



# 2020 Players' Handbook



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## 1. Welcome to OBU

### Messages from our Patrons & President



**Gregor Fountain**  
Headmaster  
Wellington College  
  
**OBU Patron**

The link between Wellington College and OBU goes back for over a century. During that long history, hundreds of Wellington College students have continued to play rugby for this great club on leaving school. That relationship is stronger than ever and we are very proud of the fact that, in recent seasons, no fewer than ten Old Boys of Wellington College, have been a part of the OBU Premier Team's starting XV. I wish you all the best for your season on field and socially and I also wish OBU every success in the 2019 season and look forward to an ever-strengthening relationship between school and club.



**Grant Guilford**  
Vice Chancellor  
Victoria University  
  
**OBU Patron**

Welcome to a new Rugby season and to. OBU is Victoria University's Rugby Club and is a continuation of a proud heritage spanning over a century. OBU & VUW has produced many notable players, including great All Blacks. VUW is pleased OBU takes full use of the training facility at Boyd-Wilson Field, it has become a great asset to the club and is appreciated by players, especially in the mid-winter months! I hope you take full advantage of what OBU has to offer, both on and off the field in 2019 and wish you every success in your rugby endeavours.



**Mike Copeland – President**

As the President of OBU I would like to welcome new and returning players for the 2020 season. The club has strived hard in recent years to improve our training facilities and we are fortunate to have the services of great coaches and managers across all our training teams. I hope you take advantage of what OBU has to offer to further your rugby careers as well as your personal development. Friendships developed within OBU will last well beyond your playing days. Thank you for choosing OBU and we look forward to the positive contribution you can make both on and off the field to a rugby club that welcomes diversity.

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## 2 Introduction

Welcome to the Old Boys - University Rugby Club.

Welcome to OBU for the 2020 Season. We are sure you will have a great time on and off the field.

This is a guide to help answer some questions you may have. If you are a new player to OBU or a seasoned veteran, there should be something of interest here.

It also spells out the 'Administration' requirements of belonging to OBU and ultimately the NZRU.

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### 3. Club History

In 1991 Wellington College Old Boys Rugby Football Club and the Victoria University Rugby Football Club amalgamated to form the Old Boys University Club. Affectionately referred to as OBU, the club has inherited over 200 years of proud rugby history

OBU strives to be the best club in Wellington. We endeavour to play an exciting and inclusive brand of rugby, born from our Victoria University and Wellington College heritage. While we aim for the best on the field we also regard the “3rd half” as a vital part of learning your trade as a rugby player. Interacting with family, team mates, opposition and club members after the game is actively encouraged and an important way of learning about yourself and how to play the game. We also provide a lot of support such as a progressive ‘career development and job skills’ programme for club members to ensure they get tools to last them a lifetime.

OBU has a rich history of providing representative players at all levels, including over 30 All Blacks from the WCOB and VUW clubs. Since 1991, OBU has added 3 more including All Black great, Conrad Smith.

OBU has also provided many, many representative players at all levels, including 5 Hurricanes during one season, all of whom actively played for OBU most with 50 matches or more.

OBU is part of Wellington Rugby Football Union & recognised by the New Zealand Rugby Union. OBU is also affiliated with the New Zealand Universities Rugby Council, an important link which provides opportunity for affiliated clubs’ players to represent New Zealand Universities. This involves domestic ‘test matches’ as well as international tour opportunities. OBU is the Victoria University’s Rugby Club, so VUW students playing for OBU who achieve distinction will be eligible for VUW Sporting Blues.

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## 4. OBU Colours & Playing Strips

OBU's official colours are green, gold, blue white & black, incorporated into the logo



**OBU's Official Playing strip is:**

Jersey: Green & White hoops

Shorts: Black

Socks: Black with 3 stripes Green, Gold & White



The standard OBU playing strip is used by Premiers, Women's, Premier Reserve, First Grade & Age Grade & Junior teams.

In the case of a jersey clash with an opposition team, OBU has spare sets of different coloured/styled jerseys including black jerseys and 'quartered' jerseys incorporating the founding clubs' colours (green, gold, black & white) – this was the first playing strip of the combined club, when we had the playing name 'Harlequins'. All alternative strips are based upon the core OBU colours though.



Green = #155945 Red 21 Green 89 Blue 69

Blue = #1b4d7c Red 27 Green 77 Blue 124

Gold = #fab347 Red 250 Green 179 Blue 71

Reserve Grade & 85kg teams have the same club socks and shorts, but often have their own jersey design, mainly due to regular jersey clashes by being in the same grade as other OBU teams. These jerseys are unique to the teams, but are based upon the OBU colours and all incorporate the OBU logo.



**Righteous Bros**



**Pink Ginners**

### **OBU Reserve Grade Teams**



**Sixty Niners**



**Teddy Bears**



**Pink Ginners**



**Righteous Bros**

**Did you know the font the club logo uses is called University Script?**

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## **5. How OBU Works & Who's In It**

OBU is an Incorporated Society, registered with the Companies Office under the Incorporated Societies Act (1908). Our official name is:

**Wellington College Old Boys & Victoria University Rugby Football Club Inc.**

The rules of the club are as set out by compliance with the act as well as the OBU Constitution. This constitution is reviewed from time to time to keep it relevant to the club's current situation, however, minor amendments are made and approved at the club's Annual General Meeting.

