



BC RUGBY

2024 / 2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Land Acknowledgement .....	03
BC Rugby’s Board and Staff .....	04
Message from the President .....	06
Message from the CEO .....	08
About BC Rugby .....	10
Our Structure .....	11
Our Vision and Envisioned Future .....	12
2022-2025 Strategic Pillars .....	13
Our Clubs .....	14
State of Play for Rugby in BC .....	16
Strategic Pillar #1: Protect Wellbeing .....	18
Strategic Pillar #2: Grow the Game .....	20
Strategic Pillar #3: Develop Performance .....	24
Strategic Pillar #4: Strengthen Our Community .....	30
Community Awards .....	32
Strategic Pillar #5: Lead the Organization .....	33
BC Rugby in the Digital Space .....	34
2024/2025 Financials .....	36
2024/2025 Season Results .....	38
Our Partners and Sponsors .....	43

# 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

## 2024/25 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

■ Bob Strachan*	President
■ Tony Payne	Vice President (Finance)
■ Theresa Weeks	Vice President (Governance)
■ Alan Snowden*	Director
■ Andrew Ference*	Director
■ Andy Margolis	Director
■ Jason Penaluna	Director
■ Nadine Heath	Director
■ Nishant Nereyeth	Director
■ Patrick Fullerton	Director

## 2024/25 STAFF

■ David Newson*	Chief Executive Officer
■ John Tait	Technical Director/Interim CEO
■ Noah Pryce-Baff	Manager, Community and Events
■ Aimee Burley	Senior Coordinator, Competitions & Membership
■ Chris Assmus	Officials Development Manager
■ Rob Bartlett	Director of Marketing and Partnerships
■ Aimee Burley	Competitions and Membership Administrator
■ Doug Tate	Coach Education Manager

\*Denotes departing/departed Board/Staff Members



Bob Strachan, President of BC Rugby, presenting the Vancouver Thunderbirds with the Women’s Premier League Trophy at the 2025 Senior Club Finals

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This marks the completion of my second year as President of BC Rugby. It's been an honour to lead this organisation. The past year has been an eventful year with several significant wins both on and off the field. Our Board continues to evolve with improved organisation, focus and practices. Recent additions to the Board and Board Committees have brought improved depth and a variety of individual experience which has allowed us to tackle issues around Finance, Capital Accumulation, Risk Assessment, Governance, Safe Sport. It's allowed us to have better oversight over rugby operations and delivery of the sport to Members. Overall, our Board and Committees continue to evolve to have better vision, planning, and execution and set the stage for sustainability of rugby for years to come.

We've improved practices to ensure we have more collaborative relationships with Members and external stakeholders. The blend of Board Directors' expertise and the ongoing commitment of staff enables us to address how we address our complex oversight responsibilities while pursuing our strategic objectives. It's an ongoing journey to which we have made good progress this year.

We are in the final year of our Strategic Plan for 2022-2025. I am pleased to report that this document continues to provide the roadmap for areas of focus. It provides the Board and staff with the outline of our strategic goals as we deliver on pillars of Protect Well Being, Grow the Game, Develop Performance, Strengthen Our Community and Lead the Organisation. The impact of this work is on both BC Rugby the organisation and on Members and athletes who realize the opportunities and benefits of playing rugby. We've been mindful to integrate the impact of external stakeholders, including Rugby Canada's Strategic Plan and Growth Plan to ensure that we are a relevant and strong partner in the sport and in the community. I appreciate the good work done by our Board Committees in this regard. Each of them has fulfilled their fiduciary duty of care in oversight of policies, practices and foresight. They've made enhancements that will positively impact Board decisions and Member experiences going forward. More importantly, the Board and Committees have been selfless in volunteering considerable time for the betterment of BC Rugby.

In 2025, we faced the difficult but necessary decision to make a leadership change, with David Newson departing as CEO. We thank David for his contributions to the organization during his two years here. John Tait stepped in as Interim CEO, providing strong guidance and continuity through a transitional period. We were pleased to subsequently appoint Matthew Carter as the new CEO of BC Rugby, and we look forward to the vision and leadership he brings as we continue to grow and manage rugby across the province.

I would like to extend the Board's thanks and appreciation to the people who contribute to the success of BC Rugby. Most importantly, thank you to staff for their passion and commitment to BC Rugby. We are grateful to the entire staff team for the extended hours and resources they provide to the Rugby community in delivering the structure and organization for competitions and events. Each of them has supported the Board and Board's committees' strategic initiatives throughout the year. Thank you also to the community of volunteers who play such a large part in administering, coaching, managing and supporting the game. Often these roles are behind the scenes, yet essential to delivering our sport.

My primary message to Member Clubs is to encourage you to continue to work with us to grow the sport in BC. Help us find new pathways to engage age-grade players and offer variations of Rugby that will retain old and attract new Members. Help us find more and better ways to deliver BC representative players as members of our national teams. We need to keep an open mind as to how we can be innovative, welcoming and willing to try different strategies to reach these aspirations. We must work together to continue to improve all aspects of the game from coaching, officiating, training and financial support. We cannot only talk the talk of our core values of Safety, Integrity, Respect and Inclusion for All; we must also embrace them at the core of our game. Collaboration is the pathway to sharing our perspectives and improving the delivery of the sport. We're all in this together.

Sincerely,



**BOB STRACHAN**  
**BC RUGBY PRESIDENT**



## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CEO

I am honoured to connect with you today and express my deepest gratitude for your continued support and trust of our staff and Board of Directors. As the recent Interim CEO of BC Rugby, we remain committed to fostering a Rugby community built on excellence, collaboration, and shared success.

Together, we have navigated exciting challenges and continue to grow the game here in BC. Your support of our competitions and continued engagement inspire us to keep growing and to strive to serve you better. We remain dedicated to providing exceptional value, new opportunities, and a vibrant rugby community where everyone can thrive.

We have seen success in adding to our geographical reach across BC. This season we welcomed Trail RFC as a new Member Club, and we look forward to seeing their impact on the game within the Kootenays region.

This year we have seen growth in many of our core BC Rugby Events, providing more high calibre competitions for BC athletes. The BC Rugby PRCs continue to evolve and provide a higher-quality playing level to those young members on the performance pathway. The Regions will now take a bigger lead in forming their best representative sides, selected internally from the new Provincial Regional Leagues system, to then bring their strongest representative teams to compete at a best-on-best Provincial Regional Championships. This new format will still offer development to a wider group of athletes while working towards select sides that will help BC form the strongest provincial representative teams.

The Kamloops 7s tournament has grown to one of the largest youth Rugby 7s events in North America, and largest in Canada, now attracting over 120 teams from across the country and beyond. The event continues to provide our BC Clubs an opportunity for their players to try 7-side rugby, experience touring, and build their numbers towards the 15-side season that follows it. Many of our BC Bears pathway athletes benefitted from the Kamloops 7s as an identifier and developer for their selection to BC Bears U18 Programming, which successfully competed at the 2024 Global Youth Games in Auckland, New Zealand, last December.

In 2025, BC Rugby once again hosted the Vancouver Sevens Invitational alongside the HSBC SVNS Vancouver week, allowing a regional event for junior 7s players that also allowed athletes to soak in the full HSBC SVNS experience.

