

Hello TRU Board Members,

I am writing this letter in support of Paul Lawrence as president of TRU. I nominated him because I have seen what he does for those in the sport, and more personally for me and my girls. I am a new rugby mom and know absolutely nothing about rugby. I was lucky to be introduced to Paul early in our rugby journey, first in his capacity as Referee and really got to know him later as one of the coaches for the Lady Spartans.

As a Referee I watched him call fair games and take time to explain calls and plays to players. He worked games tirelessly and had seemingly boundless enthusiasm for the game through some very cold, and very hot, long days. I have even seen him step in at tournaments where he was not scheduled to work because he simply could not let the players go without.

As a coach he taught two of my daughters. He took time to listen to them, and the other players. He learned each girl's mannerisms and always seemed to know who could be pushed and who needed a little extra patience that day. He has set such an example that my oldest daughter has decided to follow in his footsteps and attend Stephen F. Austin State University with hopes of playing Rugby. My younger daughter, 5th grade, played up with 6th – 8th grade girls. She was much smaller than the girls, but Paul encouraged her to be aggressive and never let size or experience intimidate her. During the time he was coaching her she was being bullied at school so badly that she was losing weight and having anxiety attacks. Paul was there for her and made her feel safe within the world of rugby. He told her his story and explained how the Rugby brotherhood accept all kind of "misfits".

Personally, I love Paul because he never judges people, he accepts everyone and works tirelessly without personal gain. He has answered a million plus questions about the sport of Rugby, and even connected my daughter to people who will help her in her future, from rugby to her dream of aviation.

Paul Lawrence would be an excellent leader for the Texas Rugby Union because he is committed to keeping Texas Rugby strong and growing the sport. I would be so honored if he is able to continue to coach my girls and my son who is just coming into the sport.

Thank you for your time,

Courtney Fato