

Summing Up

The rugby program at New Mexico Tech offers students a positive avenue to exercise, travel, and experience the adventure of personal and team achievement. The coach has over 25 years of playing and coaching experience both in the U.S. and abroad and holds a level III USA Rugby Football Union coaching certificate.

At New Mexico Tech, rugby practice and games are scheduled around academics and players are required to keep their futures in focus. In the process they learn valuable skills of cooperation and communication, while making memories and friends to cherish



through the years.

Contact:
Dave Wheelock
(505) 835-5854

Our e-mail:
dwheelock@admin.nmt.edu

Our website:
<http://www.nmt.edu/~rugby/>



NEW MEXICO TECH
801 Leroy Place
Socorro, NM 87801

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New Mexico Tech Rugby Football Club Oldest Premier Sport Club

Rugby football has a long and storied history at New Mexico Tech University. The club originated in 1973 and is a charter member of the Rio Grande Rugby Union. The team plays against university and men's teams from New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, and on occasion, far more distant. The team has



completed two overseas playing tours, to Wales in 1998 and Ireland in 2002.

Origins of Rugby

Rugby Football is named for its birthplace in England some 165 years ago. Today the sport has spread to over 100 countries worldwide. Rugby has for years been the fastest-growing club sport on American campuses with over



650 women's and men's teams competing in the United States Rugby Football Union. The sport is played by athletes of all sizes, shapes, and talents, such are the varying positional requirements.

The Basics



The object of rugby football is to carry or kick the ball over the opponents' goal line and touch it down. Defenders may tackle the ball carrier, whereupon the ball is released and up for grabs, subject to certain laws. Unlike American football, forward passes and interference blocking are not allowed. Sounds rough, but with proper instruction and training rugby is a beautiful sport to watch.

Rugby at New Mexico Tech

The rugby season at New Mexico Tech is split between the fall and spring semesters. Training begins the first week of school, although new players are made welcome any time in the semester.



Globetrotting Ruggers

New Mexico Tech has successfully undertaken two overseas tours, to Wales in 1998 and Ireland in 2002. Between these trips, in 2002, the rugby club hosted a Welsh team in Socorro, recording a legendary victory. Both of the spring break tours netted one win, two loss records, yet the players achieved far more in terms of adventure and personal growth than mere won-loss records can express. While having the times of their young lives, the lads also proved excellent ambassadors for New Mexico Tech, the state of New Mexico, and American rugby. Next on the Tech Rugby menu is England in spring 2006.