In addition, BC successfully hosted the WXV 1 Championship in Vancouver and Langley, pairing it with several Try-Rugby and Girls Can Rugby events for maximum exposure to potential new Members. Once again, BC Rugby Age-Grade Finals in Langford and then Senior Club Finals in Abbotsford brought the community together in celebrations of Championship Rugby.

We continue to look for avenues to increase BC Rugby's financial stability, and diversify funding sources, in an ever-challenging environment with cost pressures and uncertain economic times. We are thankful for the many supporters of Rugby in BC that continue to invest in our athletes and programs.

I am grateful to all the many community volunteers that keep our game strong throughout BC, in particular the many that have served on our various committees and of course our dedicated BC Rugby Board of Directors.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. We look forward to continuing this adventure with you and reaching new heights together ahead in 2025-2026.

Warm regards,

*John Tait*

**JOHN TAIT,  
BC RUGBY INTERIM 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.



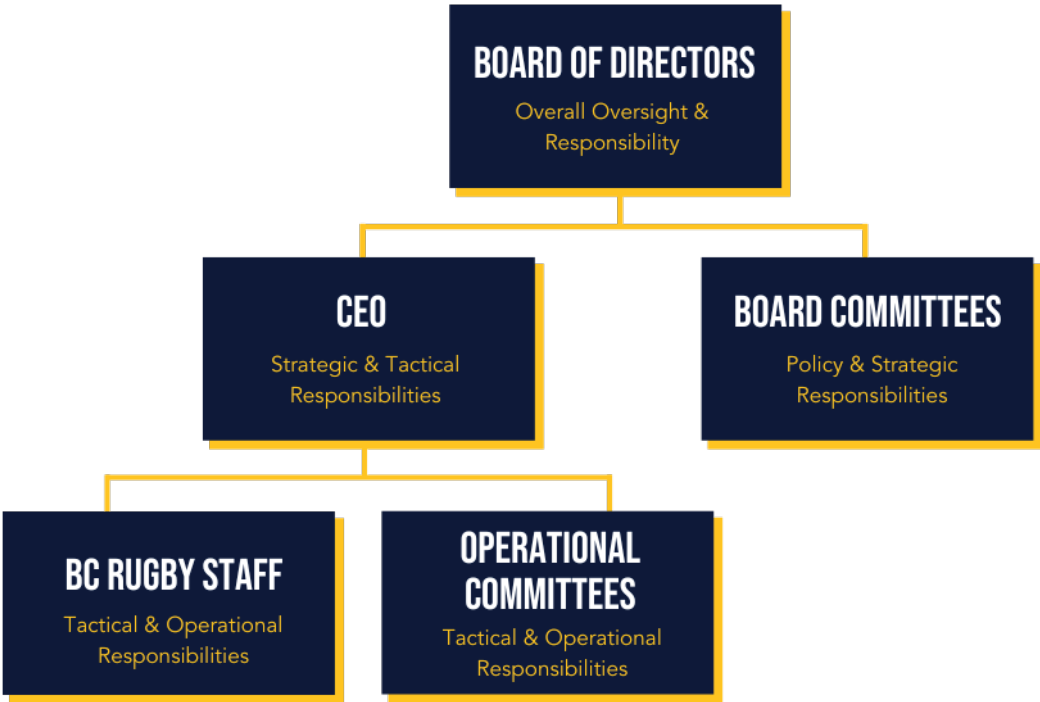
## OUR PURPOSE

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.



Terrace Northmen RFC celebrates winning the 2024 Saratoga Cup with Finalists Rocky Mountain Rogues.

# 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.

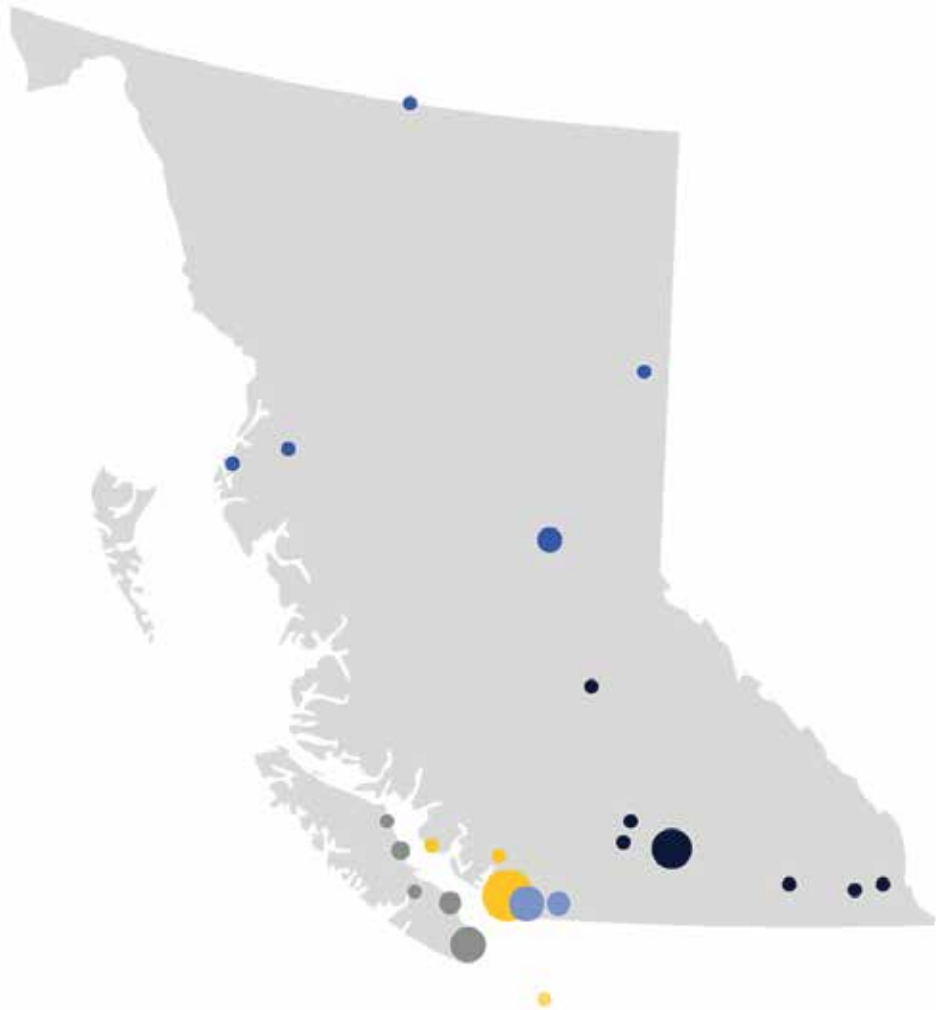
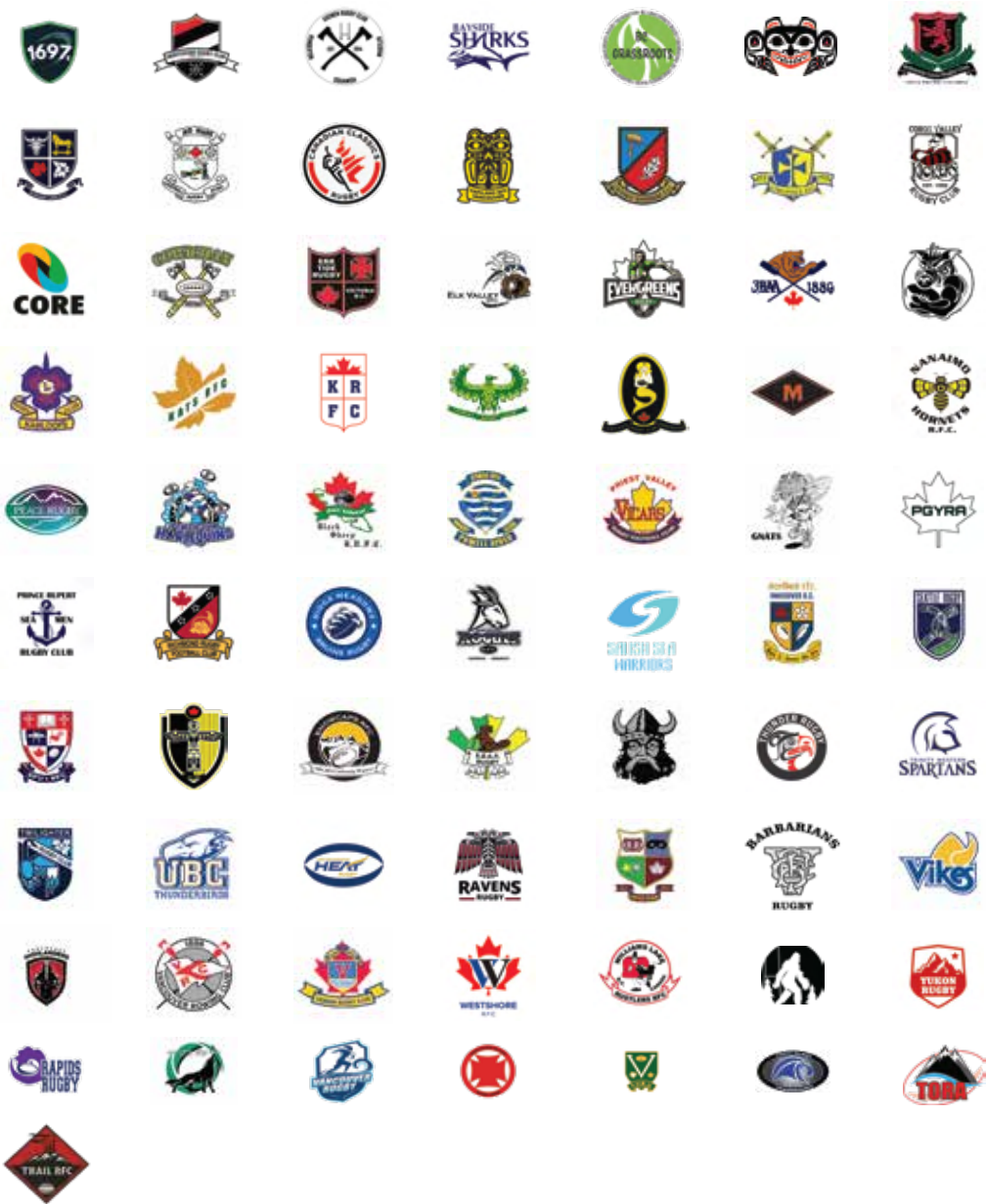
The Plan is built upon five strategic pillars; protect wellbeing; grow the game; develop performance; strengthen the community and lead the Organization.

