



Old Boys – University RFC 2025 Players' Handbook



Contents

Click on a Chapter link to go right there!

No.	Chapter	Page
1.	Welcome to OBU	4
2.	Introduction	5
3.	Club History	5
4.	Personal Wellbeing	6
5.	OBU Colours & Playing Strips	8
6.	Where Do We Train, Play & Socialise?	10
	6.01 Training	10
	6.02 Saturday Matches	10
	6.03 Aftermatch	11
7.	Who are the Billy Goats?	12
	7.01 The Billy Goat Story	12
	7.02 OBU Kids	13
8.	Getting Started	14
	8.01 Registration	14
	8.02 Subscriptions	15
	8.03 Teams & Coaches	16
	8.04 Pre-season	16
9.	Playing the Game	17
	9.01 The Season	17
	9.02 Punctuality	17
	9.03 Gear & Laundry	17
	9.04 Injuries	18
	9.05 Disciplinary Issues	18
	9.06 Facilities	19
	9.07 Results and Team Sheets	19
	9.08 Weekly Draw	19
	9.09 Cancellations, Defaults, Transfers	20
	9.10 Rules of the game, WRFU By Laws	20

Contents

No.	Chapter	Page
10.	<u>The Off Field Season</u>	21
11.	<u>How OBU Works & Who's In It</u>	22
12.	<u>What Else?</u>	23
	12.01 <u>Miscellaneous Information</u>	23
	12.02 <u>Jackie Ruru Shield</u>	24
A (I)	<u>Appendix I Directory of Office Holders 2025</u>	25
A (II)	<u>Appendix II OBU Player Code of Conduct</u>	26
A (III)	<u>Appendix III OBU Coaches & Managers</u>	27
A (IV)	<u>Appendix IV Registration User Manual</u>	28
A (V)	<u>Appendix V Running of the Goats</u>	32

1. Welcome to OBU

Messages from our Patron & President



Glen Denham

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 2025 season and look forward to an ever-strengthening relationship between school and club.



Mike Brodie – President

As President it is my privilege to welcome new and returning players for the 2025 season. 2025 was a stellar season for OBU and we look forward to 2025 delivering again across all grades. My greatest memories from my playing days are the friendships I made during those years of club Rugby that still endure 60 years later. OBU has a culture where everlasting friendships will continue to be made.

I hope you take advantage of what OBU has to offer to further your Rugby careers as well as your personal development. Our coaches and managers are a team of dedicated people looking out for your well-being in addition to passing on their Rugby skills. I look forward to seeing you all in the club rooms for our after-match functions put on for your enjoyment.

Good luck for a successful and enjoyable season

[Return to Contents](#)

2 Introduction

Welcome to the Old Boys - University Rugby Football Club.

Welcome to OBU for the 2025 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.

[Return to Contents](#)

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. Recent notable players to have come from OBU include Wes Goosen, Teariki Ben-Nicholas Caleb Delaney, Taine Plumtree & Kyle Preston, along with numerous NZ Universities Reps and players who have played 1st class for different provinces.

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.




[Return to Contents](#)

4. 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	https://www.youthline.co.nz/ 0800 376 633 
Samaritans	http://www.samaritans.org.nz/ 0800 726 666 
Rugby Community Resources	 https://www.headfirst.co.nz/getting-help/

[Return to Contents](#)

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

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

[Return to Contents](#)

5. 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, 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.



Teddy Bears



69ers

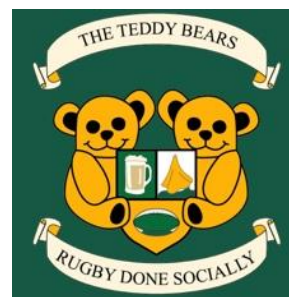


Righteous Pink Gingers

OBU Reserve Grade Teams



Sixty Niners



Teddy Bears



Righteous Pink Gingers

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

[Return to Contents](#)

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 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 training options are still being investigated.

[Return to Contents](#)

6.02 Saturday matches

For 2025 season, OBU Premiers home matches are scheduled for a combination of Rugby League Park & other venues in Wellington as they come to hand. Most teams however will play their designated 'home' games at venues around the central city (such as Te Whaea Artificial, Prince of Wales Park (recently refurbished), McAlister Park, Ian Galloway Park & Kelburn Park).

