

## FEMALE DIFFERENCE IN RUGBY UNION

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When I played rugby people used to call me a tomboy, an attempt to be a man, they did not understand why a woman like me could find in rugby so much excitement and passion. Some even tried to dissuade me by calling me lesbian, dyke...

However, I was completely seduced by the game, the friendship, the camaraderie and the intensity of some of the relationships with other women from the team. Ignoring all the name-calling from the outside world I strengthened my close world of rugby and I became more and more aware of my "femininity" – our "femininity"

A femininity that escapes laws, norms and prejudices

A femininity, which is not worried about comparisons or imitations

A femininity that only flourishes among meaningful women's relationships.

A femininity nourished by our own desire of free existence.

Paradoxically, in a world mainly ruled by gender dichotomies –men do A, women do not do A - and extreme polarities – rugby reproduces and reaffirms masculine values, therefore rugby cannot be played by women - I was learning more and more about women's ways of being, thinking and expressing themselves.

I was learning about myself and I, with other women, developed new meanings for our physical intense relationships.

A meaning that cannot easily be expressed in the structure of Western thought and rational language.

A meaning that needs to go beyond dichotomies and stereotypes