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	Pillar 2	Pillar 3	Pillar 4	Pillar 5
Participants' physical, mental and emotional wellbeing is safeguarded.	Everyone is welcomed and finds their game, enjoying high quality Rugby experiences.	All aspiring Players, Coaches and Officials are supported towards success on the world stage.	Our diverse community is bolstered, engaged and celebrated.	BC Rugby exemplifies organizational excellence in policies, practices and people.

# OUR CLUBS



14

Clubs in the Interior Region

7

Clubs in the Northern Region

13

Clubs in the Fraser Valley Region

15

Clubs in the Vancouver Island Region

15

Clubs in the Vancouver Coastal Region

1

Club in Washington, USA



# STATE OF PLAY FOR RUGBY IN BC

9,849

Total Registrations in the  
2024/25 Season

31%

of Total Registrations  
were Female

361

Members Registered  
as a Coach

147

Members Registered  
as a Match Official

51

Members Registered as  
an Athletic Therapist



1 : 24 RATIO

of Coaches to Players in BC



MINIS MEMBERS

1,368 Male  
Members  
473 Female  
Members

AGE-GRADE MEMBERS

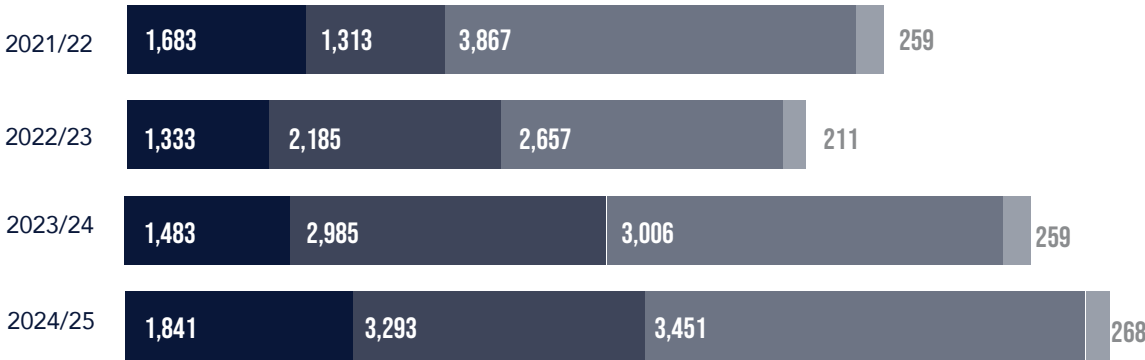
2,122 Male  
Members  
1,171 Female  
Members

SENIOR MEMBERS

2,446 Male  
Members  
1,005 Female  
Members

MASTERS MEMBERS

259 Male  
Members  
9 Female  
Members



Minis Members    Age-Grade Members    Senior Members    Masters Members

# STRATEGIC PILLAR #1: PROTECT WELLBEING

## ENSURING THE SAFETY OF BC RUGBY MEMBERS

BC Rugby's number one priority remains protecting our Members' physical and emotional wellbeing.

The 2024/25 Strategic Year saw BC Rugby continue to work with partners such as viaSport to ensure the safety of Rugby programming delivery throughout BC, and improve the safety of our Members. This included the promotion of several NCCP Coaching Courses, Diversity/Inclusion courses through I-SPARC and more. These courses are actively displayed on the BC Rugby website, with links to registration.

In July 2024, BC Rugby circulated the latest World Rugby Law Changes that would come into effect for competition this calendar year via its communication channels. These changes were also referenced in pre-season and pre-tournament calls with Coaches and Officials ahead of the new season.

In August 2024, we continued our partnership with SHRed to participate in vital concussion research within the junior game. Over 400 junior athletes and Coaches from Bayside Sharks RFC, Abbotsford RFC and United Rugby participated in the study, which focused primarily on gathering information from high-school athletes (age 13-17) to improve the ways in which concussions among young athletes can be better prevented, recognized, managed and treated.

