



Loyola Rugby Team

The Usefulness of Clubs at Loyola

By Declan Healy

80 minutes. That's how long we are on the field. That's all we have to win the game. For those 80 minutes, we pour our blood, sweat, and tears into trying to ram the ball into the opponent's end zone, and all we have is each other. On the field, you bond more with the people next to you than you would do anything else; you have to trust the man to your left and right with everything in your willpower every time you touch the ball. You become brothers with every single person on the team within only the first few games. That's how easy it is. But rugby is just one of many [clubs at Loyola](#)—clubs are an essential way to meet and bond with new people when you are a freshman or older.

WHY CLUBS?

Transitioning from high school to college can be a very difficult process for many people. The task of finding new friends in a completely new environment is a task not for the faint of heart. For many people, it can be hard to make friends with the people who are in their classes or are living on their dorm floor, so they have nowhere else to look for people to get along with. That's where clubs come into play. While joining a club, you can meet tons of people who you might never have spoken a word to in the four years you attend this school. Every single club, whether the robotics club, the board game club, or even the rugby club will allow you to meet a variety of people who will share at least one common interest with you and that can help to make friends. According to Justin G, a sophomore at Loyola, "I met two of my best friends when I was a freshman through this outdoor club we were in called [OAE](#) or outdoor adventure Experience through a common interest that got the ball rolling." However, in my experience, if you are looking for not just friends, but family, you need to join a sports club.

WHY SPORTS CLUBS?

Although more time-consuming, sports clubs allow you to play a sport you love while simultaneously bonding with the people you play with. In the case of the Rugby team, we have practice three times a week and a game every Saturday. For four days of the week, I am shoulder to shoulder with other people, being forced to run up and down the field because we were goofing around too much. For four days of the week, I am battling with some of the people I have grown closest with over the past year I have been at Loyola. For four days of the week, I am getting tackled and clotheslined by some of my best friends. And for the other three days of the week, I cannot wait to do it all over again.

SECOND THOUGHTS

I understand that not all people love to play sports and will have second thoughts about putting themselves out there and joining one, whether you don't think you are athletic enough or don't think you're good enough at the sport to join the club. However, this mindset is flawed. Let me tell you a story. When I was a freshman just coming to Loyola, I strug-



Loyola Rugby Bonding

gled to find people I could be friends with. 'm not going to lie, I'm not a 'social butterfly' as some might call it, so I decided that I would join a club to fill in that gap. My first choice was tennis; I was a varsity tennis player for all 4 years of my high school career so I thought that would be the perfect fit—only one problem though, I forgot my racquet and tennis shoes at home so I couldn't go to tryouts. OK, that's fine, I thought, onto my second choice, golf. I played throughout high school so I was pretty good at the time, but when I went to try and join that club, I remembered that I didn't bring my clubs to campus. Now I was starting to get a little worried; I wasn't good enough at any other sports to be confident enough to join the club team, so I started to panic as I looked around. And then I saw it, the rugby table. Sitting down at one of the foldable tables in the corner with only a rugby ball and a jersey sat two guys who must have been double the size that I am. I had always had a distant inclination to play rugby because of my prevalent Irish heritage but I had no experience, so I was very hesitant when I walked up to the table and put my name down on the sign-up sheet. Those two guys ended up being some of the nicest and funniest guys I had ever met in my life. Rugby has become a significant part of my life in the year and a half that I have been in this school. I have learned everything about the sport and have been able to meet so many people who I am now friends with today.



Rugby FAC Attack poster

PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

Being in a club also gives you the benefit of meeting all different kinds of people from all different years, which is very important in college. According to Daniel Gornik, a junior on the rugby team who joined when he was a freshman, "When you are a freshman joining a club, you are acclimated into the college life a lot faster because you are instantly put in a group of people from all different school years." Knowing people from all different years is so important if you want to fully acclimate yourself into the college life. It also comes with a lot of benefits, too. Students who are older than you can tell you about what classes to take, what teachers to pick, and also just incredibly useful information about being in college.

CLUB FAIR

The Club Fair is an essential experience for you to learn about all the clubs while simultaneously meeting new people. The club fair is set up on the quad once a year and is an absolute blast to go to; there are lines and lines of tables all set up right next to each other, each one completely different from the next. The club fair allows you to see what the school has to offer when it comes to clubs. One piece of advice that has been handed down to me, which I still hold close to today, is to always sign up for at least 3 clubs at the club fair. This allows you to have options when the club fair eventually ends.

Rugby may be a special case within clubs, but clubs, in general, are a crucial way for you to be able to find something you're interested in and also to find other people who are interested in the same things that you are, and sports clubs are one of the main ways people can find family for life.

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