



BC RUGBY



2022 / 2023

# ANNUAL REPORT



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# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

BC RUGBY AND ITS MEMBERS  
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE  
THAT WE **LIVE, WORK AND PLAY**  
THE SPORT OF RUGBY ON THE  
**TRADITIONAL AND UNCEDED**  
**TERRITORIES OF INDIGENOUS**  
**PEOPLES** ACROSS ALL REGIONS  
OF **BRITISH COLUMBIA.**



# BC RUGBY'S BOARD AND STAFF

## 2022/23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

■ Mark Lewis .....	President
■ Tanya Donaldson .....	Vice President (Internal)
■ Bob Strachan .....	Vice President (Finance)
■ Brennan Bastyovanszky .....	Director
■ Marvin Foss .....	Director
■ Matt Gordon .....	Director
■ Connie McGinley .....	Director
■ Tony Payne .....	Director
■ Alan Snowden .....	Director

## 2022/23 STAFF

■ David Newson .....	Chief Executive Officer
■ John Tait .....	Technical Director
■ Rob Bartlett .....	Director of Marketing and Partnerships
■ Sam Crawford .....	Director of Community Rugby
■ Chris Assmus .....	Officials Development Manager
■ Doug Tate .....	Coach Education Manager
■ Aimee Burley .....	Competitions and Membership Administrator
■ Madison Bradshaw .....	Marketing and Brand Coordinator
■ Noah Pryce-Baff .....	Executive Coordinator



Mark Lewis, President of BC Rugby, presenting the Vancouver Thunderbirds with the Women's Premier League Trophy at the 2023 Senior Club Finals



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is my final President's report for BC Rugby after having the honour of leading the Organization for the past four years. June 2019 feels like half a lifetime ago after everything that has transpired in that brief time. Despite all the external tumult of the last four years, we not only weathered the storm exceptionally well but we have come out ahead in many ways.

The role of President (Chair) of a Non-Profit Organization like BC Rugby is largely about providing strategic leadership with a goal of developing an organizational pathway to sustainable growth. That cannot be accomplished by one person alone. It requires an informed, diverse and committed group of leadership volunteers (on the Board and its committees) and a qualified and motivated team of staff to implement the plan with the greatest of chance of success.

Our Board continues to evolve with improved organization and focus. Recent additions to the Board and the Board's committees have brought a depth and variety of experience, which have allowed us to tackle issues around Safe Sport, finance, risk, HR policies, governance and nominations in sophisticated and detailed ways that were not previously possible. Frameworks being implemented in these areas allow our staff to operate with greater focus in an increasingly complex oversight environment.

We are one year into our Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 that was developed after extensive consultation with our Members. I am pleased with the progress that has been made in the areas targeted by the Board and staff in Year One. I'm confident that the commitment to adhering to, and achieving the goals of, the Strategic Plan will continue going forward. For that to happen, the entire community will need to continue to work together. As the goals of the Strategic Plan are achieved, so many of the ancillary benefits and opportunities that will allow our Clubs and Members to grow and prosper will be unlocked.

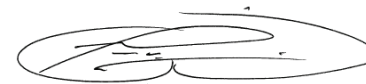
I couldn't be more pleased with the seamless introduction of David Newson as our new CEO last year. Dave had big shoes to fill at a time when we had just finalized our Strategic Plan and had a comparatively new staff team in a recently reorganized structure. He has demonstrated the leadership qualities that we anticipated and in turn has built a strong camaraderie among the staff to unite them in pursuit of the goals set out in the Strategic Plan. We are grateful to the entire staff team and the resources they provide the Rugby community. There is no Province that has it as good as we do and we should be mindful of that.

I want to reiterate my message from last year that Clubs are encouraged to seek out ways to engage age-grade players and to offer variations of Rugby that will attract and retain new Members. We need to continue to keep an open mind as to how we can be innovative, welcoming and willing to try different things to help grow the game. We cannot only talk the talk of our core values of Safety, Integrity, Respect and Inclusion for All; we must also walk that walk.

I've had the pleasure of spending time with many fantastic volunteers who contribute countless hours to this Organization. Too often those contributions are taken for granted because they are not outward-facing but they are meaningful, positive and important to our success. To all the current and past Directors and committee Members with whom I've worked for the past four years, I offer a sincere and heartfelt thank-you for your commitment, support and efforts.

With that, I gratefully hand over the organizational reins to Bob Strachan and I encourage you to connect with and get to know him. I know that we are in good hands and that they will continue to advance the best interests of BC Rugby.

Sincerely,



**MARK LEWIS,**  
**BC RUGBY PRESIDENT**





## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

This AGM marks the conclusion of my first full year with BC Rugby.

This past year, I have learned a lot about the Organization, the Sport, and our fantastic community. We have a dedicated and highly competent team of Staff striving day in and day out to make the Sport better and provide better opportunities for new and existing Members.

I have learned the ins and outs of the BC Rugby Strategic Plan, and how the goals outlined within it can help guide the success of the Organization for many years to come. I have been fortunate to work alongside an experienced and professional Board of Directors, and would like to thank them for their help and patience throughout this period.

By far the most enjoyable and exciting part of year one has been meeting and engaging with the Rugby community. The people involved with Rugby in BC are incredible; unlike anything I have seen in other sports. The passion for the game, the care in protecting what makes the game special, and the culture of respect within the game, all leave me honoured and inspired to work on your behalf.

In addition, there are many challenges and areas for improvement that I have been able to assess over the past year.

Many challenges will require teamwork and greater engagement between the BC Rugby Organization and the wider Rugby community, something that we are actively trying to improve each day. We need to continue to be proactive in making Rugby as safe a sport as possible. We need to continue to work together to make the game more inclusive and inviting; not just attracting new Members but retaining them for many years to come.

We have the opportunity to enhance our financial infrastructure to make it more sustainable, and subsequently expand programming while keeping costs stable. We will look to attract and retain more participants by crafting stronger relationships and partnerships with Rugby Canada, other sports, and our funding partners. There are unique opportunities for growth, especially within Age-Grade and Mini-Rugby programs, as well as in Rugby programming in the Interior and Northern regions.

Moving into year two and beyond, I am planning for better and more meaningful engagement with

our Members as we strive to continually improve our communications with our Clubs and Rugby community. We recognize that this game belongs to all of us here in BC, and we need to work together to achieve our ambitious goals and grow the Sport throughout the Province.

Sincerely,



**DAVID NEWSON,**  
**BC RUGBY CEO**





## ABOUT BC RUGBY

The British Columbia Rugby Union, commonly known as BC Rugby, is the governing body for the sport of Rugby and was founded in 1889. As a Member Union of Rugby Canada, BC Rugby is recognized by World Rugby and the BC Government as being the non-profit organization responsible for Rugby Union and its game Rugby.

BC Rugby was officially formed in 1889 in New Westminster and, across three centuries, has overseen remarkable growth in both the Men's and Women's game that has helped develop a diverse Rugby community. Clubs based in British Columbia began touring parts of Western America as early as 1893. Rugby's seven-a-side format was first played in Vancouver in 1956. For over 130 years, British Columbia has hosted many prestigious Rugby Teams such as the All Blacks, New Zealand Maori, Japan, Australia, England, British Lions, Scotland, Barbarians and Fiji. As a Member Union of Rugby Canada, BC Rugby is a proud affiliate of World Rugby, the world governing body for the sport of Rugby. Many BC Players have gone on to represent Canada's Men's and Women's Teams at the International and Olympic level over the years.



## OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of BC Rugby is:

**TO GROW, DEVELOP AND MANAGE THE SPORT OF RUGBY IN THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA; AND, TO UNDERTAKE ANY OTHER ROLES, FUNCTIONS RESPONSIBILITIES OR ACTIONS THAT BEST SERVE THE SPORT OF RUGBY IN THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

## OUR STRUCTURE

BC Rugby is overseen by a Board of Directors that are elected at the Annual General Meeting by the Voting Members, in accordance with BC Rugby Bylaws. The Board appoints several Committees to advise and support them. These are the Safe Sport Committee, Competitions Committee, Appeals Committee, Discipline Committee and Adjudicative Committee. The day-to-day operations of BC Rugby are performed by Staff, whom are led by the Chief Executive Officer.





# OUR VISION AND ENVISIONED FUTURE

## OUR VISION:

To be the safest, most vibrant and inclusive Rugby Community.

## ENVISIONED FUTURE:

BC Rugby will elevate the profile and appreciation of Rugby, and our game variations, welcoming and retaining an increasingly diverse BC population. BC Rugby will support Member Clubs in delivering high-quality Rugby experiences, while upholding BC Rugby's values.

BC Rugby will facilitate and deliver a Rugby Pathway from Club to Bears to Maple Leaf, accessible to Players, Coaches and Officials from all regions and backgrounds. The Organization will be known as a first-class amateur sport business, sustainably providing valued services to Stakeholders, Member Clubs and participants.



Elk Valley and Rocky Mountain Rougques host a 'Try Rugby' session in Fernie, bringing 40 new athletes to the sport

# 2022-2025 STRATEGIC PILLARS

In May of 2022, BC Rugby announced its new Strategic Plan, setting out its key priorities and initiatives for the Organization for the next three years.

The new Plan aims to elevate the Organization to be the safest, most vibrant, and inclusive Rugby community as our Sport recovers from the impact of the COVID pandemic.

The Plan is built upon five strategic pillars; protect wellbeing; grow the game; develop performance; strengthen the community and lead the Organization.

The Plan was created through facilitated engagement and consultation with BC Rugby's Board of Directors, operational staff, Members and Stakeholders, and the wider Rugby community.



### Pillar 1

Participants' physical, mental and emotional wellbeing is safeguarded.

### Pillar 2

Everyone is welcomed and finds their game, enjoying high quality Rugby experiences.

### Pillar 3

All aspiring Players, Coaches and Officials are supported towards success on the world stage.

### Pillar 4

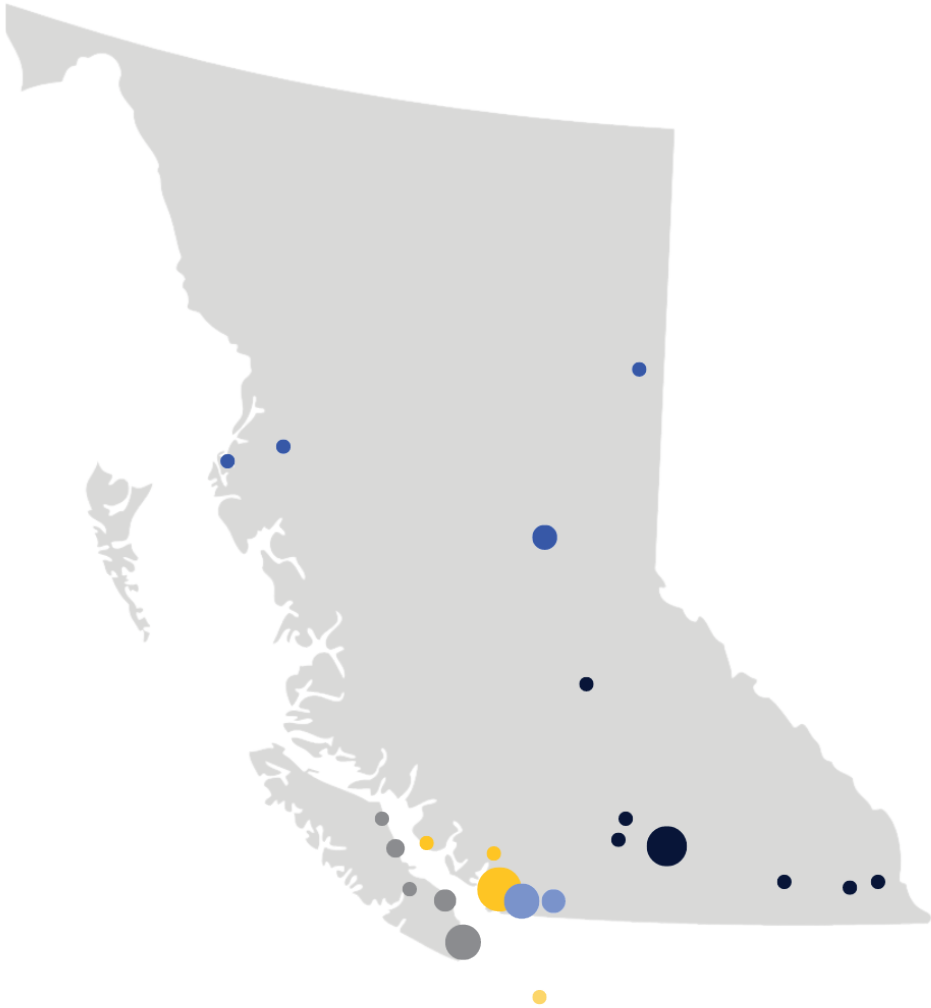
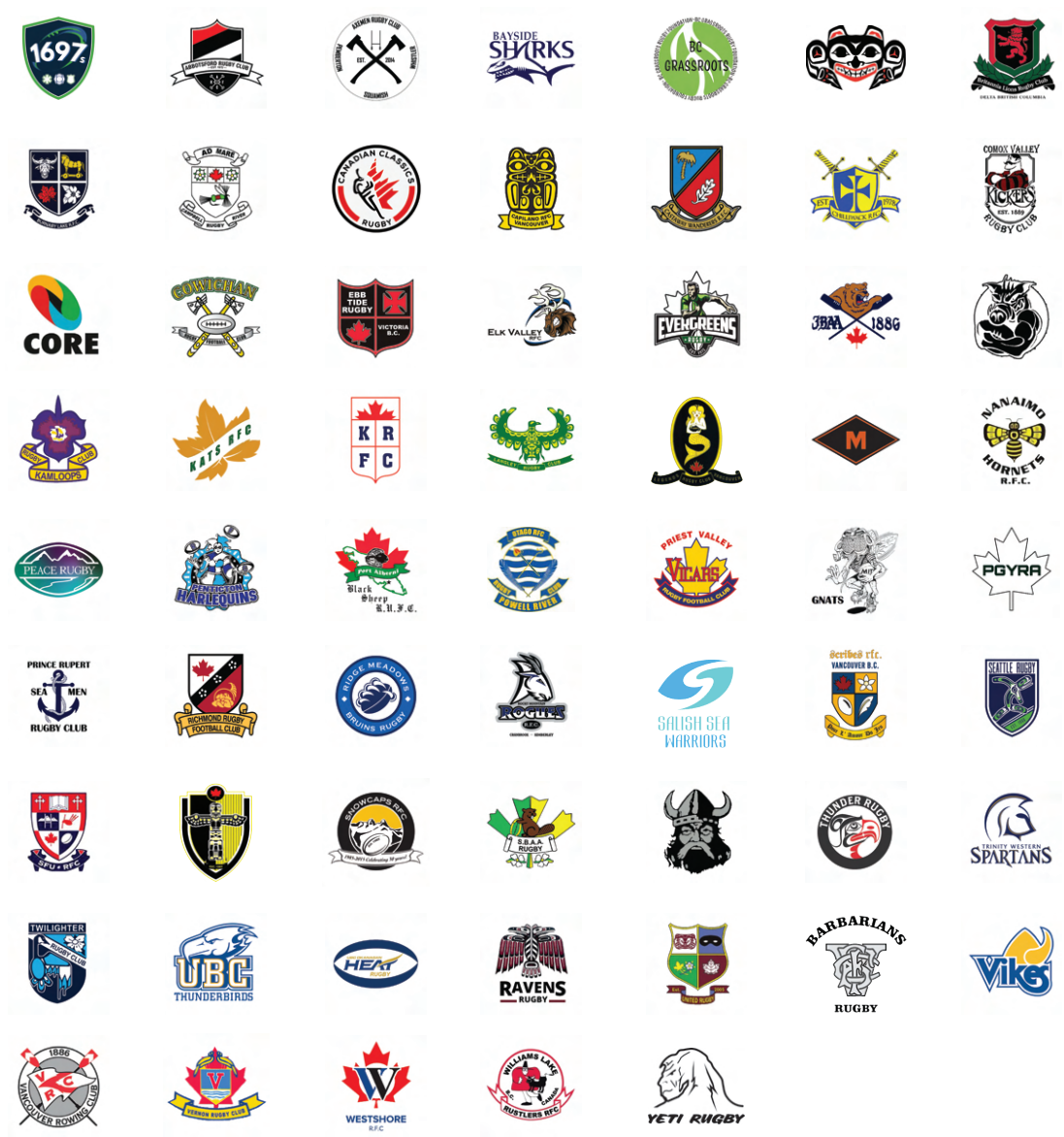
Our diverse community is bolstered, engaged and celebrated.

