



Winter is nearly here and we are looking forward to Rugby next spring as we weather the pandemic. The Coast Guard Men's and Women's teams are scheduled to compete in the Armed Forces Championships next summer. Unfortunately, this year's events were cancelled due to Covid-19. Although this effectively ended competition for Summer seven's events, Coast Guard Rugby has been busy and operating with 2021 in its sights.

### **RECENT EVENTS**

Prior to rugby being put on hold, the Men's and Women's sides were able to take the pitch in the Los Angeles Invitational at the end of February in 2020. On a bit of a short notice request, both teams assembled in LA to play against teams from around the country. For those of you that may not be aware, both of the teams leverage social media and networking to put sides together. This is unlike the more traditional Armed Forces events that are solicited through Coast Guard message boards, provide most funding and don't charge leave. With these "unofficial" events, members take personal leave, coordinate logistics and register for the event out of pocket.





The Coast Guard Rugby Foundation was able to help offset the cost to members by providing \$2,000 to cover costs. This would not have been possible without your generous support! We continue efforts to expand our group of supporters for Coast Guard Rugby so please consider providing support to future events, visit the link below – <https://cgrugbyfoundation.org/>

## **ANNOUCEMENTS**

Head coaching changes were made on both the Men's and Women's side. The Women brought in Coach Donnie Harbert who has experience coaching across several levels. Most notably, Donnie coached in the Women's Premiere League (WPL) with the D.C. Furies. He comes highly regarded by former players and those that he has coached against Although rugby has been put on pause, Donnie has already engaged with players to initiate offseason conditioning and is looking forward to getting the women onto the pitch.



The Men's side is moving forward with Coach Ronnie Suarez. Ronnie is very experienced and has coached select sevens sides that have competed in top level events. Ronnie currently coaches with the Florida Stormers and Florida International University. Like his counterpart on the Women's side, Ronnie has already engaged with the men to create an offseason fitness program. Ronnie comes highly recommended by those that have played for him.



Both Donnie and Ronnie make great additions to the Coast Guards rugby profile and a great sign of things to come!

**FUNDRAISING EFFORTS**

That's where you come in. We want to ask a few things from you:

- Consider making a tax deductible, monthly contribution (or a one-time contribution) to support the Coast Guard Rugby teams. Just click on the link <https://cgrugbyfoundation.org>

A monthly contribution of just \$20 (or any amount), combined with similar contributions of others, will provide significant support to the teams. Please join us in making things a bit easier for today's young Coast Guard athletes, following in our footsteps.

- Please PASS THE WORD! We know that we have not connected everyone in the Coast Guard Rugby community. So, please share your contacts with us ([CGRF.board@cgrugbyfoundaton.org](mailto:CGRF.board@cgrugbyfoundaton.org)) or share this message with them.
- Interested in helping the Coast Guard Rugby Foundation? Contact us!

Below is a list of the founders and current members of the Coast Guard Rugby Foundation Board of Directors, along with their contact information:

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Kind regards,

CG Rugby Foundation Board of Directors

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