the right to reseed teams to create the most competitive bracket possible and ensure a high-quality tournament experience.

Official match scores will be recorded by the match referee and submitted to the Tournament Administration.

PROTESTS

Roster protests must be submitted before kickoff. Match protests must be raised to the Tournament Committee immediately following the match. Decisions of fact by match officials are not subject to protest. The Tournament Committee will decide all eligible protests, and its decisions are final.

DISCIPLINE AND MISCONDUCT

The Tournament Disciplinary Officer (TDO) has authority to address misconduct arising during the tournament in accordance with World Rugby procedures.

Any player issued a Red Card (Ordered Off) is automatically suspended from further participation pending an expedited on-site hearing by the TDO. The TDO may also review on- or off-field conduct that impacts the safety, integrity, or reputation of the tournament.

All participants are expected to uphold the USA Rugby Core Values of **Integrity, Passion, Solidarity, Discipline, Respect, and Inclusivity**. Conduct prejudicial to the game or tournament may result in disciplinary action.

COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

Any complaint or grievance relating to tournament operations, participant conduct, eligibility, or alleged violations of these Competition Rules shall be submitted to the Tournament Disciplinary Officer (TDO) as soon as practicable.

Decisions of the TDO regarding complaints and grievances are final and binding for purposes of the tournament. Nothing in this section limits the jurisdiction of USA Rugby or the U.S. Center for SafeSport where applicable.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Players, coaches, team staff, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves with respect, sportsmanship, and professionalism at all times, both on and off the field. Rugby is founded on the values of respect, integrity, discipline, and camaraderie, and all participants are expected to uphold these values throughout the tournament.

Aspen Ruggerfest has been a proud rugby tradition for decades, and the Town of Aspen and surrounding Roaring Fork Valley community have long embraced and supported the tournament. Participants are expected to be respectful ambassadors of the sport while in Aspen and throughout the tournament weekend.

Unsporting, abusive, threatening, discriminatory, illegal, or violent conduct may result in disciplinary action, removal from the tournament, suspension from future Aspen Ruggerfest events, referral to USA Rugby, and/or involvement of local law enforcement when appropriate.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE AUTHORITY

The Tournament Committee reserves the authority to interpret these Rules and Regulations and resolve matters not specifically addressed herein. All decisions are final.



ASPEN RUGGERFEST 2026

TEAM ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & ACCEPTANCE OF TOURNAMENT RULES

Club Name: _____

As an authorized representative of the above-named club, I hereby acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Aspen Ruggerfest Tournament Rules. I affirm that our players, coaches, and team staff will conduct themselves in accordance with the tournament regulations, USA Rugby Core Values, and the standards of sportsmanship expected throughout the event.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Team Role: _____

Date: _____



ASPEN RUGGERFEST 2026

ASPEN RUGGERFEST PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT, WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING. THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND WAIVER OF CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS AND ASSUMPTION OF THE RISKS AGREEMENT.

This Participation Agreement and Waiver and Release of Liability is entered into between the undersigned "Participant" and Aspen Rugby Club, Inc., the City of Aspen, and the Eastern Rockies Rugby Football Union Referees Society (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Releasees").

In consideration for the privilege of participation of the Participant in Aspen Ruggerfest 49 Activities, Participant acknowledges and agrees as follows:

1. Participation in the activities of Aspen Ruggerfest 49, including but not limited to warm-up, training, practice, games, clinics, travel, and social events including alcohol consumption (referred to herein as the "Activities"), includes participation in a full-contact sport, requires good health and fitness and can be **HAZARDOUS AND PRESENT A DANGER TO PARTICIPANT**. Participant believes he/she is qualified to participate in Activities, and if at any time the Participant believes conditions to be unsafe, he/she will immediately discontinue further participation in the Activities.