### Pillar 5

BC Rugby exemplifies organizational excellence in policies, practices and people.



# OUR CLUBS



13

Clubs in the Interior Region

5

Clubs in the Northern Region

13

Clubs in the Fraser Valley Region

15

Clubs in the Vancouver Island Region

14

Clubs in the Vancouver Coastal Region

1

Club in Washington, USA



# STATE OF PLAY FOR RUGBY IN BC

6,996

Total Members Regsitered  
in the 2022/23 Season

29%

of Total Members  
Registered were Female

289

Members Registered  
as a Coach

116

Members Registered  
as a Match Official

52

Members Registered as  
an Athletic Therapist

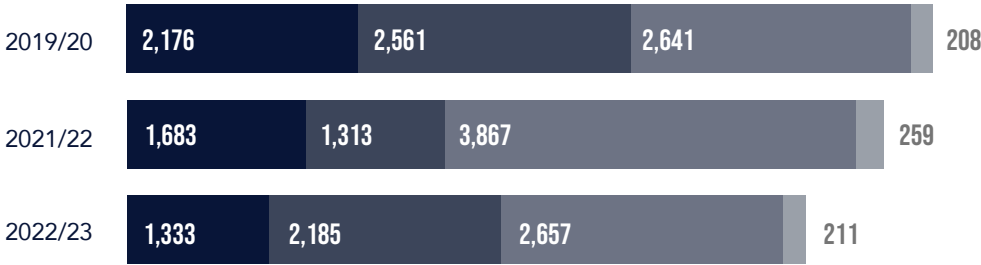


1 : 24 RATIO  
of Coaches to Players in BC



MINIS MEMBERS      AGE-GRADE MEMBERS      SENIOR MEMBERS      MASTERS MEMBERS

1,004 Male Members	1,390 Male Members	1,968 Male Members	205 Male Members
329 Female Members	795 Female Members	689 Female Members	6 Female Members



Minis Members      Age-Grade Members      Senior Members      Masters Members

# STRATEGIC PILLAR #1: PROTECT WELLBEING

## SAFE SPORT FOR ALL

Protecting our Members' physical and emotional wellbeing remains BC Rugby's No. 1 strategic priority. This year saw our Safe Sport Committee operate for the first time, meeting regularly to determine effective ways to improve the safe delivery of Rugby in BC and improve the public perception of our Sport's safety.

In November 2022, BC Rugby Members were encouraged to register for PlaySafe Community Summits hosted through a partnership between viaSport and BC Regional Sport Alliance. These summits encouraged youth athletes, Coaches, Technical Leaders, and people working in local sports organizations to gather with the objective of making Sport safer for everyone involved.

Rugby Canada released and publicized new TackleSMART resources in May 2023. This new professional development course and online resource aims to educate both new and experienced community and high school Rugby Coaches on current tackle laws, techniques, and progressions, as well as to help Coaches working with athletes who are new to contact Rugby. The goal of this training is to help prevent injury while tackling by giving Coaches the competence and confidence to Coach the progression of tackling to contact effectively.

The remainder of 2023 will bring significant updates on Concussion Assessment, with the release of the sixth instalment of the Sport Concussion Assessment Tool (SCAT6). BC Rugby will ensure this information is updated accordingly across all its digital assets, including the website and the BC Rugby App. Furthermore, we are working extensively on specific campaigns to highlight safe practices within Rugby, and plan to dedicate at least two rounds of the 2023-2024 Senior and Age-Grade Season to promote inclusivity within the Sport.

## COACH AND OFFICIAL EDUCATION

BC Rugby has continued to build towards our strategic goal of ensuring all Rugby Programs are led by a fully certified Coach and Refereed by a fully certified Official. 2022 yielded five opportunities for Coaches to complete a Level 1 or Level 2 Coaching Course, with 88 Coaches in attendance at

sessions throughout the Province. There have been two Rookie Rugby Coaching Courses held in Nanaimo and Port Coquitlam so far in 2023 that have attracted 36 Coaches in attendance. BC Rugby Coach Education Manager Doug Tate and BC Rugby Technical Director John Tait facilitated two Coaching Clinics in July and November 2022, with over 70 Coaches attending across both sessions held in Victoria, BC. A third Coaching Clinic scheduled to be held at UBC in December 2022 was unfortunately cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

2023 will bring further education opportunities for BC Coaches including planned Level 1 Coaching Certifications taking place in Abbotsford and Prince George, a Tight Five Coaching Clinic in August, a three-day Coaching Summit at Castaway Wanderers RFC (featuring Level 1 and Level 2 Coaching Courses, Rookie Rugby Courses and a Level 1 Officiating Course), and a Coaching Conference at Trinity Western University in November alongside the Men's University National Rugby Championship.

BC Rugby successfully appointed a fully certified Official to all Age-Grade and Senior Contact matches throughout the 2022-23 Lower Mainland Season and 2023 Northern/Interior season, and will continue to do so going forward.