Official business and other transactions are often authorised under the Common Seal of the club



OBU is an affiliated member of the Wellington Rugby Football Union, WRFU is also part of the Hurricanes franchise and an affiliated member of the New Zealand Rugby Union. OBU is issued with a certificate of membership each year by WRFU.

The club's financial year is 1 September to 31 August, but its 'Executive year' runs from AGM to AGM. However, the convention is to refer to the 'OBU' year by the year of the playing season, i.e the financial year 1 Sep 2017 to 31 Aug 2018 is known as '2017'.

The club's governing body is the OBU Executive. The Executive is elected each year at the club's AGM (normally the last Friday in February).

The Executive is made up of specifically elected positions (President, Chairman, Treasurer Secretary, Club Captain, Junior Convenor) and any other executive members needed to fill specific roles (i.e OBU Party Starters Convenor, Women's Rugby Development, Reserve Grade Convenor, Club Coaching Co-ordinator, WRFU Delegate, NZU Delegate).

Also elected at AGM's are honorary positions such as Hon Auditor & Hon Solicitor along with 'serve recognition' positions such as Life Members & Vice Presidents.

The AGM is also where the Annual Report (including the Annual Accounts) is received and approved by members. Voting rights are only for members who have paid the appropriate subscription or who are exempt from paying subs by deed of the Constitution or resolution by the Executive.

The Executive meets once a month (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month) to discuss the affairs of the club, approve expenditure and other such requirements. While the Executive is responsible for setting and monitoring club policy, most of your interaction will be with your team manager, however, if there is an issue of concern, you are more than welcome to contact the Executive direct. [Appendix I](#) lists the current Executive and their email addresses.

Vice Presidents and Life Members are those who have given long, outstanding service to the club. You will see a lot of them, along with many other 'mature' supporters at OBU matches & in the clubrooms afterwards. These are all great characters and you should try and make an effort to meet some of them.

Among them are regulars such as Peter Osborne (NZ's oldest teenager), Mike Copeland (best after match speaker in town, & current President), Alastair Forde (Juniors & Gear) & Bryan Gundersen (past President and Legal Eagle) all waiting to have a chat and pass on some sage advice.

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## 6. Where Do We Train, Play & Socialise?

### 6.01 Training

OBU's main training facility is the Boyd-Wilson Artificial Field situated at Victoria University. It is a fully flood lit facility with attached changing facilities capable of accommodating a number of teams. It is situated close to some residential properties, so courtesy such as keeping the noise down, especially after night trainings, will be appreciated.

As OBU is the biggest senior club in Wellington (if not NZ) we fully book the prime after work training times. This is a tight schedule so check with your manager as to what day(s) you train and what time. Traditionally Premier, Premier Reserve & First Grade use Tuesday & Thursdays with Colts & Women's teams Monday & Wednesdays, but, again, check with your team manager to confirm. Training times are normally 6pm & 7:30pm.

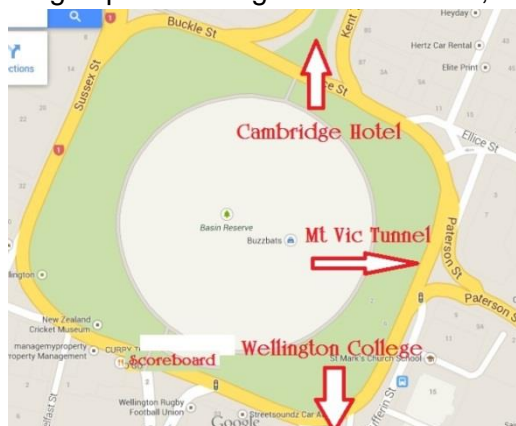


85kg and Reserve Grade teams train at Wellington College, April – August, Wednesdays 8:10pm-9:30pm (*times to be confirmed 2018*).

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### 6.02 Saturday matches

OBU's traditional designated Home Ground is The Basin Reserve. In recent years we have had disrupted access to this historic ground & only have had the Premier's playing there, but recent improvements in drainage means from here on we should get plenty of OBU matches there with other grade involved. Best known as New Zealand's premier test cricket ground, its 150+ year history is full of other sporting use & historic achievement. OBU is proud to be an integral part of this great venue. Yes, we even use the main scoreboard!



For 2020 season though, OBU Premiers home matches are scheduled for a combination of Wellington College & Nairnville Park. Most teams however will play their designated 'home' games at venues around the central city (such as Te Whaea Artificial, Prince of Wales Park, Ian Galloway Park & Martin Luckie Park).

