



WELCOME TO THE 2021 WINCHESTER CANNONS RUGBY HIGH SCHOOL SPRING 15s SEASON!

Hello!

We are thrilled you have joined us for this spring's HS 15s tackle team. Please be sure to read this letter in its entirety, as there is a lot of information to share.

REGISTRATION:

- **Fees:** We are handling registration fees a bit differently this year. As 100% of the registration fees you pay to the Winchester Cannons go directly and fully to pay for player game kits and tournament registrations, the Board has voted to have dues paid per season, and not per year. In the past, we have tried to stretch High School player dues to cover both the Spring 15s as well as the Summer 7s seasons, which has put an increased pressure on fundraising to cover any shortfall. In order to reduce some of that burden while ensuring the players have all of the gear they need and are available to participate in a fully balanced season of game play, we are now asking players to pay for each season in which they register. THAT SAID, we are also offering discounts for those who pay for both the 15s and 7s seasons at once, as well as for sibling registrations. For example:
 - o If you have a child on the HS 15s team who will also be playing on the summer 7s team, you have two payment options:
 - Pay \$35 for the spring season, followed by a second \$35 payment in a few months at the start of the summer season
 - Pay \$60 for BOTH seasons at the start of the spring 15s season. No further dues will be collected, and your child will be set for the summer 7s season
 - o If you have a player on the 15s with a younger sibling playing on either the summer Middle School or Elementary Tag team, you would pay \$35 for your HS aged child (*or* \$60, if you were prepaying for both HS 15s and HS 7s), and only \$15 for your MS or ES aged child.
- **Proof of age and HS eligibility:** We are required to keep on file proof of your child's age and enrollment in High School. Therefore, please have them bring one from each column below to practice. Alternatively, they can take a picture of one from each column and email it to winchestercannonsrugby@gmail.com; we will then get everything printed and added to our records:
 - o Proof of Age: Copy of birth certificate *OR* copy of driver's license / permit
 - o Proof of HS Enrollment: Copy of school ID *OR* copy of report card from this school year (please black out any grades)

- **Parks and Rec Registration:** In order to have access to Weaver park for our outdoor practices, we are required to have each of our players register through Winchester City Parks and Rec department. Please use this link: <https://webtrac.winchesterva.gov/wbwsc/webtrac.wsc/wbsplash.html?wbp=1>
 - o Once you are logged in, select the Athletics button at the bottom of the page (the website currently features two girls wearing pink and holding tennis rackets as this button's image)
 - o Find the Keyword box at the top of the next screen, type "Rugby" and hit your Enter key. This should bring up Option 621643 – Athletic Youth Leagues Spring. Click the shopping cart icon next to the green "Available" button, and follow the rest of the prompts to check out and pay the \$10 registration fee.

GAME KIT:

- Returning players should still have their game shorts from last season. If they have outgrown their shorts, or have lost them, please email Judy Barth at winchestercannonsrugby@gmail.com ASAP. New players will be issued a set of game shorts.
- In order to keep game shorts as fresh as possible, we are asking each player to secure their own pair of practice shorts, and to *keep the game day shorts for just that – game day only*. Amazon has options beginning at \$15; please do NOT feel as though players need to purchase high dollar practice gear. Acceptable colors for practice shorts are black, blue, and white; please nothing flashy. We want the attention to be on your player and their amazing skills, not their clothes. 😊
- Jerseys will be distributed to the players on game day by the coaches, and collected back from each player once play has finished for the day. The coaches take great care and pride in our team jerseys, and ensure that everything is properly cleaned and ready for our team each game day.
- Many players feel more comfortable wearing compression underwear / bike shorts underneath their game shorts. This is perfectly acceptable; the only requirement is that only dark blue or black colors are worn, and that the shorts do not extend past the bottom of the rugby shorts.

Spirit Wear:

- This is the #1 requested item by our Cannons families. We absolutely understand and agree with everyone – we all want to show our Cannons pride! The Board is currently working to secure a vendor to provide spirit gear; we promise to have an order form to everyone as quickly as possible.

Team Snap:

- All of our players should have access to Team Snap, as that is the app our Coaches use to communicate important information and reminders back and forth with the team. They also upload both the practice and game schedule to the app, and add field directions as they are secured. As well, players use the app to secure rides to practices and games from their teammates if needed. It is a crucial app for each and every player, so that they can be sure they are always up to date with the team. That said, we also understand how information does not always make it smoothly from our children up to the parental level. If you would like to add additional parent / guardian emails to your player's Team Snap account, or if you would like a quick tutorial on using the app, please see Judy Barth at one of the upcoming practice sessions.

Social Media:

- The Cannons have a website, (winchesteryouthrby.com) a Facebook page, (Winchester Youth Rugby) and an Instagram account (WinchesterCannons). Please feel free to join / like / follow us! And, if anyone out there is a social media guru, we would love to hear from you. 😊

That's it! If you have any questions or concerns at any point in time, you can always contact us at winchestercannonsrugby@gmail.com, or reach Judy Barth at 571.344.3380. Thank you so much – we look forward to seeing your ruggger out on the pitch this season!

Sincerely,

Winchester Cannons Youth Rugby