

Rugby in Schools



Who are we and what do we do?

Rugby started in Laos in the mid-sixties at the Mission Militaire Francaise. When players from other foreign embassies and organisations joined in there were just enough players for 15-a-side matches. In the early 1970s, Lao students who had played rugby at universities in Europe and Australia returned home with a passion for the game. Enthusiasts including Chao (Prince) Panya Souvannaphouma and Souy Sananikone worked on attracting young Lao players to join the new Vientiane Rugby Club, which won a popular victory against the Hong Kong British Club in 1972. Games in Laos followed, with the club hosting the Thai and Sri Lanka national sides in 1974. After 1975, organized rugby lapsed. A renaissance in the late 1990s was cemented in 2002 with the formation of the Lao Rugby Federation.



The Lao Rugby Federation school program started in 2002, playing touch rugby with children in Ban Wat Nak village. The objective is simple; to introduce the games of contact and touch rugby to as many school children as possible and help them develop their skills and understanding of the game. The game of touch is used initially to introduce the basic skills and concepts needed to play rugby. As quickly as possible the boys

are introduced to increasingly more aspects of rugby while the girls continue to play touch.

The Federation began sessions with None Sa-at School in 2003, joined by Chantabouly and Ban Bau-oh schools in 2004, Vientiane High School in 2005, and Hongkha, Sisaathanack and Don Dok University in 2006. Lao Rugby Development Officers conduct weekly 2 hour training session at each school. At monthly Rugby Carnivals, teams enjoy competing against each other.





Developing rugby in Laos



Both the girls and boys have demonstrated great progress and show tremendous promise for the development of rugby in Laos. Funding is one of the few factors limiting the Federation's ability to expand this program. With more funding, more schools can be included.



What can you experience?

- Join in a school training session – come and see the work we do in the schools. If you are here for a while, come and help with our training sessions.
- Promote Lao rugby in your home town – we are always looking for clubs to sponsor our youth teams, and the adult sides are always keen to host visiting teams.
- Donate old kit - we always need equipment.
- Sponsor a school or a trainer to help us increase the number of schools and children we can introduce the game to.
- Contact your hotel or guesthouse for more information.

Donation Guidelines

- \$4 – One gumshield for a child to help protect those lovely teeth!
- \$20 – Boots for a child
- \$100 – Funds one monthly 'Rugby Carnival' Competition
- \$1500 – Allows us to introduce rugby to a new school. Costs cover training, travel expenses for the team to games, coaching and a team kit for a season