Under the supervision of BC Rugby Officials Education Manager Chris Assmus, a total of 1,670 matches (1,124 Senior, 546 Age-Grade) were played in the 2022-23 season with 100% of fixtures being officiated by a certified, registered Match Official. This included featured appointments for the 2022 BC Rugby Age-Grade Finals and 2023 BC Rugby Senior Club Finals.



*An Official monitors the touch-line during the Women's D2 League Final at the 2023 Senior Club Finals*



## CREATING SPACES FOR CLUB'S TO DELIVER SAFE SPORT

With aims to ensure Member Clubs have at least two registered Medical Staff, BC Rugby is continually recruiting medical staff for our various events and programs that run throughout the year. This process will help to increase our pool of medical staff from all professions to help support our Clubs and events. All BC Rugby Staff have enrolled to complete a Medical First Aid course in July 2023.

We continue to work with our partners such as Gilbert Rugby Canada to facilitate bulk buying of new post pads with the highest safety rating for Member Clubs.

In September 2022, BC Rugby collaborated with the SHRed Concussions Research team at the BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit and University of British Columbia (UBC) to hire therapists through BC Rugby to help support the research program at identified Clubs in the Lower Mainland. Therapists were based at Bayside RFC, United RFC and Langley Rugby Club and assisted with SCAT5 administration during baseline training sessions, as well as injury follow-ups with individual Clubs.

## STRATEGIC PILLAR #2: GROW THE GAME

### EXPLORING THE FIRST FULL RUGBY SEASON SINCE THE PANDEMIC

With BC Rugby returning to a full calendar in 2022-23, the status of our sport is beginning to return to pre-pandemic levels across BC, while expanding into new and previously existing markets. We were proud to report an increase in overall female membership from the 2021-2022 membership, also highlighting the introduction of 49 newly registered Coaches and 14 Officials.

The reintroduction of our Provincial Representative teams has seen us work closely with our counterparts both at Regional, Provincial and National levels. The success of the BC Bears Programs throughout the Summer of 2022, including a clean sweep at the 2022 Western Canada

*The BC Bears U19 Men's Team celebrate winning the 2022 Canadian U19 Rugby Championships in Guelph, Ontario*



Championships and the 2022 Canadian U19 Rugby Championships, helped boost the profile of our high-performance programs – none of which would be possible without the financial support of our partners, donors and the BC Government.

The return of the BC Summer Games saw competitive Rugby played by eight regions in Prince George during the summer of 2022. With such high representation, Rugby's online media coverage was elevated throughout the event.

Team BC's gold medal success at the 2022 Canada Summer Games earned them a nomination for Sport BC's Team of the Year Award and helped springboard Rugby's reputation at national level.

All Senior Men's Teams contested a full Fall-Spring season with the first six weeks of Men's Premier League and Men's Premier League Reserve Divisions featuring regional fixtures while University Teams faced off in BC and Western University Fixtures. All Senior Women's Teams played regionally throughout the Fall across three Mainland and one Island Division, with regular leagues – including

the BC Rugby Women's Premier League – starting in Spring 2023.

For Northern and Interior Clubs, the Fall brought the return of the 2022 Saratoga Cup, taking place at Kamloops Exhibition Park on September 10-11. The 2022 event featured the first-ever Women's event in the Cup's history, seeing Kamloops RFC become the first team to lift the Women's trophy after two days of play in 7s format. The Rocky Mountain Rogues won the men's competition for the second year in a row, returning the men's cup to Cranbrook.

The Age-Grade Fall 2022 Season saw Girls and Boys XVs Rugby thrive, utilizing the newly adjusted U14, U16 and U18 age-bands aligning with the 2022 Rugby Canada Age-Grade Law Variations. With record Age-Grade membership numbers, rising 51% for female registrants and 77% for male registrants since the 2021-2022 Season, Club Teams battled in regional Island and Mainland divisions across all age-bands. The 2022 Age-Grade Crossover Finals were set to be hosted at Cowichan Rugby Club and feature the top Island and Mainland Team from each age-banded division but was unfortunately cancelled due to inclement weather. All fixtures were rescheduled by the contestants throughout December and January, with several finals played out at Castaway Wanderers RFC in Victoria.

Also returning to the Fall Age-Grade Calendar was the coveted Kamloops 7s event, the fan-favourite Tournament showcasing the best Age-Grade 7s Teams from Clubs across BC, Alberta and Washington. Known as the largest 7s Tournament in Western Canada, the 2022 Kamloops 7s welcomed 55 Club Teams to McArthur Island Park on October 8th and 9th. The excitement was high as athletes competed across eight fields, showing off their skill in two-days of round robin and seeded play. The purpose of the Kamloops 7s tournament was to foster the growth of Age-Grade Rugby throughout British Columbia while also serving as a lead into the Age-Grade Club Season.

The lively Senior Spring Season brought the heat across all divisions, with April's Playoffs looming. The Men's Premier Reserve and Division 1 Leagues merged to enter a Crossover Round of 16 and eventually joining the rest of the leagues' Men's and Women's Teams battling to advance to the Quarter and Semi Finals. BC Rugby held its annual Senior Club Finals at the end of the regular Season, once again taking place at Bayside RFC in South Surrey. Over 1400 spectators entered the gates to watch seven Championship matches throughout an action-packed day to bring the Regular Season to a triumphant conclusion.

Mini Rugby programs continued to expand in BC in 2022/23, introducing new young athletes to the Sport across BC. The 2022 Fall Mini Season had three regional Schedules released for Clubs in the Sea to Sky, Fraser Valley / Tri City and Vancouver Island. Across these regions, 19 Clubs were able to

offer programs, delivering Sunday non-contact practices and multi-Club Jamborees for their young athletes.

The 2023 Spring Mini Season saw an increase in participation, again running schedules for the previously mentioned regions, while also adding a fourth schedule in the Interior. These four leagues allowed programs to run for 8 Sea to Sky Clubs, 8 Fraser Valley / Tri City Clubs, 6 Vancouver Island Clubs and 4 Interior Clubs.

A special Rookie Rugby Session took place once again on the center field at BC Place during March's HSBC Canada Sevens Event in Vancouver, allowing 120 Mini Rugby players to join some of their favourite Senior Canada 7s Team stars to play a round of non-contact Rugby together. The session saw players and Coaches from 8 of our Member Clubs enjoy some drills and matches in front of the home crowd.



*Rookie Rugby participants enjoy a special session at the 2023 HSBC Canada Sevens in Vancouver*



## STRATEGIC PILLAR #3: DEVELOP PERFORMANCE

### THE BC BEARS PATHWAY

Year 1 of the new Strategic Plan has seen great strides in establishing a cohesive, accessible and challenging BC Bears pathway across our Age-Grade and Senior Provincial Teams. With the return of high-performance Rugby post-pandemic, and under the senior leadership of BC Rugby Technical Director John Tait, we were delighted to reintroduce both Regional and Provincial representative Rugby to the BC Rugby Calendar.

The reintroduction started in early 2022 with the selection of our BC Bears Age-Grade Coaches for the Summer Season and was shortly followed by the return of the Provincial Regional Championships event held in July at UBC. The event proved to be successful with over 1,000 athletes and parents in attendance, alongside our BC Bears Age-Grade Coaches, and provided a solid foundation for the selection of Age-Grade BC Bears athletes to our Provincial Teams.