In September 2024, we promoted BC Concussion Awareness week and Rowan's Law Day to further raise awareness about the impact of concussion on our sport. This work helped highlight vital resources available to the BC Rugby community to better recognise the signs and symptoms of concussion. These resources include things like the BC Rugby app, which has its own section dedicated to Player Safety and consolidates what to look out for when it comes to concussion. This also provides all BC Rugby Members a simple tool they can use on their smartphones at the side of the field.

## IMPROVING COACHING AND OFFICIATING OPPORTUNITIES

This year, Coach Education Manager, Doug Tate, and BC Rugby Technical Director, John Tait, have worked to grow the Coach Educator Pool with more active and available course deliverers. So far throughout 2025, six World Rugby Coaching Courses - from Rookie Rugby to World Rugby Level 2 - have been held in BC and have attracted 67 participants.

Throughout 2024, there were several development opportunities hosted alongside international events including the Women+ Coaching Course and Women in the Game Development Series as part of the WXV 1 tournament, and an Inclusive Coaching Session hosted by I-SPARC. In November 2024, two Coaching Clinics, hosted by Daniel Milton, were held at UBC and UVIC focusing on skills development and off-field preparation. Special mention must go to 2024 Gerald McGavin Coaching Award Recipients, Jonathan Mergui and Darcy Patterson, who spent time at a Crusaders Rugby Program.

The 2024/25 year saw 140 Registered Match Officials (70 Lower Mainland, 50 Vancouver Island, 4 Kootenays, 16 Thompson Okanagan) with BC Rugby, down from 159 Registered Match Officials the previous year. Unfortunately, there were 31 documented cases of Match Official abuse in 2024/25, up from nine cases in 2023/24. This saw BC Rugby publish a statement on its website, via email and across its social media channels reminding its Members to be respectful to all Match Officials and that it holds a zero-tolerance policy for abuse.

BC Rugby successfully appointed a fully certified Official to all Age-Grade and Senior Contact matches throughout the 2024 Northern and Interior Season and 2024/25 Lower Mainland Seasons, and will continue to do so moving forward. A total of 1,135 matches took place in sanctioned Senior and Age-Grade competitions, 100% of which were officiated by a registered Match Official. 26% of those matches had an appointed team of three registered Match Officials, including all Matches at the 2024 Saratoga Cup, 2024 Age-Grade Club Finals and 2025 Senior Club Finals.

The 2024/25 Strategic Year garnered 11 Level 1 Introduction to Match Officiating courses delivered throughout the province.



A team of Officials pose for a photo ahead of the 2025 BC Rugby Senior Club Finals in Abbotsford.

141 Participants took part in the Level 1 Courses with 35 (25%) having registered and been appointed to Matches in 2024/25, seeing a rise from 18% of participants the previous year. Additionally, there were three Academy-based courses delivered with D.W. Poppy, WJ Mouat and the Pacific Pride National Academy side.

This year also saw BC Rugby further Coach and Official education through structured feedback and pre-event calls. A total of 1,825 video clips were interacted with by users on the BC Rugby Coach-Logic video review platform; this platform is important in not only reviewing and educating officials, but also for Coaches in BC Rugby's Senior and Age-Grade competitions such as the Men's Premier League and Women's Premier League. Furthermore, there were 115 in-person Coaching and Mentorship sessions with BC Rugby-registered Match Officials within the community, and 20 online or in-person ongoing development sessions delivered throughout the year which averaged over 30 participants.

Under the stewardship of BC Rugby Officials Education Manager, Chris Assmus, there were three multi-day, in-person camps structured around key junior events at the 2024 Kamloops 7s, 2024 Age-Grade Finals and 2025 Vancouver Sevens Invitational. Two Level 2 Developing Match Officials Courses were delivered in 2024/25, which involved a collective total of 24 participants. One Coach of Match Officials (CMO) course was delivered to 12 participants.

Throughout the year, 18 BC Rugby Officials were involved at the HSBC SVNS Vancouver as Referees, Assistant Referees, Technical Zone Managers, Citing Commissioners and Judicial Officers. Eight BC Rugby Officials have been involved in Major League Rugby, five BC Rugby Officials have been consistently involve in World Rugby XV's Test Matches – including the WXV1, WXV2, WXV3 and Women's Six Nations – and two BC Rugby Officials have been actively involved in the World Rugby Sevens Series as appointed Match Officials. Moving forward, the target for 2025/26 is for two additional BC Rugby Officials to be involved in national or international competitions.

## STRATEGIC PILLAR #2: GROW THE GAME

### GROWTH CONTINUES ACROSS BC RUGBY EVENTS

The 2024/25 Strategic Year has been another promising year for BC Rugby across its general Membership and core events, with promising figures across our youth Membership and event attendance.



*Meraloma RFC celebrates winning the 2024/25 BC Rugby Women's Division 1 Championship in Abbotsford.*

Overall, this has been a positive year of growth for BC Rugby Membership with a total of 9,849 Registrations (compared to 8,024 Total Registrations in 2023/24). Mini Rugby Membership (25%) has seen a significant rise, while Senior Rugby (15%), Age-Grade Rugby (10%) and Masters Rugby (3%) have also seen increased Registration figures. The number of Registered Coaches increased from 357 in 2023/24 to 361 in 2024/25, while the number of Registered Match Officials decreased from 153 (2023/24) to 147 in 2024/25.

This year we have also welcomed a new Member Club in Trail RFC, based in the Kootenays. Trail RFC aims to develop Rugby in the West Kootenays, with focus on promoting the game of Rugby to men, women, and youth to help build community in Trail and surrounding areas.

This is the latest success for BC's Northern and Interior Leagues, which have seen remarkable growth over the past four years and continue to expand programming in some of BC's most remote areas.

Our Provincial Representative Teams returned to action in the summer of 2024, which saw success for our BC Bears U16-U18 Provincial Representative teams, as well as vital experience for our U19 Men's and Women's Programs – this is detailed further in the Develop Performance section.



Senior Rugby continued to improve in BC throughout 2024/25. For our Northern and Interior Clubs, the summer season kicked off in May and culminated at the 2024 Saratoga Cup in Terrace. Host Club, Terrace Northmen RFC, secured a historic double as they lifted both the Men's and Women's Championships. The event marked the biggest Saratoga Cup event BC Rugby has hosted, with around 600 spectators watching the action throughout the weekend. Four Clubs attended and competed in both Men's and Women's competitions – including debutants Prince Rupert Seamen and the Penticton Harlequins. Thanks to funding from Canadian Tire Jumpstart, we also hosted a Try Rugby Session for 25 young athletes during the event.

In the Lower Mainland, our Senior Men's and Women's Club Teams contested another full Fall-Spring season which kicked off with regional pre-season play and the Coastal Cup for Men's University Programs. The Dunbar Keg returned, this time for Regional U19 Programs, with the Vancouver Island Tide defeating the Fraser Valley Rugby Union 23-15 in the Final at Langley Rugby Club. The 2024/25 Senior Club Season comprised of seven divisions, ranging from high-performance to development leagues. The 2025 BC Rugby Senior Club Finals were held in Abbotsford, where seven champions were crowned in front of 2,000 spectators. All Finals were livestreamed by BC Rugby, with the event attracting positive feedback and new sponsorship from Nude Beverages and Guardteck Security.