In 2025, the 'standard' kick off times are 1:00pm 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 sometimes scheduled at 5pm & 7pm on Saturday nights as well as every now and again 7pm Friday nights – using Boyd-Wilson Field where possible. Every effort is made to spread the late games around, but unless you are playing Premier or Premier Reserve, you may expect to have at least one of these different times scheduled during the season.

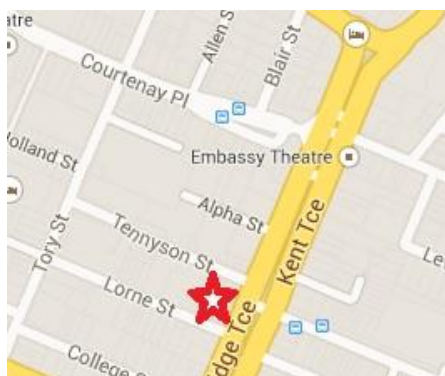
Away matches are played all over the greater Wellington area (Wellington, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt, Porirua) either at the host club itself or facilities nearby. You can find directions and maps to these grounds via the WRFU website (www.wrfu.co.nz) or google it!

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 sometimes (thanks to VUW Clubs Council sponsorship) OBU is able to provide transport for the Age Grade teams on a normal 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.

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 all 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 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.

[Return to Contents](#)

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 and the Billy Goat Crash Helmet, sometimes used to identify the player of the day that you will sometimes see around the clubrooms too. Also have a look at the famous 'Running of the Goats' in [Appendix V](#)

[Return to Contents](#)

7.02 OBU Kids



Over ten 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 is 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.



Due to covid, OBU hasn't fielded Junior teams since 2020, but planning is underway to get them back up and running hopefully in conjunction with Wests Juniors for 2025.

[Return to Contents](#)

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 called Xplorer. New players first will need an account with Xplorer:

<https://myaccount.rugbyexplorer.com.au/>

Once you have an account, register with OBU using this link:

<https://myaccount.rugbyexplorer.com.au/choose-registration?name=Old%20Boys%20University%20RFC>

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 2024 are sent emails from the OBU database for registration for 2025. This is different to previous years as NZRU have changed registration provider, so all players must enter all their details on the new system. You will see a step by step guide to registering in Appendix IV: Registration User Manual below.

Players who are not returning to OBU in 2025 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 new to the club after pre-season and turn up on a Saturday wanting to play, you must register on-line before kick-off. However, if this happens to you, it is doubtful you will have read this handbook 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 normally 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 they join 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 2nd 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?](#)).

[Return to Contents](#)

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.

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. For 2025, we will use an on-line subs collection system for players linked to the registration form.

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 cash for subs from individuals. This is for your protection as well as team managers & the changes to banking rules. 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 expected Subscriptions for 2025 for players:

Senior Player Sub: \$210

Age Grade, Student & Unwaged Player Sub: \$170

Age Grade, Student & Unwaged Player Early Bird Sub \$150 (50% by first competition match)

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 and for options for drip feed payments.

[Return to Contents](#)

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

Colts – Green & Black

85kg – Scallywags

Players can become quite interchangeable, especially between Prem & Prem Res as injury and representative commitments have an effect. There aren't often too many changes with the Colts teams or 85 kg teams once the season starts, but players being adaptable to play for other teams is always appreciated.

If you wish to discuss your grading, opportunities, development options or other Rugby related questions, talk to the Director of Rugby (Tomasi Palu) or the Club Captain (Phoebe Ferguson). 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](#)

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.

[Return to Contents](#)

9. Playing the Game

9.01 The Season

The playing season normally starts with Premier & Premier Reserves at the end of March and all other grades scheduled for early April through to the last weekend in August. It finishes earlier, from beginning to mid July, for Premier, Premier Reserve for Colts teams depending upon if they 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.

[Return to Contents](#)

9.02 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.

[Return to Contents](#)

9.03 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 has provided socks in the past, 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 (Max Currington). You are responsible for washing your own socks & shorts 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.

[Return to Contents](#)

9.04 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 that started in 2019 and referees are going to continue 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
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 may mean a subs (or portion thereof) rebate, depending upon the time of the season. Please enquire about this with your team manager.