In 2020, the 'standard' kick off times are 10:00pm and 2:45pm. Often Age Grades, 85kg Grades & Reserve Grades will play at Te Whaea Artificial or other artificial grounds in Wellington. This is utilised all day, with matches scheduled at 5pm & 7pm on Saturday nights as well as every now and again 7pm Friday nights – often using Boyd-Wilson Field. Every effort is made to spread the late games around, but unless you are playing Premier, Premier Reserve or First Grade, you can expect to have at least one of these different times scheduled during the season

Away matches are played all over the greater Wellington area (Wellington, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt, Porirua) either at the host club itself or facilities nearby. You can find directions and maps to these grounds via the WRFU website ([www.wrfu.co.nz](http://www.wrfu.co.nz)) or google it!

Public transport is pretty good to get to most venues – a bit of planning normally required to make sure you get there on time, but car-pooling is the norm for most teams. On special occasions, teams may be allocated a bus (Finals, extreme distance matches etc) and (usually) OBU provides transport for the Age Grade teams each Saturday.

For students, OBU endeavours to arrange for bye rounds and OBU v OBU matches to be scheduled over the University Holidays. We also attempt to schedule a match on the Friday night before. This is to avoid the need to default matches as our age grade teams are primarily made up of students. If you are staying in Wellington over this time, there are sure to be plenty of OBU teams on the lookout for extra players, especially Reserve grade teams, so if you are in town and feel like a game, get hold of the Club Captain.

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### **6.03 Aftermatch**

OBU's after match functions are held in the OBU Function Room at the Cambridge Hotel, Cambridge Terrace. It is expected that every effort be made to attend after match functions, they are the soul of the playing year. If you are playing 'away' from home, you will most likely be expected to visit the opposition clubrooms post-match for a short while and then get to the OBU clubrooms.



The Cambridge provides an excellent BBQ for OBU members, normally starting around 6:15pm following the standard after-match speeches. The BBQ is free for all OBU members and we normally host the opposition team the Premier's play if it a home game as well. Numbers are normally pretty large on Saturday's so there will be plenty of club people to talk to along with your team mates.

The day's results for all OBU club teams are posted on the big screen until around 7pm.

Each team will have its own protocols regarding post-match clothing, i.e team polo shirts etc but remember the Cambridge is a public licensed drinking establishment so common sense about dress code is expected (i.e no dirty rugby gear etc).

Remember, this is a fully licenced premise, so all laws such as intoxication & under-age drinking are strictly enforced. Do not embarrass yourself or the club by breaking the law. OBU provides a fun, positive 'rugby' social environment but please remember you are representing yourself and your club – so be courteous to the bar staff, no loutish behaviour and respect your fellow club members and the facilities. If you are under 18 you can only be in the OBU Function Room part of the Cambridge and must leave before 10pm. OBU members must also comply with the Cambridge Hotel's Health & Safety policies.

There are plenty of places to stow gear bags and other belongings but as it is still a public facility, it is best to keep an eye on things like jackets & coats.

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## 7. Who are the Billy Goats?



### 7.01 The Billy Goat Story

We are the Billy Goats!

How this came to pass is a story only to be related by 'those who were there'. Needless to say, there is now a strong 'Goat Pride' running through OBU and the rest of the NZ Rugby Community!

There is the Billy Goat head on the wall in the OBU Function Room and the Billy Goat Crash Helmet, sometimes used to identify the player of the day that you will see around the clubrooms too. Also have a look at the famous 'Running of the Goats' in [Appendix IV](#)

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## 7.02 OBU Kids



Nine years ago, OBU set up a Junior Club to help fully utilise the opportunities the artificial ground at Boyd-Wilson afforded us. Following on from the Billy Goats theme, they are known as OBU Kids. They play early every Saturday morning at BWF, worthwhile going to have a look and support them!

The Junior club is an integral part of OBU and are covered by the Constitution and accounted for under the overall OBU management & reporting.

The Junior teams are each named after an OBU or foundation club All Black. The All Blacks from OBU, WCOB & VUW are listed on the Honours Board in the clubrooms.



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## 8. Getting Started

### 8.01 Registration

All players **MUST** be registered before they are allowed to play. OBU uses an online registration system linked directly to the NZRU database.

New players to OBU register using: <https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/105650> no need to remember this link, you will find it online by going to the OBU website [www.oburugby.com](http://www.oburugby.com) and look under 'Rugby' and 'Registration'. Early season there is normally a link on the main News page of the club site too. If in doubt, email the Secretary (rboag@outlook.co.nz) who can send you the link.

Players returning from 2019 are sent emails directly from the NZRU system asking them to re-register for 2020. Players who are not returning to OBU 2019 are requested to complete a short survey to tell us why and to advise if they wish to remain on the OBU Membership Register as a supporter.

If you are so new to the club and turn up on a Saturday wanting to play, you must either be registered on line before kick off or your team manager will text your full name and date of birth to a WRFU mobile number before kick-off and you must subsequently register on line within 48 hours. However, if this happens to you, it is doubtful you will have read this manual first!

The official OBU Members Register is kept by the Secretary and Team Managers will keep their own records and team lists, however, if you have any changes to your details let your team manager and/or the Secretary know.

If you are an overseas player wishing to play for OBU, you must complete an international clearance before being allowed to play. The Secretary must be informed as soon as possible to get this process underway, but be aware it can take a couple of weeks to obtain clearances. To be noted though is that no player who is not allowed to represent NZ is allowed to play in any competition if he joins a team after the end of the Premier's first round (Swindale Shield).

