

# Seoul Sisters gaining a following

## Seoul Sisters

What: **Women's rugby**  
Language: **English, Korean**  
When: **March to November**  
Where: **Seoul**  
How much: **100,000 won/season**  
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*Following is part of a series of articles highlighting ways that expats and Koreans form communities through sport. To comment or to suggest story ideas, e-mail [mattlamers@heraldm.com](mailto:mattlamers@heraldm.com) — Ed.*

By Bridget Tunncliffe

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Melanie Doucette, 30, first came to Korea in 2005 and got involved in rugby, having played at university. The Canadian said she wanted to be involved in a community and that's what she found with the Seoul Sisters' Rugby club. "It's like a community, pretty much I found this group and everyone was fantastic," she said.

Doucette went back home in 2006, but returned again last year. When she was considering whether to come back to Seoul she said knowing the club was still up and running was the tipping point. "Although there were only one or two players left from when I was here I knew I'd have an instant group of friends, it was like a security blanket," she said.

Rugby is a sport that involves a lot of quick passing, running, kicking, and there's the contact aspect.

"Sometimes this puts people off but everyone's really helpful, experienced players will teach the new players about safe tackling techniques, so inexperienced players are welcome," Doucette said.

The Seoul Sisters also has a touch rugby team, which is non-contact, easy to learn, and often played by contact players as well.

She would urge anyone who's looking for more social opportunities in a sport setting to give it a go. "It will change your whole experience in Korea. Without it I don't think I would have come back."

Choi Min-joung, 20, has been playing rugby for only three months. She's one of only a few Korean women that are involved in the Seoul Sisters and the club would love to see more come along.

Choi has taken to the sport like a natural. "I love sport, I swam for 10 years and did speed skating and I wanted to find some sport that was more physical than what is usually played by Korean women. I did a Google search and I found the Seoul Sisters' website so it all started from that," she said.

The Seoul Sisters usually practice every Saturday at the Jamwon Rugby pitch near Apgujeong. They go on about two tours a year to other Asian countries and host tours as well. Subs are 100,000 won for the whole season, which runs from March to November.

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