

Nick James

I am humbled and honored to be nominated for a rep position on the Red River Rugby Conference. While I have been involved with rugby for less than a decade, I have tried to make the most of my time. In 2008 I began playing with the A&M Women where I served as an officer, a captain, and began coaching in 2011. In addition to A&M, I have also had the privilege of playing with the TRU U23 Select, West U23 & Women's Select, Collegiate All-American, and the US Development teams. Since 2011 I have served as coach for the A&M Women, the Woodlands High School Girls, and the TRU U19 & U23 teams. In April I was selected as a coach in the Emerging Coach Development Program where I was an assistant coach for one of the senior women's teams competing at the National All-Star Competition.

Every camp, every team, every webinar, everything I do for rugby, I do to improve myself and to encourage others to want to improve. My passion is to continue to see the level of competition improve across all levels so that increasingly more athletes from our area will be recognized by high-level coaches. I have been "brought up" in Texas rugby and am involved in just about every age group offered. In the end, I hope that I can give back to the sport that has given me so much!

Pattie Shagam

I joined the Austin Valkyries in 2005, and I have spent the last 10 years maturing and developing my knowledge and skills in many roles; I have been a player, club officer, coach, and, as always, a dedicated advocate for our wonderful sport. I have seen the Texas Rugby Union grow and mature as well, and I believe I would be very well suited to represent the needs of women's rugby in Texas. I would like to continue to encourage higher levels of participation and development in all areas – such as within the administration, along with referee, coach, and player development. I have also been fortunate to see how other Unions operate, such as Southern California and Mid-America (formerly ERRFU) and would be able to bring some of their best practices to Texas. My military background, along with years of rugby and life experience, have given me the ability to work with teams and individuals from diverse backgrounds, and has also given me ample leadership and followership skills. I have a passion to see Texas Rugby live up to its full potential – and I have the work ethic and commitment to see our Union follow through on the efforts and goals of our members. Thank you for your nomination, and consideration for my abilities to be the TRU Women's Representative.

Catrin Watts

In 2010 I started out as the secretary for a small struggling university side in Northern Ireland, but by the time I graduated in 2013, I stepped down as president of a thriving competitive club after winning a university blues award for contribution to sport at Queen's University, Belfast. While at QUB I worked as part of the Ulster Women's Rugby committee, their competitions sub-committee, and on an Irish Rugby Football Union-QUB link committee, which enabled me to gain knowledge and experience of rugby organization on many different levels within the structure of the IRFU.

When I moved to Texas in 2013 to start my PhD at UT, I was excited to get involved with the Austin Valkyries and I have been serving on their committee since January 2014; first as secretary, and now as match secretary. I am excited to be a nominee for the position of women's TRU club representative as I am passionate about improving how rugby works in our region so that clubs can do what they do best - play rugby! I endeavor to bring the knowledge and experience that I gained in Northern Ireland to the TRU board, and to work with the existing members to promote the growth and development of rugby. My goal is to be a voice for the women's teams and I believe a board member should work as hard as every player on the field. Thank you for your consideration.

Jacklyn (Jack Jack) Acosta

I appreciate being nominated to become a TRU women's rep. I am still fairly new to the rugby community, in my fourth year of playing and about to join the women's club teams for tournaments. I have learned so much about rugby so far and realize the importance of spreading knowledge of the game to the youth in Texas in order to continue building the game for the future. I would love the opportunity to help TRU grow and build relationships with other organizations around the nation. As a younger rugby player I feel like I have an insight into what could draw more people to the game in order to increase the number of people playing rugby in Texas.

Thank you for your support!