[Return to Contents](#)

9.05 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](#)

[Return to Contents](#)

9.06 Facilities

OBU's main facilities are Boyd-Wilson Field & Cambridge Hotel. Directions to other grounds can be found on the WRFU website: 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. Please help out with all of this, the Team Managers already have a lot to do!

Most importantly, recent council policy decisions have banned alcohol completely from all council grounds. Players and spectators alike will not be able to bring or consume alcohol at any council venue. Breaches of this cause serious problems for the club, so just don't do it.

[Return to Contents](#)

9.07 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 Xplorer (the same system you register with) 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.!

[Return to Contents](#)

9.08 Weekly Draw

The official draw published by WRFU on their website at the beginning of each week. Any questions should be directed to your team manager in the first instance.

It is to be noted that sometimes there is draw information published on the WRFU website early in the week that may not always be the same as the final draw, especially for lower grade teams. It is recommended that you not make other plans in the case of a bye for example until the draw is finalised.

[Return to Contents](#)

9.09 Cancellations, Defaults, Transfers

Cancellations, transfers & defaults are usually notified to clubs around 3:30pm on Friday, but sometimes not until after 5pm Friday. Team managers are notified 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. Alos, check the WRFU website as well as they changes appear three at the same time.

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!

[Return to Contents](#)

9.10 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

[Return to Contents](#)

10 The Off-Field Season

OBU has a well-deserved reputation of being the best social club in Wellington. The 'Bridge' is normally 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.

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:

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 test is live on the big screens as well as all the Saturday night Super Rugby and NPC, 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! There will be a range of other OBU branded gear available I 2025, keep an eye on the OBU website for details.

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.

[Return to Contents](#)

11. How OBU Works & Who's In It

OBU is an Incorporated Society, registered with the Companies Office under the Incorporated Societies Act (2022). 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.

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 2024 to 31 Aug 2025 is known as '2025'.

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 Liaison, Reserve Grade Convenor, WRFU Delegate and NZU Delegate). Also elected at AGM's are honorary positions such as Hon Auditor & Hon Solicitor along with 'service 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 (2nd 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. 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) & Mike Brodie (current President) all waiting to have a chat and pass on some sage advice. [Return to Contents](#)

11 What Else?

11.01 Miscellaneous Information

OBU has a website, Instagram, Twitter, Instagram & Facebook presence where the club post information about upcoming events as well as news items & photos. Website is www.oburugby.com and is worth bookmarking and visiting regularly. Many teams run their own Facebook/Instagram pages as well. The OBU Code of Conduct applies to any online 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. The scoreboard is normally active from 5pm to 7pm, when the live 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 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, recording a lot of OBU history, a copy of each is kept at the Cambridge under the Honours Board – they are expensive to print so please don't take them away.

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 pathway for further success at higher honours – this includes the likes of All Blacks Conrad Smith, Kieran Reid, Mark Robinson and Andy Ellis to name a few.

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.

[Return to Contents](#)

11.02 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.



[Return to Contents](#)

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

Appendix I

Directory of Office Holders 2025



Executive & Elected Officials

Mike Brodie	President	
TBA	Chair	chairman@oburugby.com
Richard Boag	Secretary	rboag@outlook.co.nz
TBA	Treasurer	
Phoebe Ferguson	Club Captain	clubcaptain@oburugby.com
Ian Kennedy	NZ Universities Delegate	iankennedy6@gmail.com
Lorraine Oloito'a	WRFU Delegate	lorraine@oburugby.com
Tomasi Palu	Director of Rugby	tomasi.palu@vuw.ac.nz
Tomasi Palu	Director of OBU Academy	tomasi.palu@vuw.ac.nz
Max Currington	Reserve Grade Convenor	max.currington.nz@gmail.com
TBA	Women's Liaison	

Patron

Glen Denham (Wellington College)