INITIAL HERE _____

2. Participation in Activities exposes Participant to **RISKS OF SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, INCLUDING PERMANENT DISABILITY, PARALYSIS AND DEATH**. Risks may arise out of contact and/or participation with other participants, spectators, equipment, field, facility and/or fixed objects; falls, collisions, rough play, and other mishaps; exposure to adverse weather conditions and/or high altitude; flaws and defects in equipment and facilities; irregular field conditions; and negligent field maintenance, negligent officiating, negligent coaching and negligent participation. Risks may be caused by the Participant's own actions, or inaction, the actions or inaction of others participants, the condition of the facilities in which the Activities take place, and/or **THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES."** Some Risks cannot be predicted or controlled. There may be other risks and social and economic losses either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time.

INITIAL HERE _____

3. Assumption of the Risks. **I CONSENT TO PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES AND FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES** incurred as a result of such participation.

INITIAL HERE _____

4. Waiver and Release of Liability. In consideration for the privilege of the Participant's participation in the Activities, the undersigned hereby **RELEASES, DISCHARGES, COVENANTS NOT TO SUE, AND AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS RELEASEES** from any and all liability, demands, losses, medical expenses, lost opportunities, damages or attorney fees and costs stemming from any or all claims for negligence, expressed or implied warranty, contribution, and indemnity, and/or claims of negligent rescue operations, first aid, and emergency care, to the broadest extent permitted by applicable law suffered by the Participant incurred on his/her account with respect to the Participant's personal injury and other injury or harm, disability, and/or death, or property damage, arising directly or indirectly from the Participant's participation in Activities, as caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the Releasees or any of them, and further agrees that if, despite this release, the Participant or any other person makes a claim on the Participant's behalf against any of the Releasees, **THE UNDERSIGNED WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEES FROM ANY LIABILITY, LITIGATION EXPENSES, ATTORNEY FEES, LOSSES, DAMAGES OR COSTS ANY MAY INCUR AS THE RESULT OF ANY SUCH CLAIM, WHETHER ASSERTED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, THE PARTICIPANT, OR ANOTHER PERSON.**

INITIAL HERE _____

5. Governing Law, Venue and Jurisdiction: Participant understands and agrees this document is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted under applicable law and shall be governed by Colorado law. In the event of a dispute, the exclusive venue and jurisdiction for any lawsuit arising out of such dispute shall be the state courts of Pitkin County. Federal venue and jurisdiction for any lawsuit is hereby waived.

INITIAL HERE _____

6. Severability: If any provision of this document is determined to be invalid for any reason, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of any of the other provisions, which other provisions shall remain in full force and effect as if this document had been executed with the invalid provision eliminated.

INITIAL HERE _____

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTICIPANT HEREBY CERTIFIES THAT I HAVE COMPLETELY READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS AGREEMENT AND ITS TERMS. THAT PRIOR TO SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS AGREEMENT. I AM AWARE, BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT I ASSUME ALL RISKS AND WAIVE AND RELEASE CERTAIN RIGHTS THAT I AND EACH OF MY HEIRS, NEXT OF KIN, FAMILY, RELATIVES, GUARDIANS, CONSERVATORS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, TRUSTEES AND ASSIGNS MAY HAVE AGAINST RELEASEES.

Participant Signature

Printed Name

Date

Witness Signature

Printed Name

Date

*****PLEASE PRINT, INITIAL, SIGN AND RETURN TO YOUR AFFILIATED CLUB*****



ASPEN RUGGERFEST 2026

TOURNAMENT ROSTER

Club Name: _____

Coach/Manager/Contact (Print): _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

	Player Name	Date of Birth	Email	Phone #
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

	Player Name	Date of Birth	Email	Phone #
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17				
18				
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21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				
32				
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34				
35				

	Player Name	Date of Birth	Email	Phone #
36				
37				
38				
39				
40				

As the Club Representative, I verify that I checked the eligibility of my players and that each of them is in compliance with the Aspen Ruggerfest rules. I understand that if the team is found to be in violation of those regulations, the team or player will be subject to strict disciplinary sanctions that may include Aspen Ruggerfest suspension or forfeit of matches.

Name (Print): Position (i.e., coach, captain, etc.):

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____