

Rugby-a-thon (please adapt these suggestions to suit your club, school or community group)

With some simple planning by a couple of motivated people your rugby-a-thon will be a fun celebration that's remembered for years. Everyone in and around your club, school or group can be a part of the event -- players, students, fans, old boys, parents, administrators, sponsors and the local community. They can participate as a:

- player (at least half are interchange and it's touch)
- referee (who cares if there are four on the field at once)
- lines-person (as many as want to run up and down)
- spectator (to cheer and add to the atmosphere)
- strapper or massage person (they can practice their skills on interchange players)
- scorekeeper (fun to see the final score)
- BBQ and bar attendant (keep an eye on them!)
- a photographer (can set up a laptop to show running shots)
- mascots (dress up the kids)
- even a Chaplin could pray for a good outcome
- those unavailable can be sponsored for the "group event".

Suggested guidelines and ideas

You can structure your rugby-a-thon as you wish. Give priority to fun, participation and safety. Here's some ideas.

- Do touch footy rather than rugby (6 to 10 per side) on half fields. That's safe and allows more people to participate. If you do play rugby make sure you structure it carefully so it's safe and a success.
- Have at least as many interchange players as there are players on the field. Even if there are three or four times as many interchange players, that's fine (it's the event that is sponsored).
- The game lasts for 4 hours in 10-minute sections with 5-minute breaks. Start early afternoon so the event finishes late in the afternoon with a celebration.
- Organisers to ensure players remain hydrated, stretch regularly, use sun protection (wear caps) and, if needed, remind the over enthusiastic participants that it's just for fun!
- Look for opportunities to add fun to the day. For example, if you are a footy club rotate a few seniors with the juniors – the kid's will love running beside their heroes and/or invite old boys and others not currently active in the club; if you know representative players or other high profile people ask them along; maybe face painting for the kids (and young at heart!); perhaps a local band will do a free gig during or after the event ... you get the idea.
- Look for ways to involve the wider community – it's a great outreach opportunity.
- Invite local businesses to donate prizes for those who raise the most sponsorship or perhaps a prize for a raffle on the day.
- Ask the local newspaper to run a story. Try for free community announcements on radio and TV.

Steps to a successful rugby-a-thon

- Choose a couple motivated people to drive and be responsible for the event.
- Set your timetable: event date, distribution of sponsor forms, reminders and collection of forms.
- Book the field.
- Download and edit a sponsorship form: [Sponsorship Form](#). If the form opens as "Read Only" then "Save As"; if the form does not appear on your screen check your downloads folder.
- Two to four weeks before the event give printed sponsor forms to as many people as you can. Email a copy to as many other people as possible. Encourage them to seek sponsorship from far and wide.
- Remind people at meetings, training sessions, in your newsletter etc. Email reminders.
- Consider catering for the event. The simplest is a BYO picnic or you can run a canteen.
- Emphasise the due date for forms and sponsorship money. Keep a list of people with outstanding sponsors so you can give them a reminder if overdue.
- Deposit or send funds using the [Remittance form](#). If the form opens as "Read Only" then "Save As"; if the form does not appear on your screen check your downloads folder.
- Post or fax the remittance and sponsorship forms (see remittance for details).

Good luck and have fun.