There are strict rules on re-grading players too. While transfers between teams in the same club are allowed during the first round of the Premier season (i.e Swindale Shield round) there is a requirement for a formal re-grading process in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. If you are a player wishing (or being asked) to play for a team that is in a lower grade, check with the Secretary or Club Captain first. Reserve Grade players will also need to note the rules of Ruru Shield for this issue too (refer [Section 11 What Else?](#)).

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## 8.02 Subscriptions

Subs are compulsory for all players (and supporters) in OBU. Quite simply, we would not exist as a club without them. We appreciate it can be a pain or a struggle to give up some hard-earned money for subs, but the reality is that you receive far more value in return & we try to make it as easy as possible to help you get them paid. Most senior players eat more than their subs are worth just at the weekly BBQ's alone!.

Subs are set by the AGM each year. There is a No Pay, No Play policy after end of May, so please make sure you sort your subs out early, it gets embarrassing for all parties to be chasing late payers. We use an on-line subs collection system for players linked to the club's website.

For some teams, such as Reserve Grade, 85kg social, Colts social, a 'Team Sub' applies, so please don't pay any subs via the OBU Subs System if you are in any of these teams. Some teams do use the system, but this is separate from the main club system. Talk to your team manager and they will let you know what your sub to the team is and when/how to pay it.

Please note: OBU does not accept cheques or cash for subs from individuals. This is for your protection as well as team managers. The other issue is huge amount of time a manually processed subs takes in comparison, involving a lot of people & organisations.

As a guide, these are the subs rates from 2019:

Subscriptions for 2020 for players are expected to be:

Senior Player Sub: \$240

Senior Player Early Bird Sub: \$190 (by first competition game)

Age Grade, Student & Unwaged Player Sub: \$190

Age Grade, Student & Unwaged Player \$140 (by first competition game)

First competition matches are 21 March for Premier/Premier Reserve & to be advised for other grades.

For players who have significant financial difficulties you can submit a 'hardship case' to have subs reduced or waived, but you must talk to your team manager first about this.

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### 8.03 Teams & Coaches

Once you have registered and started to get involved with the club, you will get to meet the Coaches and Managers of the OBU teams. If you are a 'training player' these teams are:

Premier  
Women  
Premier Reserve  
First Grade  
Colts – Green & Black  
85kg – Scallywags

Players can become quite interchangeable, especially between Prem, Prem Res & First Grade as injury and representative commitments have an effect. There isn't often too many changes with the Colts teams or 85 kg teams once the season starts.

If you wish to discuss your grading, opportunities, development options or other rugby related questions, talk to the Club Captain or Coaching Development Officer - Dave Loveridge. Bear in mind, the OBU Coaches are very experienced and had a deep understanding of the levels of ability, fitness & determination that is required in each of the grades. Their overriding concern is player safety so if you feel you are graded too low, it is best to seek their advice & if in doubt accept their judgement.

For those who are playing Reserve Grade Rugby, these teams are pretty much self-sufficient, with the odd occasion where teams with a bye will help out another OBU Reserve team that is struggling for numbers. These teams have their own protocols, rituals, unique histories and different rugby motivations & social agendas. They also pay a 'team sub' to the club to cover everyone who plays for them, so pay your subs to the team manager.

The list of OBU Coaches & Managers and their contact details are listed in [Appendix III](#)  
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### 8.04 Pre-season

Serious players get into pre-season conditioning pretty early. Often commencing before the New Year with touch rugby, gym work & cross discipline training. OBU provides excellent facilities through VUW & the Boyd-Wilson Field and we have relationships with central city gymnasiums as well. Get in touch with a coach, Director of Rugby or Club Captain, to work out what options are best for you.

Preseason all Teams Tues/Thurs 6-8pm Saturday 9am -10am @ Boyd Wilson  
February teams separate, Mon/Wed Women/Colts/U85 6-7:45pm @ Boyd Wilson

OBU engages in a number of pre-season matches leading up to competition. Some of these are traditional and one or two are extended trips away. It all depends upon which squad you are in. You will be given plenty of notice of the trips and while there is normally considerable subsidy to help players go, there is an expectation of players meeting some of the expenses.

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## 9. Personal Wellbeing

Many of you will be new not just to Wellington and University life, but away from home, family friends & parents for the first time. While there is much to be excited about, you need to know there will be 'down' times and pressure can mount from study responsibilities, juggling sport & recreation and fitting in all life has to offer in Wellington.

You will create a new bunch of friends within your team and the wider players' groups as well as connecting with coaches, managers, administrators and supporters of the club. OBU club members are always happy to help, even if it's just a sympathetic ear, but we also have a lot of connections to help with study habits, mentoring, job advice and many other topics you might need a hand with. Just ask.

However, if you are feeling that you are not coping or getting the help you need, here are some useful links.

