
Fort McMurray Mini

Rugby:

Who are we,

Where we started,

Where we are &

Where we want to go

To watch an actual game of rugby may seem barbaric, we hope to educate both kids and parents on the benefits of playing this sport. Rugby is beautiful in the sense that it is a game for everyone. It's for girls and boys of all ages, shapes and fitness levels. To win a rugby game takes a team effort and all 15 people working together for the 'W'. Rugby teaches respect for our teammates, our opponents, the coaches, the refs and most importantly ourselves.



Our Mission

The Fort McMurray Mini Rugby program encourages youth to discover the game of rugby. We will focus on development of basic skills: 2 hands on the ball, passing, catching, running, communication and decision making with ball in hand. Our Junior players will be introduced to contact, how to tackle and how to get tackled safely.

Where we were

The Mini Rugby scene began in Fort McMurray during the summer of 2015. It was started by Joseph Atalifo, a parent and current player/coach with the Fort McMurray Knights Men's team. The kids ages ranged from 5-12 years old and were introduced to the game of rugby. Training sessions were led by Coach Joe and other volunteer players that loved the game. Practices ran for 30-45 minutes and always ended on a positive note with a team cheer!



Milestones

Humble Beginnings

Coach Joseph Atalifo starts a rugby club for kids by providing all the gear and the time to coach

Intro To Rugby

Free Indoor Sessions to get kids exposed to the game

Mini Rugby Festival

The clubs first rugby festival. The Minis started the day with games and got to use the inflatable rugby pitch.



PE Classes

Coach Joe and Ryan teach rugby to gym classes in Anzac, St. Pauls, SMP, MacTavish

1st Summer Season

Coming back after the fire and having a season was a huge win for the program

Girl Power/Mega Boys

Mini Coaches offered rugby sessions to all the Grade 6's across Fort McMurray

Rugby continues to grow

The Mini program offers 'Free Spring Sessions' to introduce kids to rugby. Our summer season kicks off



Rugby in all types of weather

Throughout the years we've played in frost, rain and sweltering sun. Whether we throw on toques and gloves, raincoats and rainboots, barefoot and tons of water breaks, we just want to get the kids out playing! This year we've introduced an indoor winter season that allows us to continue to play all year!

Keep the 'FUN' in fundamental

At the end of each season we liked to have a 'rugby wrap up'. Sometimes these events were pizza parties for the kids, water balloon fights, free gear, dunk tank, Christmas loot bags or a family day at the beach. These special events were funded from Knights Alumni players that Coach Tom would reach out to for donations. These donations helped us keep rugby fun, send the kids with some free gear and create some great memories for the kids. The smiles say it all!



Where we are

We just finished up our first indoor Fall season. We had a great turnout for our Rugby Alberta event and we wanted to keep the momentum going. We will be starting our first indoor Winter season on January 29th at Shell Place. This will lead us right into our outdoor season.

2021 Highlights

- High School Girls session run by Rugby Olympian Ashley Stacey
- Free Rookie Rugby event put on by Rugby Alberta in YMM
- PE class at Fort McMurray Christian School & Father Beauregard
- A free rugby clinic out in Anzac
- First indoor 'Fall Mini Rugby season' that had 5 sessions from Oct-Dec
- Coach Joe representing at the Canadian Classics