Life Members

M G Anderson (OBU 7), A G Archer (OBU 4), R M J Barlow (VUW 18), R L Boag (OBU 14), S G Bremner (VUW 19), M J Brodie (OBU 15), G R Brooking (OBU 5), M C Copeland (OBU 6), D R Davis (WCOB 33), A J Forde (OBU 2), P B Gapes (OBU 11), R S Grocott (WCOB 37), G R Jensen (VUW 13), G A McLean (WCOB 25), A D McBeth (OBU 16), R J Moses (OBU 13), P C Osborne (VUW 17), A J Seerup (OBU 12), B L Thomas (OBU 3), H G Vance (OBU 9), R H Vance (OBU 10), R A Waddel (WCOB 28)

Vice Presidents

B N Anderson	D J Archer	M R Barnes	P S Barrett
M S Conway	R F Coyle	I R Cuff	R B D Drummond
G J Fountain	P A Garty	P A Gough	D R Gregg
W G Guilford	B J W Houlahan	J D Howman	M R Larsen
D S Loveridge	F M Mexted	G N K Mourie	N W Norwood
N S Phillips	S D Robertson	P R Scott	C G Smith
H J Smith	P S Stannard	J R Sumner	W G Thurston
A D Timms	Prof D G Trow	B A Waddle	J H R Walker
P J Walsh	J Williams	S S Wilson	T N Wolfe

Past Presidents

M G Anderson (OBU (9) 2020-2022) P S Barrett (VUW (16) 1990-1991), S G Bremner (VUW (14) 1980-1981) D H Catley (WCOB (23) 1988 -1989, OBU (3) 1997-2007), M C Copeland (OBU (8) 2019) D R Davis (WCOB (22) 1986-1987), R S Grocott (WCOB (24) 1990-1991, OBU (5) 2012-2013) B N Gundersen (OBU (6) 2014-2015), P C Osborne (VUW (15)1983-88, OBU (4) 2008-2011)

[Return to Contents](#)

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.

[Return to Contents](#)

Appendix III

OBU Coaches & Managers

Premier

Paul	Swift	Coach	paul.s@aspectfurniture.com
Glyn	Champion	Coach	glynn@championprenail.co.nz
Tomasi	Palu	Coach	tomasi@oburugby.com
Dave	Calvert	Manager	david.calvert@wedgelock.com
Brad	Houlahan	Asst Manager	brad.houlahan@gmail.com
Eric	McAuley	Asst Manager	

Women's

Vacant		Coach	
Vacant		Manager	

Premier Reserve

Riki	Carter	Coach	riki.carter126@gmail.com
Harley	Richards	Asst Coach	
Joe	Beech	Manager	Joebeechnz@gmail.com

Colts Green

Alex	Taimalietane	Coach	
Jann	Lammers	Asst Coach	alekifit@gmail.com
Flynn	Crampton	Asst Coach	
Lorraine	Oloitoa	Manager	lorraine@oburugby.com

Colts Black

No team		Coach	
No team		Asst Coach	
No team		Manager	

85 kg

Jesse	Johnson	Coach	jesse.johnson@portnicholson.co.nz
James	Wall	Assistant Coach	
Paddy	Gough	Assistant Coach	
Eddie	Jansen	Manager	

69ers

Phil	Simpson	Manager	
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Righteous Pink Ginners

Timothy	Grigg	Manager	timothy@grigg.nz
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Teddy Bears

Madison	Daly	Manager	
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Appendix IV: Registration User Manual

If you haven't already done so, you will need to set up an account with Xplorer, this will be able to be done from the opened link.




<https://myaccount.rugbyexplorer.com.au>

Once you have an account, register with
<https://myaccount.rugbyexplorer.com.au/choose-registration?name=Old%20Boys%20University%20RFC>

Step 1	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Who would you like to register?</h3> <p>Select a person to register.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Your name <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">NZ ID: 32: <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Age <input type="radio"/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"> Link a new person <input type="radio"/></p> </div> </div>
Step 2	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Which club would you like to register to?</h3> <p style="font-size: small;">Search for your club by name or location.</p> <div style="margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center;"> <input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="Old Boys University RFC"/> <input style="width: 10%; border: none; border-radius: 50%; background: #ccc; margin-left: 5px;" type="button" value="x"/> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Search by Postcode</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Top results</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Old Boys University RFC</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Wellington RFU, Hurricanes</p> </div> </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px; text-align: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 20px;"> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;">←</div> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;">→</div> <div style="border: 2px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; margin-left: 20px;">○</div> </div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin-top: 5px;">Click to activate</p> </div> </div>
Step 3	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Registration type</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Select the role that applies to you, choose the registration type and how long you want to register for</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;"> ⓘ</p> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Role ⓘ</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Player ▼ </div> <p>Registration Type</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Senior - Mens Non-Premier ▼ </div> <p>Duration</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Season ▼ </div> </div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin-top: 10px;">If the registration type you are after isn't available please contact your club for more information</p> </div>

