



Boys & Girls Ireland Tour - Spring 2019

Initial Parent Meeting – 6/21/2018
(revised with info discussed at meeting)

Welcome to the first meeting for our 2019 Ireland Rugby Tour. The Simsbury Rugby Club is pleased to announce our 1st international tour for the boys and girl's teams. The tour is a great way to kick off our 2019 season and continue the growth and development of our rugby program.

The information provided at this meeting including trip details, costs and itinerary should be considered preliminary until we have confirmed the number of participants and received Board of Ed approval. We expect this to occur in the next 2 months which will allow you as much time as possible to plan, budget and obtain passports.

- When:** Depart Saturday April 6, return Saturday April 13, 2019.
- Who:** Sophomore, Junior and Senior Boys and Girls rugby players (open to freshman pending room and safety concerns. There will be a maximum allowed to ensure ample playing time.
- Where:** Dublin and Galway Ireland.
- Cost:** Approximately \$1850/ player. A better estimate will be determined once interest level is determined. GPT recommends bringing about \$30/day for incidentals.
- Included:** The tour company package includes flights, ground transportation, hotel accommodations (3-4 star), most meals, ticket for professional match, training session with professional coach, Aviva stadium tour, sightseeing excursions, medical and trip insurance.

Other Info...

Who is our tour company? GoPlay Sports Tours will arrange all tour reservations and contract directly with each family to handle payments. See their flyer and website for more details about them and what they provide.

What is the Simsbury Rugby Club's role? The SRC will work with Go Play Sports Tours and our coaches to ensure the teams have a fulfilling experience. The Fundraising committee has already met and hopes to help set up group level fundraising to provide supplemental meals, a tour kit and defray the cost for coaches and chaperones. Additionally, they hope to provide opportunities for individual fundraising to assist participants in defraying the cost of their trip.

What are the behavioral expectations? Players are representing their school, their team and their coaches. Future trips are dependent upon players setting a positive precedent. If a player violates trip rules their parent will be expected to pay for the cost of unplanned travel back home, including the cost of a chaperone. See expectations.

How do I register my interest and what is the deadline? In order to properly plan and ensure the fielding of the teams we set an aggressive timetable for registering interest. Register your interest now on www.SimsburyRugby.com. We will close initial registration **July 31st**. If we need to limit participation preference will be given to incoming seniors, then juniors, sophomores, freshman and parents.

When is my initial deposit due? After we close the initial registration period we will be able to finalize costs, # of chaperones needed and ensure there is adequate interest to safely field teams. In the first week of Aug we will email a link to set up a payment account through GoPlay Sports Tour where you will need to make an initial deposit of \$495 to secure your spot. They offer monthly payment plans to spread out the cost. Part of your registration with GPT will be a contract between you and GPT.

How are the Accommodations? GPT books 3 and 4 star hotels. Players will be in triples and quads with their own beds. Each room will have a private bathroom. Parents will be in double occupancy rooms, but can pay a separate fee of \$400 for a private room.

Can parents/siblings attend at the same rate? We think so. In fact, we think we will be encouraging families to attend since more participation may lower the cost for everyone. More details to come once we know how many are interested. Note that parents will not be able to participate with some of the obvious rugby related activities but will participate with all the excursions.

Do you need Chaperones? Yes. Chaperones have serious responsibilities and will need to be approved by the Board of Education. Accordingly, we expect to help defray the cost for chaperones. Preference will be given to coaches, active Booster Club members and then other parents. We will be transparent with all finances.

What's Next? Additional information will be emailed in early August after we have firm commitments. Eventually we will provide permission slips forms for you to complete. Start thinking about whether or not you need a passport updated.

Questions?

Feel free to contact Coach Ed Matteo (rugger9ed@yahoo.com), Coach Alycia Washington (Washington.Alycia@gmail.com) or Dave Mudano (djmudano@gmail.com) with any questions.