What parents are saying

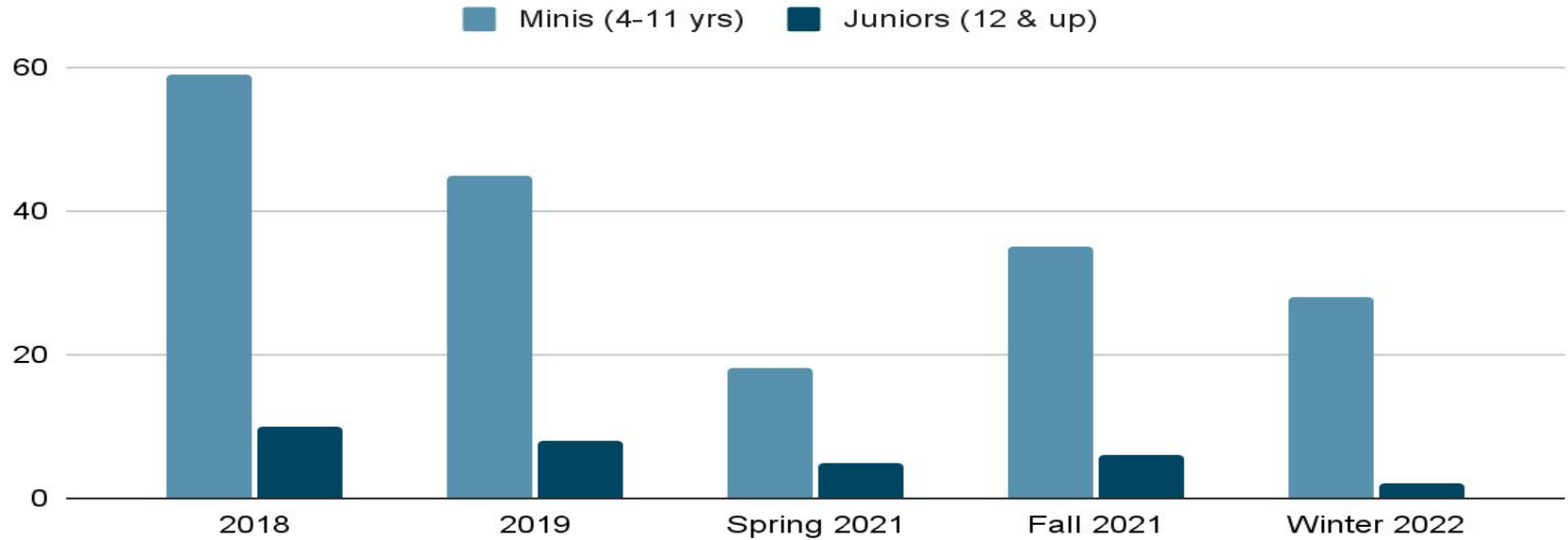
Friendly, love how they work with the kids. Good training for kid as a team. Both my kids love rugby.

Lots of coaches to participants ratio. Would like more consistent schedule (ex. Once a week)

My kids enjoy rugby training and will definitely sign up again. Was unaware of post-secondary rugby opportunities for my child in Canada.

actual parents responses to a Feedback Questionnaire from our 2021 Fall season

Registration numbers throughout the years





Income for 2021/22

- Fall 2021 Registration (Minis \$50, Juniors \$70)
- Winter 2022 Registration (Minis \$50, Juniors \$70)
- Knights Alumni 2021 - \$1,400.00

Expenses for 2021/22

- Indoor Turf Rental \$90/hr
- Outdoor Stadium Rental \$24.50/hr
- ERU/Rugby Canada Fee \$19/player
- Jamboree fee and bus rental
- Advertising costs for Facebook/Instagram boosts, poster printing
- Equipment replacement: balls, tackling bags, flags, cones, pinnies

Goals for 2022

- Travel to Edmonton to attend a Rugby Jamboree. A Saturday morning where Minis get to play and parents get experience the rugby atmosphere
- Introduce 'contact' to Junior players (12 years & up). How to tackle and get tackled safely
- Get more coaches certified at Level 1 and Level 2
- Increase our registration numbers (especially in our Juniors program)
- Return to school PE classes to do an intro to rugby class
- Promote all the different opportunities for youth rugby in Alberta

Actions Steps to Achieve Goals

- Reach out to Rugby Alberta and see if they would come up here to put on Level 1 & 2 clinics this summer
- For our summer season Coach Joe will begin to introduce 'contact' for all our Junior players
- Increase our advertisement through boosting posts on Facebook & Instagram. Print posters and place them up throughout town. Reach out to MacIsland to post about our events
- Contact Edmonton clubs to find the dates for their Jamboree and find out what is needed to allow our club to attend
- Contact school boards to run gym classes once we can go outside



Where we want to go

Goals for the future

- Send athletes to the 2023 Alberta Summer Games in Okotoks for Rugby (ages 11-17 yrs old)
- Have a travel Junior team that can compete in the ERU division
- Establish a Mini league that has teams practicing for 1st half of practice and playing in flag game for the 2nd half
- Have Junior Knights representing the club at the provincial level
- Have flag rugby teams at the Junior high levels
- Have female and male teams at all the high schools