

INTERVIEWS - INSIGHTS - NEWS

FIVES RUGBY

ISSUE NO. 01 • NOVEMBER 2021 •

10 YEARS OF SNOW RUGBY IN TARVISIO

A CAREFUL EYE ON THE 5S MOVEMENT
IN ALL ITS COLORS



The history of snow rugby in Italy revolves around the city of Tarvisio, in the province of Udine and the figure of Alberto Stentardo, a charismatic rugby fan who, influenced by Lignano beach rugby, decided to "export" the format on the snows of the Friulian town; and he succeeded. With 2022, 14 - 15 January, the Snow Rugby of Tarvisio, in fact, reaches its tenth edition and from the few teams of fans who filled the Di Prampero track ten years ago, it has come to involve over 30 teams, divided between men's and women's tournament, coming from a good part of the old continent.

An unprecedented success, therefore, which led in the city of Tarvisio to the formation of a real rugby club that operated in the area and won at the women's rugby level; the company is still called Alp Rugby Tarvisio and its flagship were the "Valkyries"; the Tarvisian girls, in fact, excelled in the regional rugby championship in seven, two consecutive Coppa Italia finals, they also made many players in Serie A debut; Erica Skofca, then, became a staple of the first line of Italy Women.

THE HISTORY OF SNOW RUGBY IN TARVISIO

Specifically, however, snow rugby is the winter and extreme variant of beach rugby. In fact, it is played in a field with the same dimensions and with the same rules. The most important of these rules is that of 2 seconds which makes the game extremely fast and spectacular.

What we like about these rugby modes, which are smaller and faster than the 15-player version, is the high.



number of goals that can be seen in a short game of only 10 minutes. We're talking about plated rugby! So once again the Super Beach5s proves to be an inspiration for the world rugby community. The organizer of the event, Alberto Stentardo, himself a rugby player at 15, a Yeti who played in the ranks of the Black Dcuks of Gemona, in Italy, and of the Tigers Klagenfurt in Austria, winning a national series championship with the latter. B. Stentardo tells us that he had the lighting for the snow5s when he was to see the Super Beach5s in Lignano Sabbiadoro. It is probably not surprising that the "Yeti of the Snow5s" thought of a cooler location suited to his temperament. And when we talk about Tarvisio, in January, we really mean "fresher"! In fact, when the brave ruggers dive into the snow .. they will go from + 35 ° in the arena of Lignano, to perhaps -15 ° in the natural amphitheater at the base of the official slope of the Women's Ski World Cup. 50 degrees of difference to test the rugby player's big toe! The playing field has therefore always been at the bottom of the "Di Prampero" slope, in the same scenario where Lindsey Vonn, and other famous skiers, were crowned champions. An alpine and international context for a new type of rugby.

Far beyond the Alps, in Finland, SNOW RUGBY has already been tested in the formulation of 7 players per team, as well as in France and Argentina. But it is Alberto himself who confirms that this Tarvisio event was in fact the first 5-player snow rugby world tournament.









SNOW RUGBY IN TARVISIO BETWEEN PAST AND FUTURE

ALBERTO STENTARDO ORGANIZER OF THE TARVISIAN KERMESSE

The word to the founder and soul of the Tarvisian festival: Alberto Stentardo. To frame Alberto we will give you a brief description of the character: a generous, genuine and intelligent boy, he comes across beach rugby in Lignano Sabbiadoro and he gets the intuition to move everything more cold, on the snow.

He is a rugby player for Gemona's Black Ducks, a rough second line with great ball carrier and "third time" skills; he has a winning past in the Austrian championship with the Tigers Klagenfurt and with the U23 of Rugby Udine; as a coach, after having established himself with the Valkyries of Alp Rugby Tarvisio in women's rugby, he has also coached a selection of Tarvisians and Gemonesi in the women's rugby Italian Cup.

So after numerous meetings in Tarvisio, what will be one of the most engaging snow rugby tournaments in Europe takes shape: Snow Rugby in Tarvisio.

The playing field is structured at the base of the Di Prampero track in Camporosso and, in the first edition, there are some gazebos surrounding the whole and a stage for musical accompaniment and voice during the event.

Year N° 1: success and great interest on the part of everyone. Tarvisio, Italian Rugby Federation, tourist movement. These factors thus push the organizational machine to improve edition, after edition and now that we have reached the eighth we can well say that the event is one of the most interesting in the winter sports / tourist panorama of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Alberto, how do you live this experience in snow rugby?

Let's say that since I got the idea, looking at the beach rugby in Lignano, my passion for the oval ball has really been the driving force towards this event in the Tarvisio area. Snow Rugby has become a reference for my oval vintages. Clearly without the help of all the volunteers our event could never be what it is, which is why a thank you to them seems the least.

Many teams, every year an increase in number. The furthest from Tunisia and Russia, where do you want to go?

