



Welcome to the 2026 Tennessee Rugby Association Championships!

Venue for Championships on May 2, 2026

Sumner County Rugby Park

1788 Avant Lane

Hendersonville, TN 37075

Parking

Players, families, and spectators are strongly encouraged to carpool to prevent parking issues at each venue.

Admission

Admission to the Championship event in Hendersonville will be \$5.00. Tournament officials, Players, Coaches, and Staff will be admitted free of charge.

Team Roster

Each team must provide a roster to the state office by noon on Wednesday, April 29th, 2026, for Championship Matches. All players and coaches on the roster must be in good standing with the TRA (All registrations complete and fees paid.) **The roster limit will be 25 players and 5 coaches. These will be the only individuals permitted on the team touchline during the competitions. PLEASE REMIND your parents that they are to stay on the OPPOSITE Sideline.**

Team Staging Area

Teams will have a designated area where they can set up chairs and canopies.

Bench Area

Bench areas will be located on the same side of the field, divided by the 4th official/ATC area. The team bench area is defined by a roped off area behind the Technical Area. Qualified reserves and team personnel must remain within their bench area, behind the restraining barrier.

Coaches must be called on to the field by the Referee for an injured player.

Fans/Supporters/Families

Spectators, parents, and/or any other non-qualified reserves **will not be allowed** on the player/coach side of the pitch. Since fans of both teams are on the same side of the pitch, sportsmanship and decorum are expected by both teams' supporters. The Referee(s) may have supporters removed from the grounds if unsportsmanlike behavior is identified and potentially disruptive.

Technical Area

The technical area is defined as the area immediately in front of the team bench area and inside the safety / restraining barrier to the pitch. No more than two coaches shall be allowed in the technical area during the game. Additionally, two water carriers may enter the technical area and the field of play as allowed by the match official. The Area is defined as between the 10 m and 22 m lines on their side of the halfway. Coaches/staff should stay out of the 4th Referee/ATC area (between the 10 m lines to include the half-way).

Spectator Area

Spectators and non-qualified reserve players are not allowed to stand or "walk the rope" in front of seated spectators. Only match officials, approved coaches, and medical personnel are allowed within the playing area, and they must remain on their designated sideline. Players that are preparing to enter the contest are also allowed inside the playing area; however, at no time shall the total number inside the playing area exceed 5.

Vending

Full concessions will be provided at the host locations throughout the day.

Medical Services

Medical Staff will be on site to provide complete medical/injury services. This does not include routine preventative services (i.e. ankle taping), unless agreed upon by the providers.

Tournament Management

Richard Boone, TRA Director - 615.579.0739

Brian Silkwood, Host (Competition Chair) – 615.476.5342

Will Shaw, Competition Committee

Mouthguards/Mouthpieces

All players are expected to wear an approved mouthpiece while in active play.

Substitutions

Middle School Variations will apply for Middle School games (open substitutions – no limit).

For the 25-player High School roster - substitutions will be limited to 10 substitutions (with any player movement IN/OUT of match to count towards the 10). Only blood rule, blood sugar, or other "medical necessity" need (as determined by the ATC) will be allowed and NOT count against the 10. If the Two Head Coaches wish to allow for more flexible substitutions, they can simply agree to do so and inform the Referee(s).

Tie-Breakers

In the event of a Match being drawn at the end of normal time, extra time will be played until a winner is determined. Extra time will be in periods of five minutes. After each period the Teams will change ends without interval. In extra time the Team which scores first will immediately be declared the winner without further play. The Team that first kicked off to start the match will do so again in the first period of extra time, and subsequent kick-offs will alternate between the two sides.

Foul Weather Policy

- a. When thunder is heard, or a cloud – to –ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
- b. Thirty-minute rule: Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
- c. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count - reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
- d. If the field or other weather conditions make it unsafe to continue with play, the match will be suspended until a time, if possible, that the match can be resumed. These conditions could include, but would not be limited to, excessive standing water, high winds, flying debris, tornado watches or warnings, etc.

Once a game has been started and suspended, it must be restarted as soon as possible on the same day unless mutually agreed upon by both teams. In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played and the game is not tied. If less than one-half of the game has been played or there exists a tie during a second half suspension, the game must be rescheduled and restarted from the suspension of play. The State Director shall work with each team to reach a mutual date/time. If a mutual agreement is not reached the State Board of TRA shall follow TRA procedures to address a resolution according to the bylaws.