



Coaches Corner
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WELCOME TO 2009

2009 will offer the University of Scranton Men's Rugby Club, The Scranton Norsemen, an unprecedented atmosphere for growth, positive change and success on and off the field, honoring the tradition established by Norsemen Alumni since the Club's beginning in 1985, while at the same time providing an exciting and renewed experience for current and future team members as student athletes and representatives of the University.

Why is 2009 such a unique milestone year in the Scranton Norsemen story?

Three independent, yet intertwined circumstances of events, all with direct impact on the rugby program, have occurred at the start of 2009.

#1 University

The University of Scranton have made improvements and changes to the administration and support of Club and recreational sports. To quote from a University email: "These changes are designed to streamline and assist the Club sports teams in providing continuity and efficiency in support. These changes allow the University to not only support students on items like equipment, insurance coverage and practice schedules; but also all fiscal responsibilities related to practices and match play".

These changes compliment the revised and mandatory policies of Rugby's governing organization, USA Rugby.

#2 [USA Rugby](#) (click to view entire document)

Rugby worldwide is experiencing explosive growth in popularity and professionalism with television and marketing financial opportunities similar to the NFL here in the United States. In fact, USA Rugby by 2011 is budgeted to receive \$10 million in development grants from the IRB (International Rugby Board), Rugby's worldwide governing organization. Consequently, USA Rugby has mandated strict guidelines intended, among many other goals, to further enhance Rugby's image as an elite sport, and eliminate any remaining perceptions of Rugby as a rogue, rebellious, party driven alternative sport. In fact, the stated Tagline of USA Rugby is "Rugby – The Best Experience in America Sports". A large portion of this policy is on development and organization of High School and College programs.

The official Rules and Policies of USA Rugby read as follows:

Definition of [Collegiate Eligibility](#) (click to view entire document):

“The USA Rugby Collegiate Committee shall act as the directive body on behalf of any club situated within the United States if America which represents a two year or four year academic institution of higher education”. Please refer to attachment “Men’s College Rules”.

These policies, in particular point #1 “The club must be authorized and recognized by the Administration of the College or University” compliment the organizational support improvements being implemented at the University and provide that unprecedented platform for growth and success for the Rugby Program.

#3 The Team

The student athlete members of University of Scranton Men’s Rugby, The Scranton Norsemen, have committed to our own set of standards reflecting those of the University and USA Rugby. These include:

-Officer Elections we held December 2008; positions and responsibilities we defined in writing before elections so any nominees could insure they could understand time and tasks required and could therefore accept or decline nominations. The entire team assembled and voted under the supervision of Faculty Moderator and Head Coach.

- Open and professional communication within University Administration is a club policy.

- Open and professional communication with Rugby Governing Organization (USA Rugby, MARFU-Mid Atlantic Rugby Football Union, EPRU-Eastern Pennsylvania Rugby Union, EPRRS-Eastern Pennsylvania Rugby Referees Society) is club policy.

- A new club officer has been established; Alumni Liaison. The Scranton Norsemen Alumni community can provide a strong resource to current members, both with on field support and mentoring opportunities in post graduation career networking. We will be actively reaching out to our older Norsemen Brothers.

- A commitment to involvement in Community Service and action consistent with the Jesuit “Men for Others” principles.

- Dedication and increased membership numbers at practice.

- Goal of winning EPRU D2 in fall 2009 and advancing into Mid-Atlantic Playoffs.

- Recruiting quality High School Student Athletes.

- All members must sign and comply with [Codes of Conduct](#) (click to view entire document)