



To the Highland Rugby Community,

There has been quite a bit of noise in the National media in regards to Rugby Canada (RC) increasing their 2018 rugby dues. We wanted to reach out to the Highland family with what is happening.

There was a Special Meeting of the RC Members (the 10 provinces) and there was a majority vote to raise the RC dues to assist the National Senior Mens XV Team on the qualification to the next World Cup. Many options were investigated over the weeks previous, but this was the most workable solution. Rugby Ontario voted to insist that this increase is *temporary*, and will not exceed a three year term.

The biggest concern is that if the Men do not qualify for the Rugby World Cup, approximately \$1.2 million / year in funding will be cut from World Rugby. This money is spent on all programs (Men's, Women's Fifteens, Sevens).

With RC only having three meaningful sources of income (Vancouver Sevens, Own the Podium – specific to the Womens VII's program and the men's fifteens program) the qualification for the 2019 World Cup is imperative for Rugby in Canada.

We at Highland have always worked to maintain affordable and fair dues for the players. We provide year round sessions both on field and off field in terms of rugby and social events. Our fundraisers that we currently have scheduled, raise funds that go directly back into our club's year round activities and equipment. With short notice from RC, we are hoping that for the 2019 season, we as a club can come together to organize a large fundraiser to offset these costs. This year however, the increase in RC dues will be included in registration fees. We want to again, pass along that this was not Highland raising it's fees, but a National increase from Rugby Canada.

We are looking forward to the 2018 Season and cannot wait to see everyone at Victoria Park.

Yours in rugby.
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