



Raleigh Rugby Football Club, Inc.
2020-2021 Board Members: Karl Berwyn, Casey Clapp, Mark Hemingway, Lisa Jackson, Isaac Myers, Drew Agans (resigned)

BALLOT 2021-2022 CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following are recommended by the current Board and have agreed to serve for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 to June 30th , 2022. Please mark ballots for these or write-in candidates. All DUES PAID club members may vote once for up to seven people:

Karl Berwyn

Started playing rugby in 2012 for LA Rugby Club. Played in France for Aix-Marseille Université Fac de Lettres Rugby Club. Current Viper since August 2015. Men's D2 USA Rugby round of 32 in 2017, Round of 16 in 2018. I am a consistent presence at Raleigh Rugby events, and have spent the last 5 years serving as the Vipers D2/D3 Match Secretary. Vipers captain since 2019. Board of Directors member 2017-2018 and 2019 to current. As a board member, I have acted as Vipers liaison, and have been instrumental in club fundraising, planning, event execution, problem solving, and miscellaneous administrative duties.

Leigh Brantley

16 years ago, by absolute chance, I was introduced to the great sport of rugby. For whatever reason, I decided that at 30 years of age it would be a fantastic idea for me to take up a sport I'd never even watched on tv, spend countless hours at practice and on weekends, and basically make lifelong friendships and choices that would change my life for the better. Fast forward to today where I have stepped WAY OUT of my comfort zone and found myself helping to coach the middle school girls team, assisting with U12 practices, and now I get to watch from the sidelines as my 14 year old daughter joins the Cobras High School team. I am SO THANKFUL for what this sport has done for my life, the confidence it gave me, the friendships it provided, and most importantly the legacy it will leave with my daughter for years to come. On any given weekend, you'll find me volunteering with pitch cleanup, assisting the youth director or coaches with setup/cleanup of games we host, or behind the table selling gear or food when possible.

I absolutely love this club and want to help support it at a higher level, and being on the board will help me further that reach.



Raleigh Rugby Football Club, Inc.
2020-2021 Board Members: Karl Berwyn, Casey Clapp, Mark Hemingway, Lisa Jackson, Isaac Myers, Drew Agans (resigned)

Kirsten Franzen

I've been playing rugby for over 5 years out of the past 8. I started my rugby career at American University in 2013. I served as President of AUWRFC for the 2014 to 2015 year. After taking a hiatus living in places where women's rugby wasn't available, I joined a 7s team in Bonn, Germany when I was in school. The following year, I moved back to North Carolina and joined RRFC and have played with Venom for the past year and a half. Rugby is very important to me; I love the community, the values, the friendships. I want to give back to the club and support it in any way I'm able because rugby has given me so much and I want to help grow and maintain RRFC. While I don't have PR or web-design skills, I do have some familiarity with collaborating on a board during my time as President of my college rugby club. I'd love to help the club in whatever way I can.

Mark Hemingway

2020-2021 President and board member since 2019. Vipers player since 2011. Head Coach of the Vipers for 5 years, stepping down in 2019. Started playing aged 6, former clubs include Bedford Blues, Ampthill, Old Albanians and Hammersmith & Fulham. Actively involved in strengthening the club's relationship with NC State rugby and other club teams. Both children play in the youth program (rising 12U & 10 U). Works as a Director of IT for a large staffing company.

Lisa Jackson

Board member from 2017 to current. Venom Chairwoman and Sponsor and Vendor officer from 2017-2018. Co-Social chair for Venom for 3.5 years. Director of Moonshine 2018,2019, current. With Moonshine being the largest fundraising event for the club to date. Current Events Director actively involved in assisting with sponsorships and fundraising while coordinating and managing large events the club puts on from recruiting, outreach, tournaments, camps, etc.

Venom player from 2014 to 2019. Women's Premier League player 2019-current. Currently in the USA Rugby player pool for the 2022 World Cup.

USA rugby Regional youth pathway scout 2020- current. North Carolina director for Girls Rugby Inc. Actively working alongside USA forward coaches from both men and womens team to train the next generation of forwards for USA Rugby pathway. Raleigh Rugby forward specific coach for youth and adult teams 2019-current.

I am here to do the work while having a vote to help continue making RRFC the best club in the world.



Raleigh Rugby Football Club, Inc.

2020-2021 Board Members: Karl Berwyn, Casey Clapp, Mark Hemingway, Lisa Jackson, Isaac Myers, Drew Agans (resigned)

Frank Koehler

My name is Frank Koehler. I'm married and live in Raleigh. We have two children Grace, 16, and Isaac, 12, both of whom are adopted. Isaac has been a consistent part of Raleigh Rugby since playing on the 8u team, so we have been actively involved for the past 5 years or so and we're still going strong. Since the beginning of our time at Raleigh Rugby I have been coordinating and providing rides for about 7 refugee boys; my "sons", to and from practices, matches, and tournaments. It's been fun and an absolute joy to see these boys grow and mature as players and young men.

