

Hi,  
My name's Rose, and I'm Beau's mum.

I was thrilled when Liz asked me if I'd like to write something to you and DSR's other supporters about the Junior Wheelchair Rugby program. I couldn't say "yes" quick enough!

I wish you could meet my son and see with your own eyes what this amazing sport has done for him.



Me and Beau

The minute he got into that chair, there was no turning back. The whole concept of Wheelchair Rugby was everything he needed.

It's a contact sport, so Beau can push himself in a way that he never could in other sports. Having cerebral palsy means he fatigues quickly, cannot play a full game, and has to have somebody there to make sure he doesn't fall. He isn't always able to catch the ball, and he is aware that others make compensations and go slower so that he can participate.

It can be so frustrating for him. But in Wheelchair Rugby, he doesn't feel restricted... he feels invincible! He says it's like the chair becomes part of his body, and he doesn't feel held back at all.

When DSR told us they'd been able to get a season off the ground, he was over the moon.

And when we showed up for the first day of training, and saw all these kids in chairs playing rugby, he looked at me and said, "Mum, I cannot believe this. This is the best day of my life." He not only had somewhere to play, he had other kids to play with!

Since that day, he's gone from being a kid who had a desperate desire to participate in sport but couldn't, to a kid who is so passionate, so inspired, so motivated. And he's driving for change for himself and for other kids like him.



It's been incredible to see him grow. And being able to champion a Wheelchair Rugby program for kids has given him a purpose bigger than himself.

But when he heard the 2024 season would have to be cancelled, he was devastated. It was like he almost refused to hear the news.

He said, "This next season has to happen! It can't not! It means too much to us kids."

Wheelchair Rugby has given Beau purpose, drive, determination, confidence and importantly, for Beau and his new teammates, a community to be a part of. It's lifted his spirits like nothing else has in his 10 years. If this season doesn't go ahead, it would be absolutely devastating for him and for all the other kids who get so much out of playing. They don't have a place to play a regular game of inclusive/accessible sport every weekend like other kids their age, or teammates who understand what it's like to play sport living with a disability.

So what I really want to say to you today is this... you have the opportunity to not only change these kids' lives for one season of inclusive sport, you have the chance to completely shape what's possible for their future.

That's the power you have in your hands.

Thank you so much for reading my letter. And if you do help Beau and his teammates to get back on the court next year, then from the bottom of my heart, thank you, thank you, thank you!

Love,

Rose xx



High-five from Mum!