Our BC Bears Age-Grade XVs Teams enjoyed a return to Provincial competition throughout July 2022. This included a Selection Camp at UBC, culminating in Blue vs. Gold matches for U14 athletes, and travel matches against the Pacific Northwest Loggers for U16 and U18 sides. The 2022 Western Canadian Championships, hosted by BC Rugby in Kelowna, saw a clean sweep for BC sides across all U16 and U18 Girls and Boys Divisions. The Western Championships also saw the return of the BC Bears Senior Women's Program, with Dean Murten guiding the Senior Women's Team to two victories over the Alberta Wolfpack at the Apple Bowl Stadium.

Meanwhile, The BC Bears U19 Men's team claimed the national championship at the 2022 Canadian U19 Men's Rugby Championship in Guelph, Ontario, and will defend their crown in August 2023 in Vancouver alongside the BC Bears U19 Women's Team.

It was a busy summer for our BC Bears 7s Programs as well, with the Senior Men's 7s Team winning the 2022 RugbyTown7s Shield in Denver, Colorado. On the Age-Grade side, the BC Bears U18 Girls 7s Team took the 2022 Canada Summer Games by storm as they won the first-ever Rugby 7s Title as Team BC – and subsequently were nominated for Sport BC's Team of the Year award. Our BC Bears Elite Boys and Girls 7s squads enjoyed a memorable experience at the 2022 World School Sevens Competition in New Zealand, facing off against the All Blacks and Samoa and creating lifelong memories.

*The BC Bears U18 Girls Team enter the field for the U18 Girls Championship match at the 2022 Western Canadian Championships in Kelowna, BC*



Leading towards the 2023 Representative Season, our historic McKechnie and Dunbar Regional Cup Competitions were re-introduced into the Senior Club Season to aid selection to the BC Bears Senior Men's Team. The BC Bears Senior Men's Program returned with several talent and identification sessions taking place throughout the province, before the squad was put to the test in a Blue vs. Gold trial match ahead of the 2023 Coast-to-Coast Cup.

The Senior Women's Team, meanwhile, enjoyed a thrilling two-match Blue vs. Gold Series hosted in Victoria and Vancouver, aligned with Rugby Canada's U20 Women's programming this summer.

## BC ATHLETES REPRESENT NATIONALLY

Once again, BC representation in Canada's Senior and Age-Grade National programs has remained strong in 2022 and 2023.

With the focus on BC athletes representing our Senior National Teams and providing opportunities for them to be recognized with selection and professional contracts, 2022 kicked off with seven BC representatives across both Men's and Women's Teams that represented Canada at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England.

BC's Sophie de Goede captained Canada's Senior Women's National XV's Team, which also included North Vancouver's Mikiela Nelson, to a fourth-place finish at the 2021 Women's Rugby World Cup in New Zealand (hosted in 2022 due to COVID-19 pandemic).

With a core contingent of BC athletes, Canada's Senior Men's Sevens Team battled through the 2022/23 HSBC World Sevens Series and eventually earned a spot at the table for the 2024 Series. This included an action-packed 2023 HSBC Canada Sevens in front of a bumper home crowd at Vancouver's BC Place Stadium. The 2023 edition included both a Men's and Women's competition for the first time, as the event attracted record media attention over three days. The week leading up to the event saw hundreds of BC children introduced to Rugby with several community sessions taking place in schools throughout the Lower Mainland, as well as meet-and-greets with National Teams from across the globe.

BC's Sophie de Goede captians Canada's Senior Women's National XV's Team for the 2021 Women's Rugby World Cup



Despite missing out on 2023 Rugby World Cup qualification, the future of Canada's Senior Men's XV's Team looks bright after 11 BC athletes were called into the Rugby Canada U20 team to face Uruguay and Zimbabwe at the 2022 Canada Conference in Guelph, Ontario.

Seven BC male athletes made the cut for Canada Senior Men's Head Coach Kingsley Jones' travelling squad to Amsterdam and featured in matches against Belgium and Spain, ahead of the Canada's Fall Tests against Namibia and the Netherlands in Amsterdam.

Finally, there was great success once again for BC Universities on the National scale as UBC Thunderbirds captured both the 2022 Canadian University Men's Rugby Championship and 2022 Canada West Rugby 7s Championship banners against National rivals.



UBC Thunderbirds celebrate winning back-to-back titles at the 2022 Canadian University Men's Rugby Championships



## OFFICIALS MAKE THEIR MARK ACROSS BC AND THE WORLD

Thanks to the continued support and investment from our sponsors and partners, BC Rugby Officiating continues to grow and develop throughout the Province. This has been a critical resource in helping identify, improve and promote BC Rugby Officials into Competition.

The Coach Logic platform was used throughout the entirety of the 2022/23 Season for video analysis for Players, Coaches and Officials. The Officials, led by BC Rugby Referee Manager Chris Assmus, used the platform to review their matches together and target areas of improvement to focus on from week-to-week, using the coded analytics from the BC Rugby Men's and Women's Premier League matches. With the vast geography our leagues and resources are spread across, having an online video portal that allows for communication and feedback between stakeholders was a massive benefit towards improving consistency of play and Officiating in 2022/23.

Effective training and education continues to grow the number of Officials in BC, as well as the Next Generation group, and helps to prepare them for opportunities in BC's Age-Grade, Senior Leagues and Regional/Provincial Competitions. Chris was proactive in his delivery of Level 1 and Level 2 courses across BC to keep up with demand, holding 10 courses in the 2022-2023 Season to accredit more qualified Officials. Three 2023 debutant Officials in the Premier League attended their Level 1 training in 2019 or later, proving that BC Rugby is on-track to meet our goal of increasing the number of Performance Referees from 17 to 22 in 2023-2024.

With more BC Rugby Competitions back on the calendar in 2022/23 post-pandemic, Officials were able to test their skills at Club, Regional and Provincial level Competitions such as the Provincial Regional Championships, Western Canadian Championships, and several BC Bears Trial matches, thanks to the mentorship from Chris and other seasoned BC Officials.

In addition to Provincial opportunities, Chris and Julianne Zussman represented BC and Canada on the World stage as they were appointed to be World Rugby Officials for the 2021 Women's Rugby World Cup (played in 2022) in New Zealand.



*An Official makes a call during the Women's Division 2 League Final at the 2023 Senior Club Finals in South Surrey*

## STRATEGIC PILLAR #4: STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY

### A DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP FROM PITCH TO BOARD ROOM

Improving our Member demographics to better reflect BC's rich diversity remains a key Strategic Priority for BC Rugby. Rugby in BC remains a sport for everyone.

We continue to make progress in recruiting qualified individuals for several BC Rugby Committees to better reflect our Membership Demographics. Vital work is being done to recruit for our Competitions, Governance and Awards Committees to improve diversity. Better geographical representation will help improve competition and communication throughout the province.