Group	Support Available
Youthline	<a href="https://www.youthline.co.nz/">https://www.youthline.co.nz/</a> 0800 376 633 
Samaritans	<a href="http://www.samaritans.org.nz/">http://www.samaritans.org.nz/</a> 0800 726 666 
Rugby Community Resources	 <a href="https://www.headfirst.co.nz/getting-help/">https://www.headfirst.co.nz/getting-help/</a>

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Mental Health Foundation	 <a href="https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/assets/Five-Ways-downloads/mentalhealth-5waysBP-web-single-2015.pdf">https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/assets/Five-Ways-downloads/mentalhealth-5waysBP-web-single-2015.pdf</a>
VUW Students	 <a href="https://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support/wellness/student-counselling">https://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support/wellness/student-counselling</a>

Remember, the first step to sorting out problems is to share them.

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## **10. Playing the Game**

### **10.01 The Season**

The playing season starts with Premier & Premier Reserves on 21 March and all other grades scheduled for around 4 April through to the last weekend in August. It finishes earlier, end of July, for Premier, Premier Reserve & First Grade grades and for Colts teams if they do not make semi-finals and/or finals. For training teams, you will need to make a commitment to be available each weekend, although there are some exceptions surrounding University Holidays that has been mentioned elsewhere in this document. Reserve Grades are a bit more flexible, but give your team manager as much advance warning of unavailability as you can.

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### **10.02 Punctuality**

Each OBU team will have its own protocols and rules. One generic one will be punctuality. When a team practice, meeting or rendezvous for transport is made, you must ensure you arrive on or before the appointed time. There is nothing worse for teammates to be waiting around for late comers. If you are going to be late, make sure you inform the team manager as soon as you know the extent of the delay.

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### **10.03 Gear & Laundry**

OBU provides each player with a playing jersey for each match. The jerseys are to be returned to the team manager immediately after the match has finished. These are washed at a commercial Laundromat to ensure the set stays together and that the jerseys are preserved in top condition. You are not allowed to take one home. There may be from time to time the opportunity to purchase old playing jerseys as souvenirs, but please do not take one from the current playing sets.

The club usually provides socks as well, one pair per season, however, due to changes in funding criteria from funding agencies, socks are no longer covered, so you may be asked to purchase your own socks. If you require more, they can be purchased from the gear steward. You are responsible for washing your own socks and making sure they are in presentable order for each match. Some reserve grade teams may provide socks as part of your subs, others may charge, check with your team manager.

You are expected to purchase and clean your own black shorts. The other piece of compulsory equipment you will need to provide for yourself is a mouthguard. This is compulsory for all levels of domestic rugby and you will not be allowed to take the field without one.

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## 10.04 Injuries

If you incur an injury that requires hospitalisation, referral to a Doctor or a visit to an after-hours emergency clinic, it must be reported to the Secretary, via your team manager immediately and a serious injury report completed. This has to be completed and with WRFU within 48 hours of the injury concerned.

There is continuing a strong focus on concussion in 2019 and referees are going to be strict upon allowing players with suspected concussion to continue or be let back on the field. Err on the side of caution and follow the referee's instructions, even if you disagree.

Physiotherapy services for club members is provided by TBI Health.

For injuries requiring physiotherapy, in the first instance the player needs to see their Doctor to obtain the required ACC claim form & certification.

Physiotherapy services for club members are provided by TBI Health at a special rate, they can be contacted at

Level 5  
111 Customhouse Quay  
Wellington  
Phone: (04) 499 4564  
[www.tbihealth.co.nz](http://www.tbihealth.co.nz)  
[tbiwellingtoncbd@tbihealth.co.nz](mailto:tbiwellingtoncbd@tbihealth.co.nz)

However, this is available only to those who have paid their subs!

Remember, you must be registered before you play rugby. Non registration can impede your access to NZRU based injury programmes.

Season ending injuries can mean a subs (or portion thereof) rebate, depending upon the time of the season. Please enquire about this with your team manager.

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## 10.05 Disciplinary Issues

If you get sent off or otherwise are required to appear in front of the WRFU disciplinary tribunal, the Club Captain needs to be informed as soon as possible and the club will provide representation and other assistance for the hearing. OBU has an excellent record of NOT appearing in front of this judiciary so the best course of action is to not put yourself in a position where such action is needed!

OBU also has a Code of Conduct for players as part of the Constitution. This is attached as [Appendix II](#)

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## 10.06 Facilities

OBU's main facilities are Boyd-Wilson Field, Cambridge Hotel & the Basin Reserve. However, most teams will play all of their games away from the Basin Reserve, but one or two grounds may become familiar as teams get drawn on them for 'home' games. Directions to grounds can be found on the WRFU website: [www.wrfu.co.nz](http://www.wrfu.co.nz)

As we are almost always 'visitors' it is our responsibility to respect the facilities and to ensure we leave a good impression of OBU teams behind when we leave.

This means cleaning up all the rubbish left on the field (socks tape, bandages, drink bottles etc) and making sure the changing rooms are likewise left tidy for the next team.

When a team is designated as a 'home' team, they have the responsibility to ensure the goal post pads and flags are set up if playing early and returned to appropriate storage after playing the 'late game'.