## RECORD KAMLOOPS 7S IN BUSY AGE-GRADE SEASON

The 2024 Fall Age-Grade Club Season brought another successful campaign of junior Rugby in both 7s and XVs formats. Taking place in September, the 2024 Kamloops 7s attracted a record 121 teams competing across 10 Divisions in the U14, U16 and U18 age brackets. Over 1500 athletes attended the event, which comprised a total of 307 matches across 10 fields – our largest ever event on record. The 2024 Kamloops 7s also featured Elite Divisions in the U18 Boys and Girls categories, used as selection tools for the BC Bears 7s Programs that would compete at the 2024 Global Youth Sevens.

The Fall Season produced a busy Club season, with the return of U14-U18 Regional Finals for Mainland and Island Divisions. This led to the 2024 Age-Grade Club Crossover Finals, for U16 and U18 Boys and Girls, and pitted Island Champions against Mainland Champions at Langford's Starlight Stadium. Comox Valley Rapids Rugby won both U16 and U18 Girls Finals, marking the Club's first silverware since its inception. Abbotsford were crowned U16 Boys Champions, while Castaway Wanderers lifted the U18 Boys Championship.

Fall 2024 also saw the return of Mini Rugby, which was hosted on a regional level this year. Mini Rugby Programs took place on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, while we also saw further growth within Mini Rugby at our Northern and Interior Clubs - namely Elk Valley, Penticton Harlequins and Yeti Rugby Club in Salmon Arm.

Moving into 2025, the Vancouver Sevens Invitational (VSI) returned in the week ahead of the 2024 HSBC SVNS Vancouver. Taking place at UBC, the event saw 500 athletes and 35 Teams compete for top honours across U16-U18 Boys and Girls Divisions. Regional teams contested the U16 Boys, U16 Girls and U18 Boys Divisions while provincial representative sides were invited to contest the U18 Girls Division in preparation for the 2025 Canada Summer Games taking place later that year.

The return of the HSBC SVNS Vancouver in February 2025 saw Rugby take centre stage in BC again. BC Rugby staff worked alongside Rugby Canada Community staff to provide Rugby opportunities to over 8,000 fans and athletes throughout another intense week! There were several Rugby activations at local schools and Clubs, including the Rookie Rugby Day at BC Place that saw over 300 children from Vancouver schools introduced to our sport. Vancouver Rowing Club hosted a Family Day Try Rugby Event that saw over 100 kids participate and be exposed to Rugby for the first time. Justice Rugby partnered with the Great Britain Women's 7s Program to deliver introductory programming at Queen Elizabeth School. Meanwhile, BC Rugby and BC Cancer Foundation teamed up to raise a massive \$255,285 in the annual 5050 Draw, with proceeds going towards making Rugby more accessible in BC and supporting critical cancer research and care within BC.



*Comox Valley Rapids Rugby celebrated its first Championship wins at the 2024 Age-Grade Club Crossover Finals.*

## STRATEGIC PILLAR #3: DEVELOP PERFORMANCE

### BEARS COME OUT OF HIBERNATION

Under the leadership of BC Rugby Technical Director John Tait, the 2024/25 Strategic Year yielded another busy year for our BC Bears Provincial Representative Programs. The Representative season kicked off with the BC Bears Program Coach appointments early in 2024. Greg Clague, Dan Haynes and Noah Pryce-Baff led the U19 Boys, with Julia Sugawara, Matt Fraser and Michelle Veerman coaching the U19 Girls. Jonathan Mergui and Remi Ancil led the BC Bears U18 Boys, while Leana Marten and Rob Hayes were appointed U16 Boys Coaches. Scott McGinley assisted both programs as Assistant Coach. Jake Thiel and Jen Ross took charge of the U18 Girls, while Sherry Spence and Alejandro Chavez were named U16 Girls Coaches.

Each Program held numerous Talent & ID Sessions throughout the province, with sessions also utilized to develop Club and School Coaches in each region and promote the PRCs pathway.

The 2024 Provincial Regional Championships took place at UBC's Gerald McGavin Centre, and saw 600 male and female athletes represent seven regions throughout the province at U14, U16 and U18 levels. From 2025 onwards, the PRCs format will change, with a return to best-on-best competition between four regions (Vancouver Island, Vancouver, TORA/Northern BC/Kootenays and the Fraser Valley). Each region will contest a four-week Provincial Regional League (PRL) bespoke to their area, before selecting a team for the new-look PRCs grand final across U15, U17 and U19 Boys and Girls Divisions. The new format not only provides more Rugby opportunities for junior athletes, but will increase the quality of competition at PRCs and solidify both pathway and selection opportunities to the BC Bears.

The 2024 PRCs concluded with BC Bears Coaches in attendance to finalise their respective squad selections. Rugby Canada U20 Programming also took place in the spring and summer, which meant conflict for our U19 Programs ahead of the 2024 U19 Canadian Rugby Championships (CRCs). Ten female athletes eligible for the BC Bears U19 CRCs squad missed out due to conflicting programming, meaning younger and lesser experienced players were called up to replace unavailable athletes. There was also an unfortunate turn for the U16 and U18 Girls Programs; originally slated to face the Eagle Impact Rugby Academy across two Tests, their opponents withdrew late and left us with no viable opponents. Other options fell through due to cost and inability to select teams; with that in mind, we strategically pivoted to a Top 40 Development Camp at UBC for U18 Girls, which also included two Blue vs. Gold Games.



*The BC Bears U18 Boys Team enjoyed two Test victories over the Eagle Impact Rugby Academy during the 2024 Provincial Representative Season.*

With the BC Summer Games competition for U17 Girls also taking place during the same period, it was determined that no U16 Girls programming would go ahead with limited time and access to athletes. The U16 Girls Coaches joined the U18 Girls Coaches for the Camp, which also included guest sessions from Jacob Bossi (Vancouver Highlanders/UBCOB Ravens) and Chelsea Ross (Canada West U18 Head Coach). The Camp concluded with one win apiece for the Blue and Gold Teams.

The BC Bears U16 Boys Program concluded its summer with two narrow Test wins over the Eagle Impact Rugby Academy, while the BC Bears U18 Boys program enjoyed two clinical wins over their Eagle Impact opponents.

The second games against the Impact took place as curtain raisers to the Vancouver Highlanders game against the German National side, with a crowd of around 400 turning up to watch the Bears.



A U18 Boys Development side travelled south to face the Pacific Northwest Loggers in August, losing out to Washington in a close game. Our U18 Bears were missing several athletes due to U19 CRCs and Canada West U18 Camps, but this was a real learning experience for the athletes on show.

Meanwhile, the BC Bears U19 Programs competed at the 2024 CRCs in Nova Scotia. The U19 Boys team finished second in Nova Scotia after a gruelling eight-day tournament that provided three wins and one defeat, narrowly losing out to Rugby Ontario in the final showdown. The U19 Girls Program finished fourth, with three defeats and one draw. A last-play try from Rugby Quebec's and Canada's U20 captain denied the Bears victory in their final match.

