



## CONTACT

Paul Keeler  
CRAA  
973.517.3107  
pkeeler@craa.rugby  
<http://craa.rugby>

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## College Rugby Association of America's Championship Weekend Set for April 30, 2022

- Aveva Stadium (Home of the Houston Sabercats) to Host Championships
  - Women's D1 and D2 Spring Championship
  - D1 Elite Women' and D1A Men's National Championship
  - Streaming Live on The Rugby Network

### *Press release*

Santa Clara, CA, March 25, 2022 — The College Rugby Association of America (CRAA) is set to host its 2022 Championship Weekend on April 30 at Aveva Stadium in Houston, TX. Headlined by the Men's D1A and Women's D1 Elite National Championships, the action-packed rugby Saturday will also showcase the Women's D1 and D2 Spring Championships on the same day. All matches will be LIVE for free on The Rugby Network.

College Rugby Association of America  
8x8 Sports XVs Championship Weekend  
April 30, 2022  
Aveva Stadium - Houston, TX

#### Schedule:

12:00pm	Division 2 Women's Spring Championship
2:00pm	Division 1 Women's Spring Championship
4:00pm	Division 1 Elite Women's National Championship
6:00pm	Division 1A Men's National Championship

"We are excited for the opportunity to have women's and men's competitions at the highest levels compete in the 8x8 Sports Championship Weekend," said Olivia Benzan-Daniel, CRAA Women's President. "Providing a professional environment for these championship matches creates a fantastic

student-athlete and fan experience for college rugby.”

Aveva Stadium will be the backdrop for all four championship matches on April 30, 2022. Aveva Stadium is a proper rugby union stadium in Houston, Texas, as part of Houston Sports Park and is home to the Houston SaberCats of Major League Rugby (MLR). The facility was opened on April 13, 2019, is the first stadium built specifically for use by Major League Rugby, and the second rugby-specific stadium for professional competition in the United States.

CRAA has partnered with The Rugby Network (TRN) to provide free online streaming of all four matches with professional broadcast production. TRN provides full 1080p HD streams with replays and highlights of every single MLR match. They also produce weekly rugby shows, documentaries, and latest news from the MLR.

“Our goal is to provide the student-athletes with a professional experience and deliver broadcast to all fans and spectators of the participating institutions,” said Paul Keeler, CRAA Chairperson. “Partnering with the Houston Sabercats and The Rugby Network is helping us achieve our goal and create great student athlete and fan experiences.

“This is an event we have greatly anticipated as top programs and divisions in college rugby come together for an electric championship Saturday,’ said USA Rugby CEO, Ross Young, “The collective effort by all involved to help this experience come to life is inspiring and a perfect showcase of rugby community values. We’re eager to see student-athletes, friends, families and fans descend on such a first-class facility as Aveva Stadium and hand out some championship hardware.”

AIG, Pearland Convention and Visitors Bureau and 8x8 Sports have also stepped up to partner the CRAA Championship Weekend. 8x8 Sports, an American rugby apparel company, is the “naming partner” of the overall event and has also sponsored the CRAA Fall Classic in Charlotte, NC. AIG and Pearland are “event partners” for the event, who have provided resources to benefit the championship participants. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for the event.

The College Rugby Association of America (CRAA) is a USA Rugby sanctioned competition that includes premier divisions within Men's and Women's Collegiate rugby. The competition includes Men's D1A, Women's D1 Elite, Women's D1 and Women's D2. CRAA is committed to creating the best possible experience for student athletes, keeping commercial resources in the collegiate game, and creating experiences for our members to engage their academic institutions and alumni.

###