I am currently the Operations Manager for a local general contractor, a position I've held for going on 11 years. Prior to that I was a residential building superintendent for a local custom home builder. While not a rugby player, I have developed a respect for the game and champion the sport whenever I have the opportunity to share with others. I believe strongly in what Raleigh Rugby stands for and promotes. With solid experience in Logistics, Operations, and diversity, I believe I can help Raleigh Rugby grow as we navigate finding and establishing a new home, and as we seek to expand the club.

Danta Moore

Since starting Rugby in 2005, I have played rugby for 16 years and I've worked in an administration role for just over half of those years. I have a wide berth of experience to choose from as I've played at almost every level and in multiple regions around the country (Collegiate, Men's D I-IV, IGRAB, Touch Leagues, Summer Social Tournaments). My club list being Luther College RFC-Norfolk Blues-University of Mary Washington-MPLS Mayhem-St. Paul Pigs-Rappahannock RFC-Washington Scandals-West Potomac-Western Suburbs RFC-Charlotte Royals-Raleigh Vipers. I also coordinate two travel teams: The Wolfpac, and The Halifax Highlanders. On a local level I have relationships with at least a few players on most teams throughout the state. The Titles I've held have been: Team Captain, Member at Large, Match Secretary, Travel Coordinator, and Vice President. Things that I do well are: Finding club sponsors and working with them, maintaining club relations, fundraising, working within charities and 501c designations, planning events, working with vendors, and my personal favorite uniform creation and marketing. I've Ran 3 Rugby Tournaments, 2 being USA Rugby Affiliated. Lastly, I also draw from my experience of Coaching High School Wrestling for 8 years, along with assisting my Athletic Director in many accompanying roles.

One thing I want to be clear on is, if elected I want my energy and efforts to be solely dedicated to the rebuilding and future success of the Raleigh Vipers Men's Rugby Club. If there are 6 members of the board, I want to be the one who is tasked to focus completely and vote in the interests of the Men's Club. I plan to use all the tools at my disposal to build and support this team so that we can once again compete at the national level.



Raleigh Rugby Football Club, Inc.

2020-2021 Board Members: Karl Berwyn, Casey Clapp, Mark Hemingway, Lisa Jackson, Isaac Myers, Drew Agans (resigned)

Isaac Myers

Board member since 2015. Current Pitch Management Director. Started playing rugby at NCSU in 1999. Vipers player since 2000. Played in Hawera, Taranaki, NZ for the Southern Rugby Club 2001. Was the tight-head prop on the DII National Championship Vipers team in 2007. Started the U-8 touch program in 2015 for RRFC and have helped build and expand our youth programs to K-12th grade for boys and girls.

Matt Pragdat

Started playing in 2010 at Virginia Tech. Have been a Vipers member since 2018. Have held various board positions at clubs in the past including Match Secretary at Virginia Tech and Treasurer/Field Coordinator at Louisville RFC. Rugby accomplishments include CRC 2014, winners of various collegiate sevens tournaments. Ohio Union Runner Ups 2016/17, Vipers Union Champions 2018 MAC Runner Ups 2018 Sweet 16 qualifiers. Currently serving as a non-voting board member for Raleigh Rugby, I believe my previous years of board experience at various clubs uniquely suits me to bring a different perspective to the board and help the club continue to provide a world class rugby experience now and in the future.

Kayla Thompson

Hi, my name is Kayla Thompson, I would like to run for a position with the Board of Directors for Raleigh Rugby Football Club. I have loved my time in rugby, acting as a fixture on the women's team for eight years, as well as within RRFC, assisting in youth practices and obtaining my USA Rugby level 1 coaching certification. I was also a fixture on Capital Geographic Union Women's select side for four years (Pre-Covid). I was a leader within the Rugby community on and off the pitch. On the pitch I was a consistently dominant and versatile player. While off the pitch I gave my time to the Club and team, acting as Venom's Recruiting Chair and assisting in facilitating other administrative tasks. Being a reliable and hardworking team member, I was always willing to help where needed, creating sign up spreadsheets for events and setting up/breaking down the field and concessions before and after games. Although I feel my playing career is over, my love for rugby and Raleigh Rugby Football Club will never die. I have a strong desire to be part of the Board of Directors of RRFC. Staying involved and helping the sport and club grow in a positive manner is something that I am extremely passionate about. Raleigh Rugby has been my family for almost a decade.

I currently work full time in real estate which gives me a flexible schedule, allowing me to help the Club when needed. Being in this line of work and growing up in the area gives me connections to sponsors and vendors that can potentially help the club in the future. I strive to do every job to the best of my ability and can contribute in numerous ways, think of me as your utility player. I feel my work ethic, desire to help where needed, and loyalty to RRFC will make me a great fit for the Board of Directors.