It was also a busy year for representative Rugby 7s Programs. The 2024 BC Summer Games, held at Maple Ridge, saw seven out of eight BC Regions compete in the U17 Girls Rugby 7s tournament. Fraser Valley (Zone 3) won gold with Vancouver Coastal (Zone 5) and Fraser River (Zone 4) taking silver and bronze respectively. Alongside the 2024 VSI and 2024 Kamloops 7s, the BC Summer Games was used as a selection tool for the 2024 BC Bears U18 Boys and Girls 7s Programs competing at the 2024 Global Youth Sevens in Auckland, New Zealand. Both squads enjoyed a fantastic experience, with the Boys finishing 19th and Girls earning a 17th-place finish. Darcy Patterson led the Girls 7s Program, with John Tait coaching the Boys.

On the Senior side, the BC Senior Women's Blue vs Gold Series returned. Working collaboratively with Rugby Canada's Senior Women's Programming, the three-match Series saw the Island Blues, coached by Brittany Waters, face the Mainland Golds, led by Dean Murten. With the Series tied at one win apiece, the Island Blues secured a tight victory in a thrilling deciding game.



Canada's National Women's 7s Program won silver medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

## OLYMPICS SUCCESS AND BC REPRESENTATION

Another bust year for the National Program's saw a host of success and BC representation in the Maple Leaf jersey.

At youth level, many of BC's top athletes were included in Rugby Canada U18 East and West Camps, as well as the U20 squad – which had an impact on BC Bears U19 Programming at the Canadian Championships.

The Senior Women's Sevens Program won the silver medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics, going one better than the bronze medal finish at Rio 2016. Two BC athletes – Caroline Crossley and Florence Symonds – competed in Paris, in what was a phenomenal achievement that rallied Canada's Rugby community.

Under departing Head Coach Jack Hanratty, the team scored impressive victories against France and Australia in the quarter-finals and semi-finals respectively, before ultimately falling 19-12 to New Zealand's Black Ferns in the gold medal game.



Canada's Men's XVs Program held a session with Cowichan RFC & Nanaimo Hornets RFC ahead of their Test against Japan.



In the Fall of 2024, Rugby Canada's Senior Men's XV's team hosted the Japan national side as part of the Pacific Nations Cup. Seven BC-based athletes were named in the initial squad, while the Men's team also spent time with Cowichan RFC and Nanaimo Hornets RFC juniors after their Shawnigan Lake training camp. The Program finished the year with defeats to Chile and Romania.

Japan Head Coach, Eddie Jones, and his Assistant Coach, Neal Hatley, also spent time in the BC Rugby community as they hosted a training session at Burnaby Lake RFC – safe to say the junior and senior athletes were put through their paces!

Fall 2024 saw the Rugby Canada Senior Women's XV's Program host World Rugby's WXV 1 at BC Place and Langley Events Centre, featuring the top six teams in the world. This three-weekend tournament brought several community events alongside it, while three BC athletes – Carolin Crossley, Rori Wood and Shoshanah Seumanutafa – were named in Kevin Rouet's squad.

Canada were eventually pipped to the Championship by England, a fully professional program, but impressed on home soil in front of strong crowds. The tournament also helped expose the next generation of Club and School talent to the world's best Women's Rugby athletes, with community activations involving athletes from the Black Ferns, Ireland, England, France, Canada and the USA.

In January 2025, Rugby Canada's U20 Women's Program hosted Talent and Identification sessions in BC which led to 10 BC-based athletes being selected by Head Coach Dean Murten for the May-June Tour of Ireland.

## UNIVERSITY SUCCESS ON A NATIONAL SCALE

BC's University Programs enjoyed another successful year competing for National Championships. In the Canada West XV's, the UBC Thunderbirds made it a five-peat of Championship wins after defeating silver medallists UVIC Vikes in the Final. The Thunderbirds went on to claim its first-ever U SPORTS Women's Rugby Championship Banner, defeating the Vikes 8-3 in a tense final. Vikes finished second for the second successive year.

In the Canadian University Men's Rugby Championship, UBC Thunderbirds claimed bronze in Ottawa with the UVIC Vikes finishing fifth and the UBC Okanagan Heat claiming sixth in its maiden CUMRC appearance.

In February 2025, the Canada West 7s garnered a BC 1-2-3 as UBC Thunderbirds were crowned champions for the third-straight year. Vikes took the silver, with TWU Spartans taking bronze for the Program's first ever medal.



UBC Thunderbirds won its first ever U Sports Women's Rugby Championship Banner in 2024.

## STRATEGIC PILLAR #4: STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY

### CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

The 2024/25 Strategic Year saw us continue to improve representation within our community and gather more Member feedback to help us improve going forward. A continuation of our annual Member Satisfaction Surveys at the end of our respective Senior and Junior seasons has seen us implement several key changes in competition, and provide feedback to present to our operational committees.

It has been a busy year within our community. A real positive aspect is how active BC Rugby Clubs are becoming on social media, and the quality of content they are releasing – a real testament to the work going on behind the scenes at these Clubs.

We are always aiming to improve our relations with other non-profits in our community, so it was exciting to partner with the ALS Society of BC for the 2024 PRCs. As part of the campaign, we ran a “Crazy Socks for ALS” day on the Saturday, encouraging athletes, staff, officials, volunteers and fans to wear their craziest socks to help raise awareness and funds! The community raised \$2,000 for the charity, with funds going towards purchasing a new Travel Buggy Power Chair for ALS BC’s Equipment Loan Program.



*The 2024 Kamloops 7s event officially started with a traditional welcome song and prayer from Hank Gott, Tk’emlúps te Secwepemc Elder.*

In July 2024, ahead of our BC Bears U19 campaigns, we launched an official kit release with our new partners O’Neills and our BC Bears athletes. The photoshoot was one of the highest performing pieces of social media content all year.

At the 2024 Kamloops 7s, we kicked off proceedings with a traditional welcome song and prayer from Hank Gott, Tk’emlúps te Secwepemc Elder.

In October 2024, we hosted the 2024 BC Rugby Hall of Fame Gala Dinner in Vancouver. Over 220 people attended the Gala Dinner to celebrate the induction of Chris Tynan, George Puil, Eddie Evans, Gary Fumano, Ian Hyde-Lay, Rod Holloway and William Turpin, and catch up with old friends and foes! Thanks to Connie McGinley and the Meraloma Rugby Club for their support and sponsorship of the Gala Dinner.

Alongside the regular community events that surround the HSBC SVNS and Rugby Canada matches, we were delighted to relaunch the Girls Can Rugby campaign for the WXV 1 in October 2024. This included activations with Canada, the Black Ferns, Ireland, England, France and the USA. The Black Ferns coached a non-contact session at Richmond RFC, including a fun Q&A afterwards, that saw 25 female participants attend. Furthermore, we ran sessions at Meraloma Rugby Club and Langley Events Centre (featuring athletes from Langley, Abbotsford and Aurora Wolves), with the latter including a guest session by Canada Women’s 7s silver-medal winning Head Coach Jack Hanratty. We also teamed up with O’Neills to launch a Girls Can Rugby Design a Jersey competition, with the two winning entries (from 13 total) inspiring the 2025 Training Wear for BC Bears. Another initiative saw a local student-led non-profit, the StrongHer Society, raise \$1,500 for the Girls Can Rugby Campaign with donut sales – this will be used to purchase new Let’s Play Rugby kits for future campaigns!