Step 4	<p style="text-align: center;">Personal details</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This is the individual that will be registered.</p> <p>My Details</p> <p>First Name <input type="text"/></p> <p>Last Name <input type="text"/> <small>Details will be loaded on this screen from account details</small></p> <p>Gender <input type="text"/></p> <p>Date of birth <input type="text"/></p> <p>Address <input type="text"/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Back Next</p>
Step 5	<p style="text-align: center;">Profile Photo</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Upload or change profile photo.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Next</p>
Step 6	<p style="text-align: center;">Additional details</p> <p>Gender <input type="text" value="Male"/></p> <p>Country of origin ⓘ <input type="text" value="New Zealand"/></p> <p>Primary Heritage ⓘ <input type="text" value="NZ European"/></p> <p>Secondary Heritage ⓘ <input type="text" value="Select..."/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Back Next</p>

Step 7	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">Additional details</div> <p>Gender <input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="Enter details"/></p> <p>Country of origin <input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="Enter details"/></p> <p>Primary Heritage <input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="Enter details"/></p> <p>Secondary Heritage <input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="Enter details"/></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"> Back Next </p>
Step 8	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">Emergency contact details</div> <p><input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="Name here"/> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="Phone"/></p>
Step 9	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">Additional Questions</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>What grade are you wanting to play in 2025?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="Reserve Grade"/></p> </div> <p>Are you a connected to VUW?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Yes current student <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes Alumni <input type="radio"/> Yes: current or former staff <input type="radio"/> No </p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Are you an Old Boy of Wellington College?</p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No </p> </div> <p>What team are you going to be with (mainly) 2025?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Premier Men <input type="radio"/> Premier Women <input type="radio"/> Premier Reserve <input type="radio"/> Colts Green <input type="radio"/> Colts Other <input type="radio"/> 85kg Scallywags <input type="radio"/> 85kg Other <input type="radio"/> Reserve 69ers <input checked="" type="radio"/> Reserve Righteous Pink Ginners <input type="radio"/> Reserve Teddy Bears <input type="radio"/> Reserve Other <input type="radio"/> Golden Oldies Antiques </p>
	<p>These are compulsory questions, select the team you are most likely gong to play for the most</p>

Step 10	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Old Boys University RFC</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding-left: 20px;">; Player, Senior - Mens Non-Premier, Season</td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="2"> </td></tr> <tr> <td>National</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hurricanes</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wellington RFU</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Old Boys University RFC</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="2"> </td></tr> <tr> <td>Subtotal</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Discount</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Processing Fee</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0.00</td> </tr> </table> <div style="margin-top: 10px;">  Click <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have read and acknowledge the National Terms and Conditions </div> <hr style="border: 1px solid #ccc;"/> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  click to advance <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px 15px; border-radius: 5px; display: inline-block;">Pay</div> </div> </div> </div>	Old Boys University RFC	\$0.00	; Player, Senior - Mens Non-Premier, Season				National	\$0.00	Hurricanes	\$0.00	Wellington RFU	\$0.00	Old Boys University RFC	\$0.00			Subtotal	\$0.00	Total Discount	\$0.00	Processing Fee	\$0.00	Total	\$0.00
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Old Boys University RFC	\$0.00																								
Subtotal	\$0.00																								
Total Discount	\$0.00																								
Processing Fee	\$0.00																								
Total	\$0.00																								
You will pay your subs using the club's system so just click 'Pay' to end																									
Step 12	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: #003366;">Success! Your registration is complete</p> <div style="margin: 20px 0;">  </div> <div style="margin: 20px auto; width: 150px;"> <div style="background-color: #9933cc; color: white; padding: 10px 20px; border-radius: 15px; display: inline-block;">Finish</div> </div>																								
End, you will receive a confirmation email.																									