Meanwhile, we want to confirm ourselves. Then it is our intention to always take one step at a time and try to propose something more, season after season. We now have a cozy party tent with top-notch cuisine.



The music and the effects of the evenings are handled flawlessly; these are important aspects for us, considering that in addition to the playing field, we focus a lot on the "social" effect that this event has always brought with it.

Sportively speaking, however, you have become a real reference point for oval winters.

Let's say we followed. That yes. From abroad there are many realities that can be booked immediately, while in Italy everything is more difficult because the championships on the Snow weekend play, so many are unable to move. But it is something that has never stopped us, on the contrary it has stimulated us to work well abroad and also on the Italian UISP championship, a reality that has always supported the event and sent teams to participate.

Looking ahead, what would you like for Snow Rugby?

I would like to have more and more support, because it is an event that really moves a lot of people in a single weekend. And I think this can become a real driving force for Friuli to attract new tourists and confirm old ones. If we are then able to create a Snow Rugby circuit, so be it. Playing and having fun to chase a European title would really be the best.

For more information on the event:
www.snowrugby.com





Maxi

SUPERSTORE

HOTEL INTERNATIONAL, A GUARANTEE OF TARVISIAN HOSPITALITY

The International Hotel is located in Tarvisio, near the A23 motorway and about 150 meters from the ski slopes it is 10 minutes walk from the Tarvisio Scuole bus stop, 13 minutes walk from the city center
With free parking, all rooms have a TV and free WiFi.



Hotel International

Via A. Diaz, 88 - 33018 Tarvisio (UD) Italy
Tel. +39 0428.644190/97 - Fax +39 0428.644645
info@hotelinternationaltarvisio.com





THE AUGSBURG LADIES TEAM AWAY TO TARVISIO

We are the RFC Augsburg Ladies Team and play in the Southern German Sevens Division. Our team is based in Augsburg, in the south of Germany.

Participating in Snow Rugby Tarvisio 2020 was a last-minute decision, because we never had played in the snow before but loved every second of it.

Ten of our team and our coach choose the team name "Reinbeers" for our Snow Rugby adventures and we tried to make it proud.

Having fun was our top priority so we danced to warm ourselves up and used every opportunity to toast ourselves and our opponents.

We got used to the different rules and cold fingers quite fast and were able to win all three of our games on the first day.

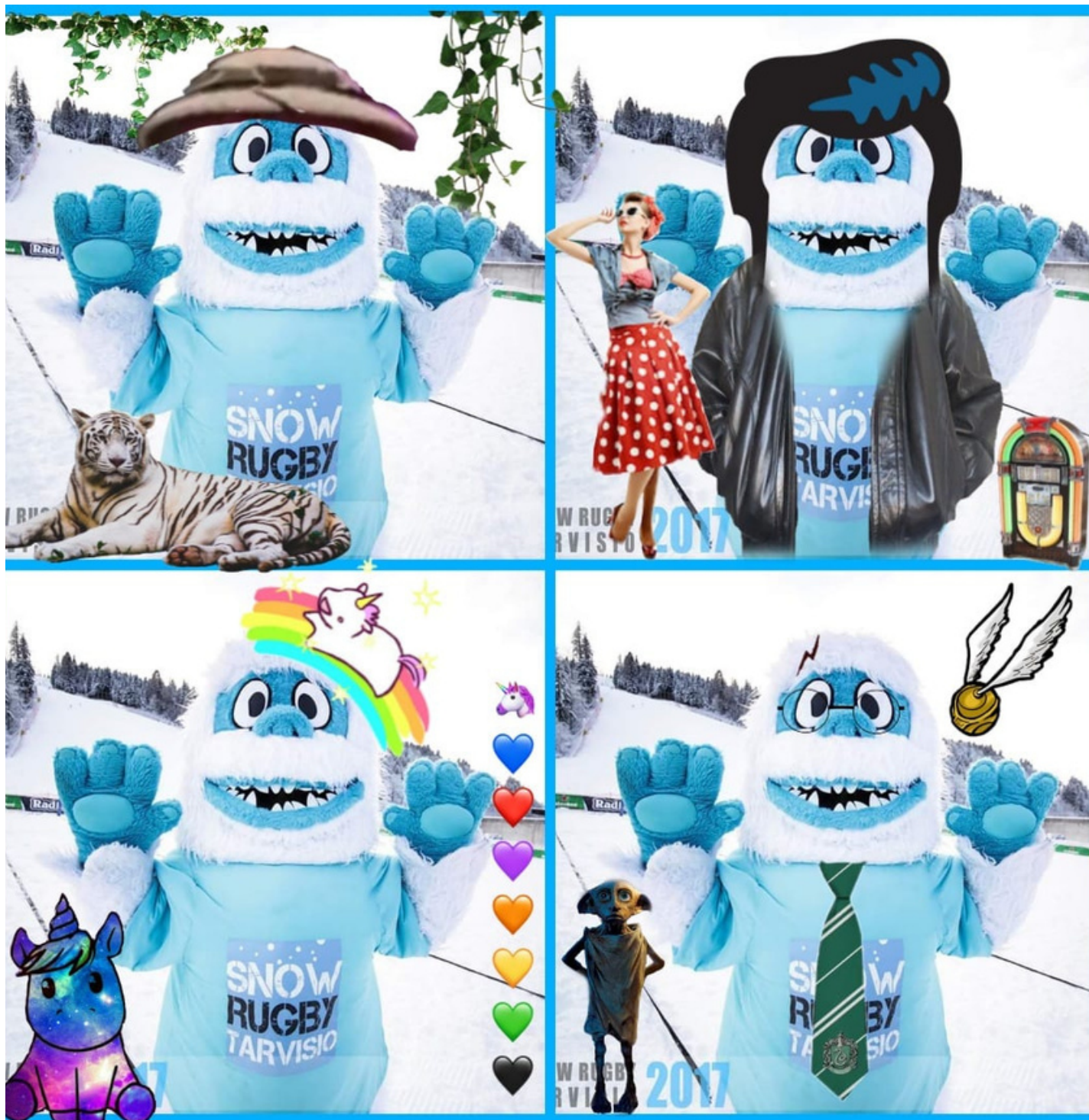
The following parties and the exhausting day one took its toll on the second day of competition, but we managed to finish fourth overall.