There are specific rules surrounding artificial pitches. These includes no liquid other than water on the field, removal of rubbish and prevention of spectators and people wearing street shoes on the artificial surface. Teams should also organise an 'emu parade' after each match to clear the playing surface of all rubbish.

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## 10.07 Results and Team Sheets

The team manager is responsible for looking after team sheets and notification of results. The manager uses a mobile app called MyRugby to name the team each week, ensuring the players are all registered and recording the score as the game progresses. If there is a dispute about the final result, please leave it up to the team management to sort it out with the ref and if need be later with WRFU. If you happen to be given the task of looking after the results app, make sure you learn how to use it before the game – instructions available from the Secretary.!

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## 10.08 Weekly Draw

The official draw is emailed to the Secretary by WRFU normally 3pm Tuesdays. This is then emailed to all OBU club members. In 2019, the draw often arrived on Monday, but please keep any questions about the publishing of the draw until Tuesday afternoon, if it hasn't arrived by then. Any questions should be directed to your team manager in the first instance.

It is to be noted that often there is draw information published on the WRFU website on Monday or Tuesday morning, this is not always the same as the final draw. It is recommended that you ignore this or not make other plans until the official draw is received.

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## 10.09 Cancellations, Defaults, Transfers

Cancellations, transfers & defaults are notified to clubs around 3:30pm on Friday, but sometimes not until after 5pm Friday. Team managers will be notified by email and text as



soon as the cancellations/transfers are received via WRFU and will get in touch with the team with the news. Please make sure you are easy to reach, especially Saturday mornings.

OBU has a strict no default policy. Teams, especially Reserve Grade teams, who find themselves knowing they will be struggling for numbers must liaise with Club Captain and Reserve Grade Convenor to source additional players from other OBU teams. If you are asked to play for a different team, it is always much appreciated and you will be certain of a game. All OBU teams are full of excellent people so you will always have a great time!

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#### **10.10 Rules of the game, WRFU By Laws**

You should be pretty familiar with the Laws of Rugby Union, but there are a number of local by-laws that often trap people out and can lead to disputes. Please be absolutely certain of your ground before entering into debate about certain laws. Managers are supplied with handbooks that contain the by-laws and they will also refer to the Club Captain or Secretary for interpretation. Just remember, you are not paying test match or Super rugby, so what you see on the TV may not actually be applicable to the rules you play by domestically.

Rules & bylaws can be also sourced from the WRFU website: [www.wrfu.co.nz](http://www.wrfu.co.nz)

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## 11 The Off-Field Season

OBU has a well-deserved reputation of being the best social club in Wellington. The 'Bridge' is always buzzing on a Saturday night, just around the corner from Courtenay Place and there is always something on, be it a club-wide function or a specific team event.

The weekly results and draw emails will let you know what is coming up. Some events cost to get into, a lot are free entry and all are great fun. You get out what you put in to the club, so make sure you get involved socially whenever you can.

The main events on the OBU calendar include:

Mr OBU – a fixture on the Wellington social calendar for about 20 years. This is a talent show style event featuring a representative from each team, hoping to win the ultimate prize, the crown of Mr OBU

Prizegiving – end of year celebration

Black Tie Dinner – formal fundraising dinner – proceeds to Player Development Fund

Black Out night for AB tests – every home & away tests live on the big screens as well as all the Saturday night Super Rugby and ITM Cup, when its not on at Sky Stadium

Depending upon which team you play for, they will often have their own dress code and will arrange for purchase of items such as team polo shirts for after match wear. You will soon find out what is needed!

Being a club member also has other privileges. OBU gets priority purchasing for Test Match Tickets. Your team manager will be in charge of sorting out your team's allocation, remember it will be payment up front.

Individual teams will also get involved with their own events such as team trips, team dinners, fund-raising activities and team photos. Your team manager will guide you through all of these.

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## 12 What Else?

### 12.01 Miscellaneous Information

OBU has a website where we post information about upcoming events as well as news items & photos. It is [www.oburugby.com](http://www.oburugby.com) and is worth bookmarking and visiting regularly. It is hoped each team will have their own page for their own contributions. Many teams run Facebook pages as well. OBU has an official Facebook page, search for it and as to join. Code of Conduct applies to any on line activity in which the club is aligned to, referred to or can be construed as being involved with, so take care about what you post online.

At the Cambridge, there is an electronic scoreboard that shows the day's results for each team. Every effort is made to list point scorers and player of the day (unless its 82 nil and too many people score tries!). The scoreboard is normally active from 5pm to 7pm, when the tv rugby starts.

The clubrooms also has on display various Honours Boards. These cover notable club members such as Presidents, Life Members, All Blacks, & other noted representatives from the current club and its predecessors. There is a lot of history there, worth keeping an eye on. There are also honours boards to show those who have played 50 & 100 matches for OBU at Premier & Senior Women's level. There is also the OBU Trophies Manual and Representative Players Manual, recoding a lot of OBU history, a copy is always at the Cambridge.

Like all Wellington clubs, OBU is strictly amateur, however, there is a certain amount of assistance we are able to provide with regards to employment. If you have need of some assistance, please have a chat with your manager and we'll see what we can help out with.