*The Vancouver Rouges attend the 2022 Bingham Cup, the biennial World Championships for gay and Inclusive Rugby Teams*



Representation matters and it has been exciting to see many of our Member Clubs reaching out and supporting new communities. With funding received from HSBC and Rugby Canada, 80 Indigenous students were introduced to the sport of Rugby as the first-ever Indigenous Rugby Day in the Comox Valley School District was held in conjunction with the Comox Valley Rapids Rugby Association.

In one of BC Rugby's most engaging stories of the year, Abbotsford Rugby Club highlighted how five of its Senior Women's Team athletes had welcomed new additions to their respective families over the past two years. The campaign focused on how new mothers coped with balancing Rugby and family life, and how the strength and support from the surrounding community – and teammates – had helped them.

BC's only gay and inclusive Rugby team, the Vancouver Rogues, competed at the 2022 Bingham Cup – the biennial world championships for gay and inclusive Rugby teams. In support, BC Rugby ran a weekly campaign highlighting the Club's preparations ahead of the championships in Ottawa, including several athlete profiles on their Rugby journey and how the inclusivity in our sport matters at all levels.

BC Rugby is proud to have included the Progress Pride Flag on the left sleeve of all our Provincial Representative Team kits throughout the 2022-23 season, and will continue to do this going forward.

This was a big year for Thunder Rugby, BC's only indigenous Rugby Club, with Tours to both California and New Zealand. With over 80% of the travelling squad for California hailing from various First Nation backgrounds, the trip was as much about celebrating heritage as it was about sport.

We are also seeing exciting growth within our Northern and Interior regions, especially within Women's and Age-Grade programs. The 2022 Saratoga Cup featured the Women's Saratoga Cup competition for the first time in the event's history, which attracted teams from Terrace, Kamloops, Kelowna, Prince George and Elk Valley, with more set to attend in 2023. Elk Valley RFC held Try Rugby sessions across a memorable weekend in the Kootenays, which also saw Women's teams from Elk Valley and the Rocky Mountain Rogues compete in their first fixture in five years.

While there remains plenty of work to do to improve diversity across our Membership – and reach untapped markets and communities – we are no doubt trending in the right direction.



## FUNDING RUGBY IN THE COMMUNITY

As we look forward to 2023 and beyond we continue to not only identify opportunities for BC Rugby to access additional funding but also for our Member Clubs. ViaSports Rally Together Fund is not only supporting BC Rugby but a number of our Member Clubs who were successful in this application. These funds continue to help Clubs and BC Rugby grow our sport through a number of different mechanisms.

We would like to thank our continued support from our sponsors Onni and Belairdirect who continue to support our operations. These longstanding relationships continue to be important and allow us to provide services to our Clubs and Members.

With financial uncertainty in the economy ahead it will be important for additional funding streams to continue to be identified to ensure the sustainability of our sport. With operating costs increasing and financial pressures for many involved in our sport, we have to continue to find efficiencies and cost-saving methods, while also gaining access to grants and revenue sources.

## MEMBER CLUB SATISFACTION

Member Club satisfaction is an area that we are actively working on for 2023 and beyond. BC Rugby is producing and distributing a survey for our Member Clubs to complete. This survey will provide us with data that will help us tweak our services to better provide our Member Clubs with support for delivering programming, competing in BC Rugby events and leagues and more.

Feedback from our Members is critical as we strive to improve communication, and how we help promote our Clubs, communities and sport to new markets.

Our Communications strategy is built to highlight all aspects of our Membership and surrounding communities, and promote stories and programs from all areas of the province. By introducing our Club Communications document, available for all Member Clubs to download on the BC Rugby website, we hope Clubs and Members take full advantage and send our Marketing team anything they need promoting to the wider community.

## HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Five Inductees were made to the BC Rugby Hall of Fame across 2022 and 2023.

### 2021/22 INDUCTEES

The Class of 2022 included Bruce Kuklinski (Builder), Julia Sugawara (Player) and Ed Fairhurst (Player).



**BRUCE KUKLINSKI**  
INDUCTEE - BUILDER



**JULIA SUGAWARA**  
INDUCTEE - PLAYER



**ED FAIRHURST**  
INDUCTEE - PLAYER

### 2022/23 INDUCTEES

The Class of 2023 included Mark Cardinal (Player) and Rick Bourne (Builder). The 2023 Joan Spray Award recipient was Darcy Patterson and the Jack Patterson Award recipient was Mark Slay.



**MARK CARDINAL**  
INDUCTEE - PLAYER



**RICK BOURNE**  
INDUCTEE - BUILDER



**DARCY PATTERSON**  
JOAN SPRAY AWARD



**MARK SLAY**  
JACK PATTERSON AWARD

## COMMUNITY AWARDS

### 2022 WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP FUND

#### JENN LEMON, VICE PRESIDENT & HEAD COACH OF KELOWNA CROWS RFC

Jenn Lemon, Vice President and Senior Women's Head Coach of Kelowna Crows RFC, was one of six successful applicants of Rugby Canada's 2022 Women in Leadership Fund in only its second year of existence. The fund was awarded to individuals involved in Rugby at an administrative or governance level within a Provincial Union, Provincial Board of Directors or a Member Club of Rugby Canada, with the goal of providing a strong and diverse leadership base in Canada and pipeline to the World Rugby Scholarship Program.

Jenn was awarded funding of up to \$2000 to pursue development opportunities that will enhance their ability to lead from within our Sport. Congratulations, Jenn!



### 2022 SPORT BC TEAM OF THE YEAR

#### BC BEARS U18 GIRLS 7S TEAM

Team BC was nominated for Team of the Year at Sport BC's 55th Annual Athlete of the Year Awards, following an undefeated debut at the Canada Summer Games first-ever Rugby 7s Competition. Winning a staggering six matches with 232 points scored and only 17 points conceded, Team BC defeated Teams from PEI, Quebec, Newfoundland, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec to secure the National Title.

BC Rugby's U18 Girls 7s Team, led by Coaches Darcy Patterson and Madison Gold, were the sole Provincial Team recognized among the five Teams nominated for the Annual Awards that took place in March 2023 in Vancouver. Congratulations, Team BC!



## STRATEGIC PILLAR #5: LEAD THE ORGANIZATION

### ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN THE SPORT SECTOR

The BC Rugby Board of Directors, Board Committees and Staff Team have been actively making strides in advancing the profile and operational efficiency of the Organization in the 2022/23 fiscal year.

BC Rugby's 2022/2023 fiscal Organization Evaluation from ViaSport reported that BC Rugby consistently ranked above the sector average in the Member participation, athlete excellence, coaching and officiating, and organizational readiness standards. Our recognized strengths included strong Member retention, provincial distribution, a challenging and accessible player performance and development pathway, certified Coaches and Officials at every level of play, and gender and LGBTQI2S+ inclusive programming. This assessment overall affirms that BC Rugby has maintained the status of excellence as a non-profit Sport Organization as written in our strategic plan, and allows our Staff and Board to better understand how our Organization compares in the Sport Sector and what areas we can continue to improve upon.



The BC Bears U18 Boys Team and Head Coach Leana Marton plan their strategy at the 2022 Western Canadian Championships



2022/2023 was a big year of change for the Organization. In June 2022, BC Rugby's incoming CEO David Newson was appointed and began the onboarding process, and two new Board Directors, Brennan Bastovanszky and Tony Payne, began their terms.

