

# Quidditch Club Takes Flight at SWOSU

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University students can now follow in the footsteps of Harry Potter, riding their broomsticks in search of the golden snitch.

The newest organization on the Weatherford campus is the Quidditch Club, and the club is currently recruiting members.

In the series of *Harry Potter* novels, author J.K. Rowling tells of the most popular sporting event in the Wizarding world, Quidditch. The game consists of two teams of seven players each that fly broomsticks around a pitch. Three chasers try to score points with a ball called the “quaffle” by throwing the ball through one of three hoops. The hoops are guarded by the keeper. Two other players are referred to as beaters. These players carry batons and keep two heavy balls called “bludgers” away from their teammates. The final player is the seeker. He or she is in constant search of the “golden snitch.” This tiny ball is worth 150 points and the game ends when it is caught.

The differences in Muggle (non-wizard) Quidditch are small. “Bludgers” are replaced with dodgeballs that beaters throw at opponents and the snitch is a person dressed in gold with a tennis ball that seekers try to catch.

According to SWOSU Quidditch Club creator Zach Godwin, three other institutions in Oklahoma have Quidditch teams—OU, OSU, and UCO. The first scrimmage was scheduled for September 6. A tournament that players will dress up in full Harry Potter attire is set for November 1.

Godwin says SWOSU has aspirations of joining the International Quidditch Association when membership grows. The IQA consists of 65 teams nationwide and holds a World Cup tournament every year.

For more information contact Godwin at [godwinzr@student.swosu.edu](mailto:godwinzr@student.swosu.edu) or 918.407.8769 and join the SWOSU Quidditch Club group on Facebook.