One of the major, unique benefits for playing rugby with OBU is the link to New Zealand Universities. NZU provides a tremendous opportunity to play national representative rugby and has been a great path way for further success at higher honours.

OBU members always try to help each other out. This sometimes mean playing for another team that's short, but also going out of your way to support another OBU when you can. If you play early, make a bee line for wherever the Premiers are playing, or if another OBU team is playing after you on the same ground, stick around and give them some support. When it comes to the sharp end of the season, there are always plenty of OBU teams involved in semi-finals and finals. We often arrange supporters' buses, so there will be plenty of OBU rugby to watch and support.

In 2020 there will be an 'app' to link to the Cambridge Hotel's point of sale systems to calculate club discounts etc, so make sure you download it! There will be more about this once its ready to go.

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## **12.02 Jackie Ruru Shield**

The Jackie Ruru Shield is a special trophy played for 'Ranfurly Shield' style between the Reserve Grade teams. Challenges are invariably hard-fought battle and the spoils of victory are many. There are two pages of rules specific to the Ruru Shield and challenges, with them being often closely examined to resolve conflicts.

The Jackie Ruru story is a special one, so take some time to read about him on the club website. The Shield itself is normally on display in the Cambridge and as you can see is very special in itself. The Jackie Ruru blazer is also on display, this is awarded each season to the player who best epitomises the spirit of the Ruru.



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Most of all, enjoy your Rugby and your time with OBU, it's a very special club.

## Appendix I

### Directory of Office Holders 2018



#### Executive & Elected Officials

Mike Copeland	President	
Jaesen Sumner	Chairman	jaesen@fs-lawyers.com
Richard Boag	Secretary	rboag@outlook.co.nz
Richard Cromie	Treasurer	
Maree Chivers	Club Captain	clubcaptain@oburugby.com
Alastair Forde	Junior Convenor	ajf@xtra.co.nz
Ian Kennedy	NZ Universities Delegate	iankennedy6@gmail.com
Peter Scott	WRFU Delegate (Chair)	pa.scott@xtra.co.nz
David Loveridge	Coaching Development Officer	dave.loveridge@rugbyroad.co.nz
Ian Cuff	WRFU Delegate (Alt)	icuff@commercialpropertyspecialists.co.nz
Bob Coyle	Reserve Grade Convenor	bobcoyle2002@yahoo.co.uk
Gina Williamson	Women's RDO	gina@oburugby.com

#### Patrons

Grant Guilford (VUW), Gregor Fountain (Wellington College)

#### Life Members

M G Anderson, A Archer, R M Barlow, D B Barrowman, R L Boag, S G Bremner,  
G R Brooking, D H Catley, M C Copeland, R J Curtis, V L Darke, D R Davis, A J Forde,  
P B Gapes, R S Grocott, G R Jensen, G A McLean, P C Osborne, A J Seerup, B L Thomas,  
H G Vance, R H Vance, R A Waddel

#### Vice Presidents

B N Anderson	D J Archer	P S Barrett	M J Brodie
I R Cuff	R B D Drummond	P A Garty	D R Gregg
B J W Houlahan	M R Larsen	D S Loveridge	A D McBeth
F M Mexted	M O Mexted	G N K Mourie	S D Robertson
P R Scot	C G Smith	P S Stannard	W G Thurston
A D Timms	K J Torbit	Prof D G Trow	B A Waddle
J H R Walker	P J Walsh	S S Wilson	T N Wolfe

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## Appendix II



### OBU Player Code of Conduct

#### **As extracted from the Constitution of OBU RFC**

Players must abide by the laws of the game.

Players must play their best and uphold fair play at all times.

Players must never argue with the referee.

Players must never put the Club into disrepute.

Players must control their temper at all times.

Players must play equally hard for themselves and their team.

Players must exemplify commitment to the Club and their team at all times. This includes attending all practices and matches.

Players must recognise the achievement of other players and applaud all good play, whether by your team or your opponent.

Players must aim to have fun and improve their skills.

Players must play for enjoyment.

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## Appendix III

### OBU Coaches & Managers

#### Premier

Jamie	Williams	Coach		jamie.williams1@live.co.uk
Mike	Barnes	Asst Coach	022 123 2950	mbarnes2@kpmg.co.nz
Hayden	Smith	Manager	021 933 105	haydensmith@outlook.co.nz
Brad	Houlahan	Asst Manager	027 305 2203	brad.houlahan@gmail.com

#### Women's

Tara	Horsnell	Coach Manager	027 313 1328	tarahorsnell@hotmail.co.nz
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#### Premier Reserve

Paul	Swift	Coach	021 328 715	paulswift1973@gmail.com
		Asst Coach		
		Manager	021 0228 4729	John.Hewitt@anz.com

#### First Grade

Matt	Anderson	Coach	027 434 0382	matt.anderson@z.co.nz
Hamish	Vance	Asst Coach	027 440 2069	vancevivan@xtra.co.nz
Mike	Brodie	Asst Coach		
Brad	Russell	Manager	021 0252 0528	brad14@gmail.com

