

Rehan Mansoor, widely known as Manny Riaz, has spent more than three decades shaping his life – and the lives of others – through rugby. During his playing career, Manny was widely regarded as one of the most accomplished and respected players within the amateur and semi-elite game. Now a player-coach at Halifax Vandals, his rugby journey has included open-age rugby for Old Crossleyans, Halifax, and Bradford & Bingley, alongside international representation for the Pakistan Rugby Football Union.

Manny's introduction to rugby came at the age of 13 while attending Crossley Heath School. During a PE lesson, his teacher, Mr Fleming, recognised his natural ability and encouraged him to train with the school team. That moment proved pivotal. Rugby quickly became more than a sport – it became a defining part of Manny's identity, shaping his values around discipline, respect, belonging, and teamwork.

Born to parents who migrated from Pakistan, Manny grew up in a household where

education was prioritised above all else. Although his parents were never keen for him to pursue sport as a career, they never prevented him from playing. Ironically, their focus on academic success placed him in the environment where his rugby talent flourished. In his early years, Manny was often the only South Asian player involved, navigating cultural expectations and occasional experiences of racism with quiet resilience.

Across a 32-year career, Manny achieved an outstanding list of honours. Highlights include winning a Grand Final with Brisbane Brothers at Ballymore, then home of the Queensland Reds, competing at the prestigious Dubai Sevens, representing Pakistan RFU, and playing a key role in the victorious BARA team at the All India South Asian Tournament in Mumbai.

Beyond the pitch, rugby has given Manny lifelong friendships, confidence, and leadership qualities that have earned him trust and respect within the game. His



story stands as a powerful example of excellence, resilience, and representation – demonstrating how South Asian involvement strengthens both rugby and the communities it serves.

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