

EDUCATION: **University of Texas at Austin**
Bachelors of Science, Engineering

EXPERIENCE: Austin Valkyries Women's Rugby Club

Club Captain (August 2017-Current)

- Serve as the connection between the elected and appointed board members and the athletes that comprise the Club
- Contribute to the development of the Club by providing advice and guidance on and off the pitch
- Lead by example and act as a positive role model for members of the Club
- Provide input and feedback at monthly Board meetings to ensure the voices of the Club athletes are expressed
- Work closely with the coaching staff to coordinate practices and make match day roster decisions
- Support Recruiting Board Member by welcoming new members to the Club and maintaining regular contact with active Club members

Recruiting Officer - Board Member (August 2014-August 2017)

- Oversaw recruitment of new players over multiple digital platforms
- Created initiatives to support member retention through engagement of veteran players and incoming athletes
- Updated and distributed Club roster and contact information for all members to facilitate open lines of communications among the membership
- Coordinated with Match Secretary Board member for social events following home matches by acquiring resources for meal preparation and coordinating events
- Organized volunteer opportunities within the community to meet Club core values
- Managed methods of communication to keep all members current on information
- Club membership grew to include a D2 side with over 50 CIPPed while under my Recruiting leadership

CLUBS:

- University of Texas Women's Rugby Club: 2012 - 2013
- Austin Valkyries Women's Rugby Club: 2013 - Present

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Two time TRU All-Star: 2018 and 2019
- USA Rugby D1 Senior Women's All-Star Select: 2019
- D1 National Champion Runner-Up: 2019
- USA Rugby National All-Star Select Competition (NASC) Participant: 2015
- Secured major partnership with Torchy's Tacos for the Austin Valkyries

Brittany McGhee
TRU Women's Rep Personal Statement

When I came to rugby, 8 years ago, I was on the verge of finishing undergrad and my life was in shambles. While I had grown up having the structure of organized sport to help shape my life and provide external discipline, those forces were obviously no longer present as I ambled directionless towards graduation. Luckily, I crossed paths with a University of Texas Women's Rugby player recruiting around campus and they would turn into someone who would unknowingly and profoundly impact my life.

From the first practice, I knew I had found my home in rugby. It brought a sense of family and community back into my life that I hadn't known was missing. While the team knew how to social with the best of them, the UT rugby club also provided structure both on and off the pitch. From the encouragement of the coaching staff to the late night study sessions in the library with my teammates, I was held accountable to others in a way I had known for a long time.

Upon graduating, I stayed in Austin while on the hunt for my first job and once again found myself missing the support of a community. I had naively decided that nothing could replace my experience at UT and that I should not get involved with the local senior women's club. Luckily, that faulty thinking was remedied only half a year later and I began my tenure as an Austin Valkyrie. Unsurprising to me now, but the positive impact and the sense of community I felt at UT was and continues to be present among Valkyries.

While each rugby player has their unique experiences at different points in their athletic career and at different clubs, I truly believe the positive outcomes of being a member of this community are the same for the majority of us and readily translates off the pitch. Rugby imbues us with strength. Knowing that I can be tackled and tackle in return gives the knowledge and confidence needed to overcome obstacles in other arenas of life. Rugby instills in us a sense of respect. From knowing how to communicate to referees to knowing that we all started out as stumbling rookies, we learn to respect both those with power and those that can be aided by our experience. Rugby teaches us to lift each other up. Disregarding actually being lifted in lineouts, rugby teaches us that success comes from elevating each other and not tearing down those around us.

I want to be the TRU Women's representative because I believe in these rugby life lessons and know that women both in the community and those yet to make their way into the fold, will be better from getting to experience it first hand. For me, growing the sport, especially among female players, is not just about visibility to something we all love, but about growing capable women to take on life's challenges. I plan to achieve growing the sport by hearing what each TRU women's team needs to succeed. Their growth and success is my growth and success and it is the growth and success of those around us.