



## NEAL R. BRENDEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND – 2026 APPLICATION

*The **Neal R. Brendel Scholarship Fund** was established by the Pittsburgh Forge in 2021 in recognition of Neal Brendel's lifelong commitment to the sport of rugby. The Fund will annually award a grant to one male and one female high school rugby senior, who have decided to continue their rugby careers in the collegiate ranks. The awards are selected and presented together with members of the Brendel family. For more information on the Scholarship and its namesake, visit [www.pghrugby.com/brendel-scholarship](http://www.pghrugby.com/brendel-scholarship).*

### APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants for the 2026 Neal R. Brendel Scholarship shall meet the following requirements to be considered for the award:

- High School Senior during the 2025-2026 academic calendar
- Reside in the Western PA region
- Have been accepted to an accredited post-secondary institution with a rugby program
- Documented intent to play rugby at said institution (to the extent possible)
- Have demonstrated strong academic performance and a proficiency in the sport of rugby

Completed Applications (including Statements of Support outlined below to be sent separately) shall be submitted to the Committee via email to [scholarship@pghrugby.com](mailto:scholarship@pghrugby.com) no later than end of day on **Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Applications will then be reviewed by the Committee, and applicants will be notified by the end of May.

### 2026 AWARD

The 2026 Scholarship will be awarded to a minimum of one (1) male and one (1) female qualified applicant in the amount of at least **\$1,000.00** each.



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### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT TEAM:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** In approximately 100-250 words, explain to us your relationship with the sport of rugby. (Examples of topics you may touch upon can include, but are not limited to, the following: *How did you begin playing? How have you developed as a player and a teammate? How has the sport impacted you throughout your career? What about rugby makes you want to continue collegiately? What are your short- and long-term goals within the sport? Etc.*)

**SCHOOL COMMITTED TO** (*if none presently, list those applied/accepted to, and include your perfect case outcome*):

**RUGBY HISTORY/ACCOMPLISHMENTS** (Teams played for, positions played, leadership positions held, representative sides selected for, etc.):



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**FUTURE RUGBY PLANS** (i.e. any collegiate coaches contacted (and state of those discussions), programs committed to, any other info):

**ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE** (*answer 'N/A' for any not applicable*):

SAT SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

ACT SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA (WEIGHTED): \_\_\_\_\_

GPA (UNWEIGHTED): \_\_\_\_\_

### **THIRD-PARTY STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

We ask that you request a Statement of Support from a current High School Coach (and also welcome additional Statements to be provided by any other interested rugby parties). The individuals should provide a brief Statement via email to [scholarship@pghrugby.com](mailto:scholarship@pghrugby.com) by the April 15<sup>th</sup> application deadline, and the Statement will be evaluated by the Selection Committee in conjunction with this Application.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW FOR THE INDIVIDUAL(S) FROM WHOM THE COMMITTEE SHOULD ANTICIPATE RECEIVING STATEMENT(S) OF SUPPORT:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

RUGBY RELATIONSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_

RUGBY RELATIONSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_