It was a busy year for BC’s Indigenous Rugby Club, Thunder Rugby, who hosted a series of camps throughout the province. Thunder also took on the Pacific Northwest Loggers in Washington, which saw them attend a Seattle Seawolves game. The Vancouver Rogues, BC’s only gay and inclusive Rugby team, competed at the 2024 Rucktacular event in San Francisco, as well as taking part in the Vancouver Pride March and the Annual Polar Bear Dip!

Seven BC Rugby Clubs received Community Rugby Club Funding in 2024: Aurora Wolves Rugby Union, Axemen Rugby Club, Elk Valley Rugby Club, James Bay AA, Langley Rugby Club, Thunder Rugby and Williams Lake RFC all received funding for community initiatives. Langley Rugby Club’s Leah Corvec was also a 2024 Rugby Canada Women in Leadership Fund recipient.

In 2024/25, both the UBCOB Ravens and Powell River Otago RFC celebrated their 50th Anniversary Years - congratulations to both Clubs on this historic achievement!



# COMMUNITY AWARDS

## REMEMBERING THOSE WE LOST IN 2024

Please take a moment to remember Gary "Gus" Fumano, Steve Baron and Brent Johnston - three big personalities that the BC Rugby community lost this past year. Their influence on Rugby in BC will not be forgotten. Fumano was inducted into the BC Rugby Hall of Fame, while Baron's son and grandson, Sean and Braydon, presented the Men's Division 1 Trophy to Burnaby Lake RFC at Senior Club Finals.

## 2024 WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP FUND

### LEAH CORVEC, LANGLEY RUGBY CLUB

Leah Corvec, Executive Secretary and Administrator of Langley Rugby Club, was named as one of six recipients of the 2024 Women in Leadership Fund by Rugby Canada. In the fourth year of the program, the 2024 edition awarded six recipients from Rugby club executive committees and provincial boards across the country funding of up to \$2000 to pursue development opportunities that will enhance their ability to lead from within our sport. It is the goal of the program to provide a strong and diverse leadership base in Canada.



## 2024 BC RUGBY HALL OF FAME

### INDUCTEES & AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Rod Holloway (Builder)
- Ian Hyde-Lay (Builder)
- William Turpin (Builder)
- Gary Fumano (Builder)
- George Puil (Player)
- Chris Tynan (Player)
- Eddie Evans (Player)



2024 Joan Spray Award Recipient - Sherry Spence

# STRATEGIC PILLAR #5: LEAD THE ORGANIZATION

## GETTING IT RIGHT WITH GOVERNANCE

2024/25 has been a year of change in BC Rugby Leadership throughout the organization.

BC Rugby President, Bob Strachan, was voted in for a second term with Theresa Weeks appointed Vice President (Governance) and Tony Payne as Vice President (Finance). BC Rugby welcomed new additions to its Board of Directors in Andrew Margolis, Jason Penaluna, Nishant Nereyeth, Nadine Heath and Patrick Fullerton. Each of these additions possess their own unique skillsets (from business operations to HR) and Rugby experience, and will play a vital role in leading the organization.

In 2024, we said farewell to Board of Director Members Connie McGinley, Marvin Foss, Denis Jones, Brennan Bastovanszky and Matt Gordon. Special mention must go to Marvin Foss and Connie McGinley, who have served BC Rugby and its Community for well over 50 years combined. The Rugby Canada AGM, attended by BC Rugby Interim CEO John Tait and BC Rugby President Bob Strachan, took place in Halifax and delivered towards building grassroots capacity within our Provincial Unions.

In January 2025, the BC Rugby Board of Directors announced the mutual agreement to part ways with David Newson as the organization's Chief Executive Officer. BC Rugby is grateful to David for his commitment and good work since his appointment as Chief Executive Officer in July 2022, and wishes him well in his future endeavours.

The Board of Directors believed that this change was necessary to ensure we deliver on our strategic objectives moving forward and provide sustainability for the years ahead as we continue to grow, develop, and manage the sport of Rugby in BC.

Following a comprehensive recruitment process, the BC Rugby Board of Directors announced in May 2025 that Matthew Carter had been appointed as the organization's new Chief Executive Officer. In terms of Partnerships, BC Rugby announced in January a new, multi-year partnership extension with Gilbert Rugby Canada as our Official Ball and Equipment supplier. The extension continues the long-standing relationship between Gilbert Rugby Canada and BC Rugby as we continue our mission to grow and develop the game of Rugby union in British Columbia.



# BC RUGBY IN THE DIGITAL SPACE

BC Rugby social media statistics across platforms in the 2024/25 Year (Hootsuite):

	POST ENGAGMENT	POST IMPRESSIONS	TOTAL FOLLOWERS
INSTAGRAM	109,503	3.22m	11,500
FACEBOOK	96,231	1.01m	8,202
TWITTER	2,977	71,401	5,440
LINKEDIN	4,120	38,104	611
YOUTUBE	1,853	51,351 views	1,910









↑ 18%

increase of followers  
across platforms compared  
to 2023/24 metrics

↑ 220%

increase of average post  
impressions compared to  
2023/24 metrics

Key metrics from BC Rugby Social Media Accounts (June 21, 2024 - June 14, 2025):

 Posts	 Post reach	 Page & profile reach	 Post impressions
4,136 posts	4,860,426 users	2,268,530 users	4,312,633 impressions
 Followers	 Post impressions	 Page & profile impressions	 Average post engageme...
27,661 followers	4,312,633 impressions	5,296,757 impressions	7.48% engagement rate

Key BC Rugby Website statistics from the 2024/25 fiscal year (Google Analytics):

147,322

Website visitors

504,612

Page views

1:57

Average Session (Mins)

# 2024/25 FINANCIALS

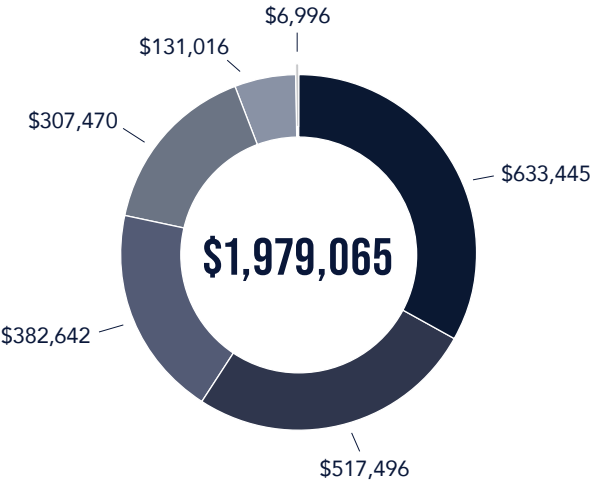
\*Excerpts from the 2024/25 BC Rugby Audited Financial Statements

