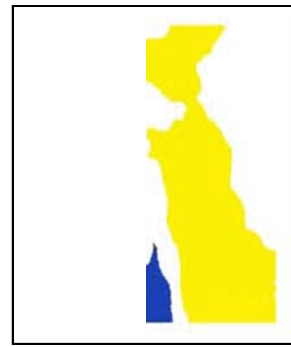


## NEWS

Delaware Rugby Foundation

PO Box 654, Hockessin, DE 19707

For further information contact: Christopher Wierzbowski  
(For immediate release)



WILMINGTON, DE. OCT. 6, 2010-The [Delaware Rugby Foundation](#) (DRF) has partnered with [Public Allies Delaware](#) (PAD), an AmeriCorps program, to create a Co-ed middle school “Rookie Rugby” league in Delaware for 2011. The DRF is setting its sights on the school districts of Brandywine, Appoquinimink, Christina, and Red Clay to serve as grounds for their pilot program.

Christopher Wierzbowski has been selected as the Public Ally to work with the DRF where he will serve as the point person on various projects like the middle school “Rookie Rugby” program, event management as well as serving as the DRFs public relations and marketing manager. Wierzbowski is well suited for the task as a 2010 graduate of Ursinus College with a Bachelor of Arts in English. Chris is also familiar with the sport of rugby after playing for the Ursinus Men’s Rugby Club for four years.

The Public Allies program provides “a pathway for select talented and diverse young leaders to emerge in communities across the state of Delaware,” where for “10 months [the] Allies are placed in paid professional apprenticeships at local nonprofits where they create, improve, and expand services that address varying issues.”

“With Chris on board, the Delaware Rugby Foundation can now build the momentum necessary to do the great things for Delaware and its rugby community that we have been planning for,” commented Andy Newcombe, President, DRF.

Over the course of the next several months Wierzbowski and members of the DRF board will be attending various PTA meetings, school administrative and community gatherings developing collaborative relationships with the area stake-holders. The “Rookie Rugby” season is from late March to early May.

The DRF seeks to educate new audiences, on the benefits of participating in a competitive, physically demanding, global sport which is widely recognized for its character and team building attributes. “We think of ourselves as a children’s organization,” said Bob Weir, DRF founding president, current board member and coach of the Philadelphia Women’s Rugby Football Club, “that uses rugby as the tool to better the health, interpersonal skills, and academics of its youthful participants.”

Addressing the sustainability of these middle school programs, Wierzbowski is developing a “Rugby Ambassador” program, where men and women from the local college rugby clubs will serve as assistant coaches where “Rookie Rugby” has taken hold. “It is my personal goal to see these middle school programs evolve to the point where the Rugby Ambassador Program grows into a full year mentoring resource for middle schoolers.” For more information or to volunteer with the DRF, please contact Chris Wierzbowski at [chris@derugbyfoundation.org](mailto:chris@derugbyfoundation.org)