

# TIRF'S SPRING NEWSLETTER



## SPRING 2025 RECAP

TIRF's early Spring programming for the 2025 season is off to an exciting start. Our summer team for the 2025 season is already making a significant impact with the youth they work delivering clinics at TDSB and TCDSB schools, in addition to their facilitation of TDESAA Rugby Tournaments across the city, culminating in the City Championships held at North Toronto Collegiate Institute on June 5th.

TIRF's success in programming has led to an increased number of participants in our annual house league programming at Driftwood Public School and Cornell Junior Public School, ultimately leading to TIRF being able to field two full independent teams at Toronto City's Father's Day Festival on June 15<sup>th</sup>.



## Rugby in the Square 2025

TIRF's Summer Dream Team also successfully helped facilitate the 2025 edition of Rugby in the Square. With over 28 teams participating, the dream team worked with a dedicated team of volunteers, taking on different roles to make sure the event ran smoothly and was enjoyed by all participants and spectators in attendance.

We would like to congratulate all teams, volunteers, and staff on making RITS another fun day out. Special congratulations goes out to this year's winners EQ Bank. We'd also like to congratulate the 20 TIRF athletes who played and competed well against teams made up entirely of adults. We hope that they are willing to come out next year, as well as more of their friends!

# OUR MAY

## SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

TIRF had booked 44 schools in the Toronto area, working with over 10,000 students this spring.

TIRF's Dream Team is dedicated to building the sport of rugby amongst youth and demonstrating what rugby is about. School programming introduces children to rugby and teaches them basic rugby knowledge and skills. TIRF's team has led to positive engagement with rugby from both participants and their parents/guardians.

School programming brings out potential in a lot of students. The programming is effective, and students develop confidence through opportunities to play. TIRF's coaching has led children to become exceptional rugby players inside and outside of schools. TIRF often offers as little as half a school day to a week of in-school training. TIRF's team has coached and developed flag rugby teams from a brand-new team with no experience into tournament champions in just a few short weeks.



## TDESAA CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2025 TDESAA City Championship for Flag Rugby, held at North Toronto Collegiate Institute, was a high-energy finale to the season and a true celebration of youth rugby. TIRF was proud to support the event, which highlighted the talent and sportsmanship of young athletes across Toronto. Kew Beach Junior Public School took home titles in both the Grade 5 and 6 divisions, while Don Valley Middle School swept the Grade 7 and 8 divisions. Congratulations to all teams for an inspiring day of rugby!

## TIRF PLATE

The 2025 TIRF Plate welcomed both boys' and girls' high school teams to William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute for a 10-a-side rugby tournament. The atmosphere was electric as teams battled it out with determination and heart. Victoria Park Collegiate Institute rose to the top in the boys' division while George Vanier Secondary School earned a well-deserved win in the girls' division. The TIRF Plate continues to be a space where youth athletes thrive, compete, and build lasting connections through the game.



# Our June



## HOUSE LEAGUES & MINIS FESTIVALS

TIRF's House Leagues continue to play a vital role in introducing free non-contact Rugby to youth across the Greater Toronto Area, offering low-barrier, high-energy programming that combines fun with skill development. These weekly sessions create a welcoming space for new players to get a feel for the game in an organized yet playful environment. Alongside TIRF's implementation of Try Rugby Days,

House Leagues have contributed to the development of TIRF's Mini's programming, which started with a small group of 3 players who formed a joint team with our friends at the Toronto Nomads for the Nomads' Mini Festival on May 25<sup>th</sup>, to two full, independent TIRF Teams at Toronto City's Father's Day Festival in Mid-June. Such development in a short space of time bodes well for the continuation of such programming, as we look forward to participating in the Beach's Sand Rugby Festival on July 13<sup>th</sup>, as well as our own festival at York University on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

We would like to thank the Toronto Nomads for their support at their festival, as it helped demonstrate the strength of the Rugby community in Toronto to families new to the sport, and gave them a positive first experience that saw their kids engage in further TIRF programming.



## DREAM TEAM

### DRIFTWOOD/WESTMINSTER-BRANSON

Driftwood's Coaches Ryan, Yash and Mya found high success in both their Try Rugby Days and House league, with their first Try Rugby Day having 35 participants. The participants are well-engaged in the variety of activities and drills run by the coaches. Multiple participants were motivated to become players at TIRF's Minis Festivals.

### REXDALE

The Rexdale community is TIRF's newest target community, with our goal to raise the popularity of rugby in the west end. Rexdale coaches Riley, Hasan, and Dillon have worked hard to promote Rexdale's Try Rugby Days in hopes of building a strong rugby community in Rexdale.

### FLEMINGDON

The Flemingdon community has been successful in all three of their Try Rugby Days, averaging around 15 participants each time. Coaches Deb, Steph, Jonah, and Michelle demonstrated exceptional leadership and kept participants engaged and motivated.

### STEELES L'AMOREAUX/WOBURN

The Woburn community has been very successful within their house league, with over 40 participants signing up. Coaches Athena, Jaydon, Jahlesha, and Tianna continue to demonstrate leadership and many skills. The coaches maintain engagement from participants with a variety of activities and drills.

