



Old Boys – University RFC



**JACKIE RURU SHIELD  
RULES**

**Updated July 2024**

**Player & Team Eligibility**

1. The Ruru Shield is a challenger/defender trophy for all OBU teams in the WRFU Reserve Grade(s), being an open grade rugby competition. Any change of grade structure by WRFU will require a reassessment of team eligibility
2. All players playing in a Ruru Shield match must be registered with Old Boys University via the official NZRU registration process and be eligible to play in the WRFU Reserve Grade(s) competition(s)
3. Players who come from other OBU teams or transfer to OBU from another club during the season must play at least one competition match for their Reserve Grade team before being eligible
4. All players must NOT have played principally for another team in that season (i.e the team defending or challenging must be the player's principal team)
5. A player not meeting the requirements of rule 2, 3, or 4 may play ONLY with the express prior permission of the opposing team captain and management, who have been supplied with all relevant information

**Match Eligibility**

6. Every "Old Boys University Shield Holder v Old Boys University Eligible Challenger" competition match will be designated an automatic challenge
7. The following matches are NOT challenges unless agreed to by the Holders:
  - Pre-season/grading matches
  - Non-competition matches as drawn by the WRFU during the season
8. While any Reserve Grade team may challenge the Holders, unless identified as a competition match, the Holders are not obliged to accept any such challenge with the exception of Rule 9 below

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9. The Holders at the end of the regular playing season are expected to accept a challenge from any OBU Reserve Grade team who has not been involved in a Ruru Shield match during the season. This may be changed to a pre-season match the following year if mutually agreed
10. Any non-competition challenge accepted by the Holders must be arranged by the Challenger. This includes finding a suitable venue and qualified referee

### Match Rules

11. Ruru Shield matches are governed by the International Rugby Board rules (or such variations imposed by the NZRU or WRFU for Reserve Grade Rugby)
12. All matches will be 40 minutes each way. Regardless of any WRFU By-Laws such as 'Game On' provisions, the following rules to be applied: no rolling subs, scrums are to be contested unless a genuine player safety issue occurs during the match (such as a team runs out of qualified front row reserves) and a maximum of 23 players per team. The matches are ideally to be officiated by a duly appointed WRFU referee or an attending fully accredited & qualified referee. In the event of neither being available, the challenge can continue if officiated by referee/s mutually agreed by both teams. The referee(s) to be advised of the above rules should they differ from existing By-Laws
13. Any breach of the rules will result in the outcome being null and void with the Ruru Shield being immediately awarded to the non-breaching team

### General Rules


14. In the event of a jersey clash, the Holders will have choice of jerseys. Any such jersey clash must be confirmed by the OBU Club Captain whose ruling will be final
15. In the event of a draw, the Holder retains the Ruru Shield
16. The Ruru Shield must be present at the match and be awarded at the conclusion of every such match. The Ruru Shield is to be stored in its case in the Cambridge Hotel (or other designated OBU Clubrooms) between seasons and where possible during the season
17. Any disputes must be made in writing with accompanying evidence firstly to the Reserve Grade Convenor with a right of appeal to the Club Captain. The Club Captain may refer the matter to the OBU Executive in the case of interpretation of IRB, NZRU or OBU policies. Any such decision as resolved by the OBU Executive is binding and non-negotiable.

These Rules are Approved and Authorised under the Common Seal of WCOBVURFC Inc.

Dated this Eighth Day of July 2024

  
Executive Member

  
Secretary

  
Executive Member