#### Colts Green

Dallas	Paotonu	Coach	021 220 4087	Dallas.Paotonu@hnzc.co.nz
		Asst Coach		
		Asst Coach		
Maree	Chivers	Manager	027 292 4534	clubcaptain@oburugby.com

#### Colts Black

Norman	Ferguson	Coach		
		Asst Coach		
Phoebe	Ferguson	Manager		

#### Colts White

Coach  
Asst Coach  
Manager

## Appendix III contd.

### 85 kg

Mitch	Butler	Manager	021 152 4262	mitch_shc_28@hotmail.com
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### 69ers

Manager

### Pink Ginners

Ben	Hehir	Manager	027 724 7230	Ben.Hehir@nz.ey.com
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### Teddy Bears

Brendan	Eckert	Manager	021 247 8201	Brendan.Eckert@wcc.govt.nz
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### Righteous Bros

Nikki	Maaka	Manager	021 449 016	ncjkmaaka@gmail.com
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## Appendix IV

# THE RUNNING OF THE GOATS 2012

## CAN YOU KEEP UP WITH THE HERD????

A chance discovery in the OBU archives in 2011 has uncovered a long dormant but celebrated competition between the players of Wellington College Old Boys and Victoria University of Wellington Rugby Football Clubs - The Running of the Goats.

First run in March of 1912, the event was the brainchild of Wellington College and Victoria University Old Boy, Boer War hero and soldier of fortune, William (Billy) "The Goat" Houlahan (great grandfather of current OBU stalwart Brad "Patches" Houlahan).

Concerned at the level of fitness of players of that era, Billy created a race from Wellington College to the top of Mount Victoria and back between players of Wellington College Old Boys and Victoria University Rugby Football Club. The race would prove who was the fastest (and most cunning) player in the two clubs.

continued on page 2



Fittingly, Billy Houlahan was the first winner of the the run which led to the event being dubbed "The Running of The Goats" for evermore - a nod to Billy's stint as a banderillero in the bullfights in Pamplona, Spain in 1908.

Apparently Billy was happy with the name. After narrowly avoiding being gored

during the Running of the Bulls in 1908, Billy thought that such an event was excellent training for rugby. Billy only escaped with this life on that occasion after sidestepping a particularly vicious slab of beef and fending an Englishman into the path of the thundering herd.



LIEUTENANT-GENERAL BERNARD CYRIL FREYBERG, 1ST BARON FREYBERG VC, GCMG, KCB, KBE, DSO & Three Bars - winner in 1913 and a firm believer that the race made men!!



A GRUELING TEST - long acknowledged as being one of the most grueling races in the southern hemisphere the running of the goats is not for those who are ill prepared!!



WILLIAM (BILLY) "THE GOAT" HOULAHAN soldier of fortune, inventor and first winner of the running of the goats - somewhere in Spain 1908



The list of previous winners is an impressive roll call of the great and the good of Wellington College Old Boys and Victoria University Rugby Club and includes:

- 1913 - Lieutenant-General Bernard Cyril Freyberg, 1st Baron Freyberg VC, GCMG, KCB, KBE, DSO & Three Bars
- 1924 - George Nepia - All Black (while in Wellington waiting to embark on 1924 Invincibles Tour to UK)
- 1932 - OBU legend Jackie Ruru
- 1943 - Current OBU president and world's oldest teenager Peter Osbourne
- 1951 - Ron Jarden - All Black

The Running of the Goats fell into hibernation after 1959 following the death of Billy Houlahan at the age of 83 in a freak skydiving accident in Tanzania but resurrected in 2011 and run for the first time 42 years. Run by a small but elite field the race was as hotly contested as ever. Upon hearing that the race was once again being run ex Premier captain Gary "Puller" Ward relocated his entire family from Ireland to Wellington just so he could participate! Unfortunately the long journey (by canoe) exacted its toll and upon arrival Puller could only manage a second place finish to our new 2012 premier coach Ian Tulloch.



Old Boys - University RFC

## FIGHTING BILLY GOATS

The course follows the original track set out by Billy the Goat:

*Start at Wellington College, Up the "Gutbuster" and across the Green Belt to Alexandra Road, Along Alexandra Road to the Mt Victoria lookout, Down Mt Victoria to finish at the Cambridge.*

Those aligned to OBU wear whatever you like

Aftermatch: Cambridge Hotel, Cambridge Terrace, Wellington

**Date:** 4 March 2012

**Venue:** Kicks off at Wellington College Cricket Pavilion

**Time:** 12.00pm (Assemble 11.30am)

**Uniform:** Those aligned to Wellington College Old Boys wear white, those aligned to Victoria University Old Boys wear green



**THE CROWD ERUPTS** as Vern Darke crosses the finish line to win the 1959 race. Note the extra seating on Cambridge Terrace erected by the council for the running.



**KING GEORGE VI AND QUEEN ELIZABETH** - preparing to start the Running of the Goats in 1946.



**RON JARDEN** showing the sort of grit and determination that allowed him to win "The Goat" in 1951. Ron described it as "the greatest moment of my life!"

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