

BRISTOL BEARS×MIDWEST RUGBY COMMUNITY

HOSTED BY MWRDF

RWC 2031 LEGACY

Coach Development for Every Level

Beginner to advanced — one coaching community, built together across the region.

WHEN

Saturday, December 5, 2026

08:30 – 16:30

WHERE

Thomas More University

333 Thomas More Parkway
Crestview Hills, KY 41017

HOW TO SIGN UP

mwrdf.org/coach-development

$285 per participant

WHO IT'S FOR

Youth, high school, collegiate and club coaches from across the Midwest — beginner to advanced.

WHAT TO EXPECT

A practical, hands-on programme built on the principles of play, delivered in the classroom and on the field by Bristol Bears Academy coaching staff.

Bristol Bears Academy Coaching Team



John Barnes
Head of Academy



Conor McPhillips
Backs & Attack Transition Coach



Yann Thomas
Forwards & Defence Transition Coach

Why sign up

Whether you're a player or a coach — curious about coaching, or already coaching and ready to grow your skills — this is for you.

HOW THE YEAR WORKS

A blended programme, book-ended by two in-person workshops

One $285 participation fee covers all three phases
Workshop 1, the Mid-Year Online Phase, and Workshop 2.

Workshop 1
Start of Year

- Importance of skill development
- Attack principles
- Defence principles

08:30–16:30, followed by a social event · Classroom presentations + on-field coaching

Mid-Year
Online Phase

- Forwards: scrum & lineout principles
- Backs: starter plays & attacking structures
- 5 live online sessions, recorded for anyone who can't attend

Supported by a Bristol Bears coach educator throughout the year

Workshop 2
End of Year

- Developing players, developing coaches
- Growing your skills for next season
- Peer coaching & feedback

Same format as Workshop 1 · Classroom presentations + on-field coaching

HOSTED BY

FIRST FOR THE REGION

Midwest Rugby Development Foundation

MWRDF's mission is to be the hub for sustainable growth of the game across the Midwest — investing in and supporting rugby at the grassroots level, from youth clubs to college pathways.

The Midwest Rugby Development Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public nonprofit organization based in Cincinnati, Ohio (EIN: 31-1474765), with active charitable status.



ONE REGION

Based in Cincinnati, built for the region — bringing coaches together from clubs across the wider rugby community.



Watch Bristol Bears coaching in action

Building a coaching community — every level, one region.
For further information, visit mwrdf.org