



MONTANA INSTITUTE OF SPORT

Welcome to **The 26 Club (T26C)**, an exclusive invite only community dedicated to supercharging physical activity.

Our name reflects a compelling statistic: only 26% of young people get the recommended amount of daily physical activity. We're on a mission to change that by turning physical education into a thrilling adventure and a regular part of K-12 students lives.

Our 26 member only club will consist of like minded individuals that want to make a difference, believe in sport being a positive impact in life and understand the importance of movement based activities. This club is invite only, with a new member only being added through an invitation of an existing member.

You will be invited to attend high level professional sporting events and outdoor activities that provide access to the players, coaches and the professional environment not accessible to the general public. Our last two trips:

- In Los Angeles, USA Rugby National Team Head Coach Scott Lawrence attended our dinner and a current national team player joined us in our suite to watch the USA vs Canada game
- In Edinburgh, we were joined by two starting Scottish international players for dinner, attended the Captain's Run the day prior to the match at Murrayfield Stadium with a private catered suite where we met the remainder of the team and coaching staff.

Our next scheduled event is Ireland vs New Zealand in Chicago, the first weekend in November with some exciting opportunities planned.

The annual membership fee is \$5,000, with proceeds of this fee being used to supercharge physical activity and support our TRY Sport initiative. Please see below for more information about MIS.

To accept this invitation, please complete the information and payment link found here: [Payment Link](#)

For any further information, please contact JD Stephenson directly on (314) 954-7194 or jstephenson@montanainstituteofsport.org

OUR MISSION:
Supercharge physical education.

OUR PURPOSE:
Better young Montanans through physical education.



THE PROBLEM

1 | Montana's Public Schools:

Facing tight budgets, Montana schools are struggling to engage students in curricula that support healthy, successful futures.

2 | Lagging Support & Compensation:

Montana is below the national average in public school support and teacher compensation, impacting educational quality.

3 | Decline in Physical Activity & Increased Risk:

Physical activity among teens is low, with only 21% of 6-17-year-olds meeting the recommended 60 minutes of daily activity.

— Montana —
ranks in the top



with physical activity linked to better mental health.

WHO WE ARE

Montana Institute of Sport is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to improving physical education in Montana's public schools through curriculum support, teaching grants, and professional development.

CURRENT IMPACT

MIS's pilot "Try Sport" program operates in:

100+ SCHOOLS **REACHING** 50,000+ STUDENTS

Try Rugby includes an 8-week curriculum with on-site clinics and equipment provided by MIS.

The program has gained widespread interest, with hundreds of additional teachers and schools wanting to join.

- Non-contact rugby (Try Rugby) was the first sport introduced through our program.
- Through programs like Try Rugby, MIS connects students to new experiences, helping break down barriers to participation and promote inclusivity.
- MIS grants provide resources for Montana's PE teachers to innovate, engage more students, and inspire healthy lifestyles.

WHY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY MATTERS

Physical activity builds strength, reduces stress, improves self-esteem, and fosters social bonds. Students in PE programs often show better academic performance and behavior.

ONLY 25%

of Montana high school students meet daily physical activity recommendations, underscoring the need for more engaging PE programs.

TO DATE, WE HAVE SERVED

OVER **100**

SCHOOLS
IN MONTANA



WHAT OUR TEACHERS SAY:



TRY Rugby was a fantastic and engaging way to introduce the sport of Rugby to my students. My students loved it, remained engaged the entire class period, and left with new learned skills and tired bodies. Well done!

- Anderson School, Bozeman



TRY Rugby is a program proven to show a passion for rugby. They do a great job of teaching fundamentals of the sport with a fun stress-free approach to learning the game and how it should be played.

- CM Russell High, Great Falls



TRY RUGBY CURRICULUM EXAMPLE



'24 HIGHLIGHTS REEL

Montana Institute Of Sport



TRY RUGBY

Partnered with the Montana Coaching Association to introduce TRY Sport to Coaches & Administrators.

Implementation of an 8 lesson curriculum, with teaching resource and equipment



SHAPE PARTNERSHIP

Since starting delivery in January, TRY RUGBY is now in over **100 schools** across Montana

Partnered with the Society of Health & Physical Education organization. Their Ex. Dir. is now a board member of Montana Rugby.



STUDENT IMPACT

Since MIS's inception of TRY Rugby, Montana Youth Rugby Club Programs have doubled in numbers. 3 are supported by MIS.

SCHOOL IMPACT



In the course of the 100 school delivery, we have impacted **50,000 students** with TRY Rugby



PLAYING NUMBERS

Launched in late 2024, The 26 Club currently boasts 16 members. Providing support to MIS through annual fundraising events.

CLUB IMPACT



Montana Youth Rugby Union has seen a 4x player growth, 3x coach growth and a 5x referee growth.



RECOGNITION

MIS hosted the Great Northwest Challenge, boasting the highest finish with a **2nd place finish** for U19 boys, U19 girls and U16 boys.

THE 26 CLUB



2 Montanan HS players have been scholarshiped to a DIA Rugby program for the first time. 2 HS programs nationally ranked.

RESULTS