The newly constructed Safe Sport Committee had its first year of operation, providing oversight and reports on injury and concussion statistics to help develop policies and initiatives that set high standards for safety, integrity, respect and inclusion in Rugby throughout BC.

The new BC Rugby Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 was created and circulated in May of 2022, with a new set of key priorities and initiatives for the Organization over the next three years. The Plan was crucial in providing a detailed set of objectives for the Board, CEO and Staff to engage with and consult as the Organization headed into the first full Rugby Season since the Pandemic.

Two Hall of Fame Classes were set to be inducted into the BC Rugby Hall of Fame for the first time since early 2020, reigniting the Hall of Fame Committee and preparing the Hall of Fame event taking place in June 2023. With 3 inductees in 2022 and 2 in 2023, a total of 54 individuals and two teams will have been inducted into the Hall of Fame located at Brockton Pavilion in Vancouver's Stanley Park.

In terms of partnerships and sponsors, BC Rugby announced a new multi-year partnership with Blonyx as the official sports nutrition partner. Blonyx, a BC-based company, supports athletes by providing supplements designed to improve performance, including the world's first egg white protein isolate and a real-food electrolyte drink mix for tactical dehydration. Blonyx will donate 10% from all BC Rugby sales back into BC Rugby youth programming and events, in the form of a rebate. The partnership demonstrates a shared commitment to supporting Rugby in British Columbia and providing Members with access to quality products that can help them achieve their athletic goals.



## FINANCING BC RUGBY EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

BC Rugby has continued to identify new ways to fund not only our operations, but also programs and events within the community. Thanks to ViaSport we have received Hosting Grants which have gone towards supporting our events in the community. These grants provide essential financial support to help ensure our events can be run and reduce financial impact where possible. In 2023 we continue to see success in these funds as well as the B.C. Fairs, Festivals and Events Fund. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through this fund to allow us to continue to run these events.

We have also been fortunate to receive a number of ViaSport funding grants throughout the 2022 year which have supported us in running Coaching and Officiating Courses, as well as supporting many of our other initiatives. Most significantly in throughout 2022 and 2023 has been funding from Rugby Canada and World Rugby which has allowed us to implement the Rugby Coaching in Schools Programming and the Youth Coach Funding programs. Thanks to this funding we have been able to upskill more Coaches and introduce more players to Rugby than previously possible.

*Two U16 Girls Teams in action at the 2022 Provincial Regional Championships, an event made possible by viaSport Hosting Grants*



# BC RUGBY IN THE DIGITAL SPACE

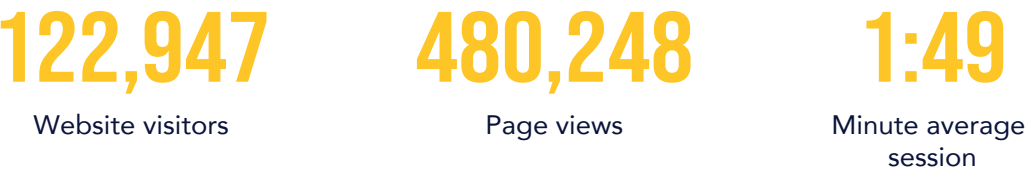
BC Rugby social media statistics across platforms in the 2022/23 Season:

	AVG. POST ENGAGMENT	AVG. POST REACH	TOTAL FOLLOWERS
INSTAGRAM	9,000+	17,000+	7,840
FACEBOOK	8,000+	22,000+	7,135
TWITTER	1,600+	21,000+	5,640
LINKEDIN	20+	400+	339
YOUTUBE	12+	450 views	1,256

↑ 23%  
increase of followers  
across platforms compared  
to 2021/22 metrics

↑ 8%  
increase of average post  
reach across all platfoms  
compared to 2021/22  
metrics

BC Rugby Website statistics the 2022/23 fiscal year:



Unique webpage statistics across the BC Rugby Website:

Page ?	Pageviews ?	Unique Pageviews ?	Avg. Time on Page ?
	480,248 % of Total: 100.00% (480,248)	379,699 % of Total: 100.00% (379,699)	00:01:27 Avg for View: 00:01:27 (0.00%)
1. /fixtures/	61,348 (12.77%)	28,753 (7.57%)	00:01:03
2. /	59,730 (12.44%)	51,354 (13.52%)	00:00:59
3. /results/	30,964 (6.45%)	16,274 (4.29%)	00:01:23
4. /competitions-2/fixtures-and-results/	18,241 (3.80%)	14,711 (3.87%)	00:00:22
5. /competitions-2/fixtures-results/	14,453 (3.01%)	10,092 (2.66%)	00:00:19
6. /competitions-2/	9,727 (2.03%)	8,032 (2.12%)	00:00:45
7. /bc-rugby-clubs/	9,517 (1.98%)	5,991 (1.58%)	00:00:50
8. /competitions-2/2022-prcs/	8,888 (1.85%)	7,050 (1.86%)	00:03:29
9. /bc-bears/15s-teams/	8,319 (1.73%)	7,408 (1.95%)	00:02:41
10. /news/	6,296 (1.31%)	5,547 (1.46%)	00:01:00



# 2022/2023 FINANCIALS

\*Excerpts from the 2022/23 BC Rugby Audited Financial Statements

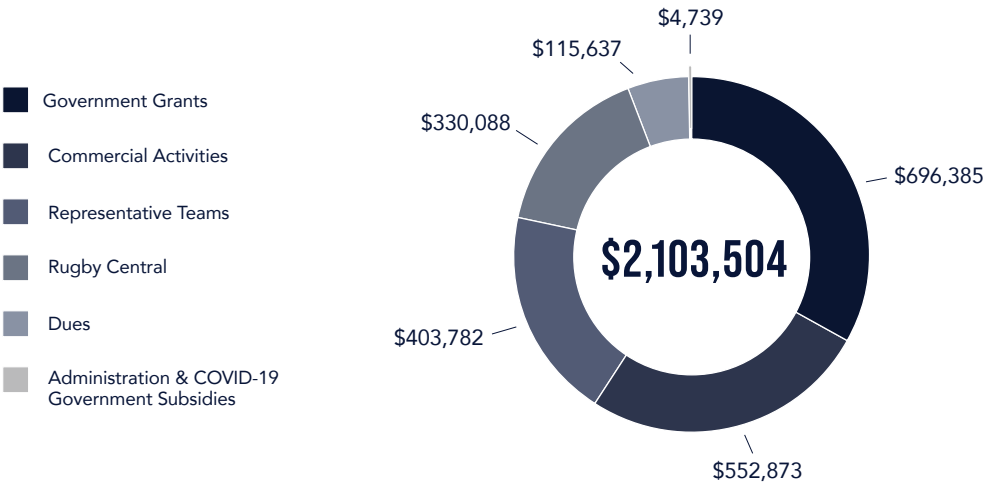
## BRITISH COLUMBIA RUGBY UNION Statement of Financial Position 31 March 2023