BRITISH COLUMBIA RUGBY UNION						
Statement of Financial Position						
31 March 2025						
	Operating Fund		Tour Legacy Fund		Total	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>						
<b>Current</b>						
Cash	276,283	326,326	41,161	91,660	317,444	417,986
Accounts receivable	59,604	72,567	-	-	59,604	72,567
Prepaid expenses	75,780	75,679	-	-	75,780	75,679
	411,667	474,572	41,161	91,660	452,828	566,232
<b>Liabilities</b>						
<b>Current</b>						
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	102,189	62,078	-	-	102,189	62,078
Deferred revenue (Note 3)	5,098	82,100	-	-	5,098	82,100
Refundable deposits	8,400	7,800	-	-	8,400	7,800
	115,687	151,978	-	-	115,687	151,978
<b>Commitments (Note 5)</b>						
<b>Fund Balances</b>						
Internally restricted	-	-	41,161	91,660	41,161	91,660
Unrestricted	295,980	322,594	-	-	295,980	322,594
	295,980	322,594	41,161	91,660	337,141	414,254
	411,667	474,572	41,161	91,660	452,828	566,232

BRITISH COLUMBIA RUGBY UNION						
Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances						
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025						
	Revenues		Expenses		(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses for the year	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
					(Note 9)	(Note 9)
<b>Operating Fund</b>						
Government grants	517,496	366,884	-	-	517,496	366,884
Dues - Schedule 1	131,016	156,070	-	-	131,016	156,070
Commercial activities - Schedule 3	633,445	721,027	571,230	467,674	62,215	253,353
Administration - Schedule 2	6,996	8,037	141,362	119,592	(134,366)	(111,555)
Representative teams - Schedule 5	307,470	299,930	345,987	386,494	(38,517)	(86,564)
Rugby central - Schedule 4	382,642	352,884	225,186	229,377	157,456	123,507
Human resources	-	-	774,102	774,187	(774,102)	(774,187)
	1,979,065	1,904,832	2,057,867	1,977,324	(78,802)	(72,492)
<b>Fund balance - beginning of year</b>					322,594	395,086
<b>Interfund transfer (Note 2(a)(ii))</b>					52,188	-
<b>Fund balance - end of year</b>					295,980	322,594
<b>Tour Legacy Fund</b>						
Administration	1,689	2,415	-	-	1,689	2,415
<b>Fund balance - beginning of year</b>					91,660	89,245
<b>Interfund transfer (Note 2(a)(iii))</b>					(52,188)	-
<b>Fund balance - end of year</b>					41,161	91,660
<b>Fund Balance Totals</b>						
<b>Deficiency of revenues over expenses for the year</b>					(77,113)	(70,077)
<b>Fund balance - beginning of year</b>					414,254	484,331
<b>Fund balance - end of year</b>					337,141	414,254

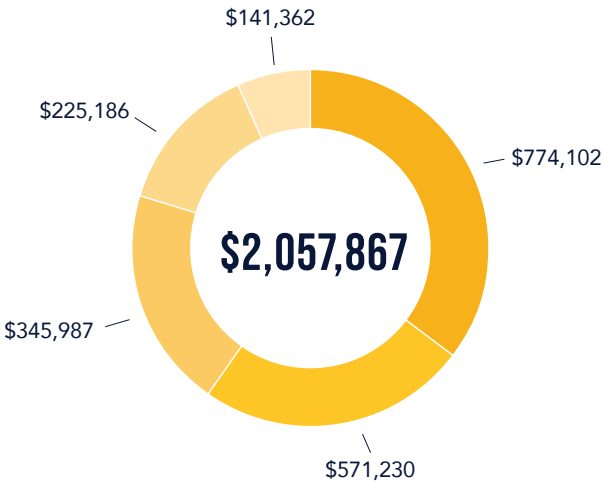
# 2024/25 REVENUES

- Commercial Activities
- Government Grants
- Rugby Central
- Representative Teams
- Dues
- Administration



# 2024/25 EXPENSES

- Human Resources
- Commercial Activities
- Representative Teams
- Rugby Central
- Administration



# 2024/2025 SEASON RESULTS

## 2024 PROVINCIAL REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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



## 2024 BC BEARS AGE-GRADE RESULTS

- U16 BOYS** 2-0 Series win over Eagle Impact
- U16 GIRLS** No Programming
- U18 BOYS** 2-0 Series win over Eagle Impact
- U18 GIRLS** Blue vs. Gold Series - 1 win apiece



## 2024 U19 CANADIAN RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIPS

- U19 MEN** BC Bears U19 Men - 2nd
- U19 WOMEN** BC Bears U19 Women - 4th



## 2024 GLOBAL YOUTH SEVENS

- U18 GIRLS** BC Bears U18 Girls - 17th
- U18 BOYS** BC Bears U18 Boys - 19th



## 2024 SENIOR WOMEN BLUE VS GOLD SERIES

- GAME 1** Island Blues 29-17 Mainland Golds
- GAME 2** Mainland Golds 43-12 Island Blues
- GAME 3** Island Blues 22-20 Mainland Golds





# 2024/2025 SEASON RESULTS

## 2024 SARATOGA CUP

**SENIOR WOMEN** Terrace Northmen RFC

**SENIOR MEN** Terrace Northmen RFC



## 2024 KAMLOOPS 7S

**U14 BOYS** Langley RFC 1

**U14 GIRLS** James Bay AA

**U16 BOYS** Abbotsford RFC/Abbotsford RFC 2

**U16 GIRLS** James Bay AA/Langley RFC

**U18 BOYS** Langley RFC 1/Edmonton Clansmen

**U18 GIRLS** Abbotsford RFC/Edmonton Clansmen



## 2024 DUNBAR KEG

**1ST PLACE** Vancouver Island Tide

**2ND PLACE** Fraser Valley Rugby Union



## 2025 VANCOUVER SEVENS INVITATIONAL

**U16 GIRLS** North Vancouver Island Tsunami

**U16 BOYS** Vancouver Island Tide

**U18 GIRLS** BC Gold

**U18 BOYS** Fraser Valley Rugby Union East



# 2024/2025 SEASON RESULTS

## 2024 AGE-GRADE CLUB FINALS

- U14 BOYS ISLAND** Castaway Wanderers RFC
- U14 BOYS MAINLAND** Langley Rugby Club
- U14 GIRLS ISLAND** James Bay AA
- U14 GIRLS MAINLAND** Abbotsford RFC
- U16 BOYS** Abbotsford RFC
- U16 GIRLS** Comox Valley Rapids Rugby
- U18 BOYS** Castaway Wanderers RFC
- U18 GIRLS** Comox Valley Rapids Rugby



## 2025 SENIOR CLUB FINALS

- MEN'S PREMIER** UBCOB Ravens
- WOMEN'S PREMIER** Vancouver Thunderbirds
- WOMEN'S DIVISION 1** Meraloma Rugby
- MEN'S DIVISION 1** Burnaby Lake RFC
- WOMEN'S DIVISION 2** Comox Valley Kickers RFC
- MEN'S DIVISION 2** Kamloops RFC
- MEN'S DIVISION 3** Langley Rugby Club



# OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

## GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



## PARTNERS AND SPONSORS





---

2015 Main Street  
Vancouver BC, V5T 0J8



@BCRugbyUnion

[bcrugby.com](http://bcrugby.com)