All of us really enjoyed the different way of playing rugby in the snow and the fair competition between all the girls. We loved the motto parties, the international competition and excellent organization.

We decided then and there that we would be back the next year and were one of the first teams to do so. We are looking forward to competing again in the next year.

You will find us on the pitch or the party tent as the ROCKABELLAS!





**REGIONE AUTONOMA
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA**





L'ALBERGO SPARTIACQUE BETWEEN TRADITION AND INNOVATION

The Spartiacque Hotel stands on the Camporosso plain and has been managed by the Baron family for over thirty years. The hotel, recently renovated and enlarged, conquers guests with its bright spaces and the courtesy of the staff and offers a warm mountain-style environment. The 53 rooms furnished with care, style and attention to detail are large and spacious, all with private facilities, telephone, television. Guests have access to a large restaurant with a stube, a reading room, a TV room, a bar, a large parking area for buses and cars, a ski deposit and a large garden with games for children. The structure that has a lift is used to welcome disabled people. The cuisine, particularly accurate, offers specialties of the local tradition and is renowned for its fish specialties.





A LIFE ON THE PLAYING FIELDS AND DIRECTING THE ORGANIZATIONAL MACHINE OF SNOW RUGBY: HERE IS NICOLE CORVA

Tarvisio Snow Rugby moves an incredibly structured and helpful organizational machine of volunteers. To give voice to those who think, structure, plan and work for the event for a whole year, we had a chat with Nicole Corva, player of the Valkyries of Alp Rugby Tarvisio, social media manager of the company and super mom.

How does it feel to be the social / media manager of such an important event like Snow Rugby in Tarvisio?

It is a great honor to be part of this crazy team and my role is certainly one of great impact and responsibility. I am also very satisfied because it is something I do out of passion, not being a professional. But when they send you the compliments in private and tell you that they have hung the poster of the poster made by you at home or in the club house .. Well those are satisfactions!

How did the love for the oval ball break out?

I have played many sports in my life but rugby has left an indelible mark. One evening in 2014 they invited me to the first training session of what later became Le Valkyries of Tarvisio. I showed up in jeans and flip flops because I was afraid to try and make a fool of myself and stood on the sidelines to watch. When I finished, Alberto came up to me and said "Give me your number, I'll add you to the team chat and next time I want you on the pitch!". For the next 6 years I think I missed maybe 15 training sessions and 1 game (pregnancy aside). Rugby has become my life!

What would you like for Tarvisio Snow Rugby?

I wish he could make the leap in quality. Perhaps by creating an international circuit as is already the case for Beach Rugby. And then I dream big: I would like it to be recognized as an Olympic sport!

How and why did you get involved in this adventure in snow rugby?

I admit that the first two editions I have not seen because I was still busy with ice hockey and was therefore playing elsewhere. In the third year, however, I participated as a player and I had already started to follow the social part of the event a bit at the request of Alberto. From the following year I officially joined the board. Without ever stopping playing of course!

Looking to the future oval, your secret dream?

It would be nice to be able to create a team of 15 from Friuli, a project that was timidly trying to get started in recent years. And then I hope one day to see my son Leonardo on the rugby fields!



Espresso Italiano dal 1942

www.dicaf.it

SHOP ONLINE