	Operating Fund		Tour Legacy Fund		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>						
<b>Current</b>						
Cash	431,356	672,447	89,245	-	520,601	672,447
Accounts receivable	125,204	270,007	-	-	125,204	270,007
Prepaid expenses	49,146	54,365	-	-	49,146	54,365
	<b>605,706</b>	<b>996,819</b>	<b>89,245</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>694,951</b>	<b>996,819</b>
<b>Due (to) from other fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(88,236)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>88,236</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>605,706</b>	<b>908,583</b>	<b>89,245</b>	<b>88,236</b>	<b>694,951</b>	<b>996,819</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
<b>Current</b>						
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	127,870	121,163	-	-	127,870	121,163
Deferred revenue (Note 3)	74,350	382,985	-	-	74,350	382,985
Refundable deposits	8,400	5,000	-	-	8,400	5,000
	<b>210,620</b>	<b>509,148</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>210,620</b>	<b>509,148</b>
<b>Canada Emergency Business Account (Note 7(c))</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>40,000</b>
	<b>210,620</b>	<b>549,148</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>210,620</b>	<b>549,148</b>
<b>Commitments (Note 6)</b>						
<b>Fund Balances</b>						
Internally restricted	-	-	89,245	88,236	89,245	88,236
Unrestricted	395,086	359,435	-	-	395,086	359,435
	<b>395,086</b>	<b>359,435</b>	<b>89,245</b>	<b>88,236</b>	<b>484,331</b>	<b>447,671</b>
	<b>605,706</b>	<b>908,583</b>	<b>89,245</b>	<b>88,236</b>	<b>694,951</b>	<b>996,819</b>

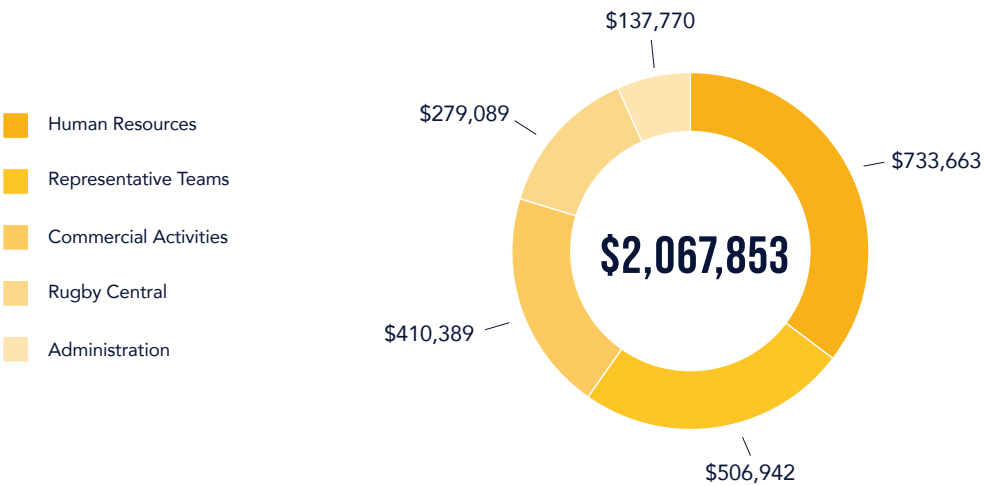
## Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Revenues		Expenses		Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Operating Fund</b>						
Government grants	696,385	395,231	-	-	696,385	395,231
Dues - Schedule 1	115,637	111,173	-	-	115,637	111,173
Commercial activities - Schedule 3	552,873	99,288	410,389	57,380	142,484	41,908
Debt forgiveness (Note 8)	-	-	-	10,651	-	(10,651)
Administration - Schedule 2	3,003	600	137,770	101,924	(134,767)	(101,324)
Representative teams - Schedule 6 (Note 5)	403,782	-	506,942	-	(103,160)	-
Rugby central - Schedule 4	330,088	192,476	279,089	301,654	50,999	(109,178)
Human resources	-	-	733,663	510,642	(733,663)	(510,642)
COVID-19 government subsidies - Schedule 5 (Note 7)	1,736	218,689	-	-	1,736	218,689
	<b>2,103,504</b>	<b>1,017,457</b>	<b>2,067,853</b>	<b>982,251</b>	<b>35,651</b>	<b>35,206</b>
<b>Fund balance - beginning of year</b>					<b>359,435</b>	<b>324,229</b>
<b>Fund balance - end of year</b>					<b>395,086</b>	<b>359,435</b>

## 2022/23 REVENUES



## 2022/23 EXPENSES



# 2022/2023 SEASON RESULTS

## 2022 PROVINCIAL REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- U14 BOYS** Fraser Valley Rugby Union East
- U14 GIRLS** Vancouver Island Rugby Union
- U16 BOYS** Vancouver Island Rugby Union
- U16 GIRLS** Fraser Valley Rugby Union West
- U18 BOYS** North Vancouver Island Rugby Union
- U18 GIRLS** Fraser Valley Rugby Union East



## 2022 WESTERN CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

- U16 BOYS** BC Bears U16 Boys Blue
- U16 GIRLS** BC Bears U16 Girls
- U18 BOYS** BC Bears U18 Boys Blue
- U18 GIRLS** BC Bears U18 Girls



## 2022 U19 CANADIAN RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIPS

- U19 MEN** BC Bears U19 Men



## 2022 CANADA SUMMER GAMES

- U18 GIRLS** Team BC



## 2022 RUGBYTOWN 7S

- SHIELD WINNER** BC Bears Selects Men's 7s





# 2022/2023 SEASON RESULTS

## 2022 SARATOGA CUP

**SENIOR WOMEN** Kamloops Rugby Club

**SENIOR MEN** Rocky Mountain Rogues



## 2022 KAMLOOPS 7S

**U14 BOYS** Castaway Wanderers 1

**U14 GIRLS** Comox Valley Rapids Rugby

**U16 BOYS** Castaway Wanderers

**U16 GIRLS** Strathcona Druids RFC

**U18 BOYS** Castaway Wanderers 1

**U18 GIRLS** Abbotsford RFC



## 2022 MCKECHNIE CUP

**1ST PLACE** Pacific Pride

**2ND PLACE** South Vancouver Island Crimson Tide

**3RD PLACE** Vancouver Rugby Union



## 2022 DUNBAR KEG

**1ST PLACE** Vancouver Island Junior Tide

**2ND PLACE** North Vancouver Island Rugby Union

**3RD PLACE** Fraser Valley Rugby Union



## 2022/2023 SEASON RESULTS

### 2022 AGE-GRADE CLUB FINALS

- U14 BOYS ISLAND** Castaway Wanderers
- U14 BOYS MAINLAND** Capilano RFC
- U14 GIRLS ISLAND** Comox Valley Rapids Rugby
- U14 GIRLS MAINLAND** United RFC
- U16 BOYS** Bayside RFC
- U16 GIRLS** Langley RFC
- U18 BOYS** UBCOB Ravens
- U18 GIRLS** Abbotsford RFC



### 2023 SENIOR CLUB FINALS

- MEN'S PREMIER** UBC Thunderbirds
- WOMEN'S PREMIER** Vancouver Thunderbirds
- MEN'S DIVISION 1** UBCOB Ravens
- WOMEN'S DIVISION 1** Meraloma Rugby
- MEN'S DIVISION 2** Kats RFC
- WOMEN'S DIVISION 2** Nanaimo Hornets RFC
- MEN'S DIVISION 3** Comox Valley Kickers



## OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

### GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



### PARTNERS AND SPONSORS







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2015 Main Street  
Vancouver BC, V5T 0J8



@BCRugbyUnion

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