

Junior Tide Rugby

Selection Policy

(February 2025)

1. Policy Objective

The purpose of this policy is to outline the criteria and procedures that the Junior Tide Rugby program will adhere to and undertake to select Male and Female Age Group Teams for BC Rugby Provincial Regional Championships (PRCs), Vancouver Sevens Invitational (VSIs) and to contribute to the development of players in each respective team.

Junior Tide Rugby gives the opportunity for promising rugby players to be challenged at a higher level and provide a direct identification pathway to the BC Bears programs..

2. Mission and Vision

Our mission is to improve and promote junior boys and girls representative rugby on Southern Vancouver Island to provide a pathway to UVic Vikes and BC Bears Rugby Programs.

Our vision is to:

- Create a legacy, where Junior Tide rugby teams consistently achieve medal performances at the PRC's.
- Ensure the players achieve significant exposure and above average selection to provincial teams.
- Create an environment where the Junior Tide program will be seen as the GOLD standard for regional representative rugby.

3. Financial Obligations

To participate in the Junior Tide program players must:

- Pay a non-refundable registration fee prior to participating in Tide rugby events
- Be registered with Sportlomo for the current season (eg: 2023-24 season). (current club player)

High School students who are not BC Rugby members must pay a BC Rugby registration fee.

Players selected to the PRC traveling squad must pay travel and accommodation fees. Junior Tide may help to subsidize travel and accommodation fees where there is financial need. Through sponsorship the Tide directors will try to offset the total cost to the athlete to play at the PRC's.

4. Policy Statement

It is the policy of Junior Tide Rugby to:

- Provide transparency to the selection criteria and procedure that coaches will undertake to select a Junior Tide PRC team at different age groups.
- Provide ample opportunity for all aspiring athletes to be observed in their preferred position by the respective Junior Tide Coaches.
- Provide constructive feedback to all aspiring athletes and, when possible and appropriate, communicate that feedback to the athletes' coach and parent/guardian;
- Appoint qualified coaches to each Male and Female Age Group Team as outlined in BC Rugby's Coaching Pathway and having the skills and experience to oversee a fair and thorough selection procedure, adhering to this policy
- Provide opportunities for travelling players to be selected to play in PRC games, however, equal playing time cannot be guaranteed.

5. Selection Procedure

The Junior Tide Selection Procedure will involve observation of players by Junior Tide coaches in the following identification opportunities.

- A. Competitive Club Rugby Fixtures: Athletes participating in BC Rugby fall and spring youth leagues may be observed by Tide Coaches and to seek feedback from club coaches.
- B. BC Bears ID Sessions or post selection training: Athletes invited or participating in BC bears programs may be observed by Tide Coaches and to seek feedback from BC Bears coaching staff.
- C. School Rugby: Athletes participating for their school team may be observed by Tide Coaches and to seek feedback from school coaches.

Players identified by Tide coaches in A, B or C above may be invited to attend Identification Sessions as outlined below.

Identification Sessions: Identification Sessions are the primary entry point for athletes wanting to represent Junior Tide rugby and are open to any eligible athlete. These identification sessions will be advertised through the [Tide Rugby Website](#).

To be eligible for selection, an aspiring athlete must meet the following prerequisites:

- Be a resident of British Columbia; and
- Be a member of BC Rugby in good standing; and
- Be without any outstanding disciplinary suspensions at the time of Squad nomination and Team selection.

A minimum of 4 identification sessions will be held prior to the naming of the travel or non-travelling team.

It is strongly recommended the player attend at least 2 identification sessions.

Upon notification of selection to the travelling team, players must declare their commitment (section 6) to the Junior Tide program and pay associated travel/accommodation fee within 72 hours of notification unless otherwise discussed with a Tide representative.

6. Selection Criteria

Junior Tide Rugby coaches will have the discretion to identify athletes to their respective age-grade program based on the following criteria in no particular order:

- A. Player Safety: Demonstrates requisite competency to ensure physical and mental safety for the developmental age and physical maturity required for a given age group. In exceptional circumstances players may be allowed to play above or below their age band provided that they have completed the necessary exemptions with BC rugby. Qualifying for an exemption can only take place if the squad is low in registration numbers.
- B. Player Performance: Demonstrates on-field performance during practice activities and assessments of rugby skills and physical testing
- C. Player Teamwork: Demonstrates ability to cooperate and collaborate with fellow players, and their contribution to a positive, respectful and inclusive team environment.
- D. Player Attitude: Demonstrates positive, considerate and appreciative attitude towards the game, officials, coaches, support staff and teammates.

- E. Positional Requirements: Demonstrates required skill set of their preferred positions, any other position the coaches recommend to ensure compliance with the Laws and Age Grade variations of the game.
- F. Commitment: Demonstrates contribution to continuous individual and team improvement.

7. Player Commitment

Once a player is notified of their selection to the travelling or non-travelling team, they must commit to the following:

- Adhere to Junior Tide Rugby and BC Rugby's Code of Conduct at all times
- Regular attendance at Tide Practices and inform coaches if they are unable to attend a given practice
- Full attendance for the Provincial Regional Championships or Vancouver Sevens Invitational.
- Adhere to the Laws of the Game at all times
- To immediately inform coaches of any and all suspected concussions
- To immediately inform coaches of any injuries or illnesses.

8. Player Injury or Illness:

Players adhering to 'return to play' protocol, with injury or illness can still be considered for selection (Travelling Team), depending on the nature of the concussion, illness or injury and recovery time. Throughout the Junior Tide Program, players and/or their parent/guardian are responsible for informing the Tide Coaches and or a Tide Board of Directors representative of any previous concussions, concussion symptoms, injury or illness that may hamper the player's performance. Players who are unable to safely return to the team in time for the PRCs will forfeit their position in the travelling Team and will receive a full refund of travel / accommodation payments made as outlined in Section 2.

If the team has arrived at the PRCs and a player is unable to play due to injury or illness, the player may be released from the team if under the care of their parent or guardian. If a player becomes sick and poses a risk to other players health (Eg. Positive COVID 19 antigen test), that player may be isolated from the team and the parents / guardians contacted to inform them of appropriate medical procedures. No player will be left alone without the supervision of a Tide Rugby representative.

9. Call Up of Reserves

If the Tide Coach, in consultation with appropriate medical personnel, deem the player's recovery time insufficient to allow that player to safely return to the Team with respect to the playing schedule, the Tide coach must inform the Tide directors, who will inform the player and their parent/guardian to forfeit their position in the travelling squad.

The Tide Coach will select a non-travelling reserve player as a like-for-like replacement based on the Team's positional requirements. The Tide directors will provide written notice to the reserve player selected to join the travelling team. All reserve player call ups must declare their commitment (section 6) to the Junior Tide program and pay associated travel/accommodation fee within 24 hours of notification unless otherwise discussed with Tide directors.

10. Game Day Selection

When playing at the Provincial Regional Championships or Vancouver Sevens Invitational for a given Tide Program, the Team Head Coach will name a starting team and reserves at least 1 hours prior to kick-off for each game, or earlier if required by the rules of the relevant competition.

After naming the starting players and reserves, the Head Coach may make changes as required by the laws of the game.

Selection to the travelling team does not guarantee equal playing time. All Game Day selections are final and are not subject to appeal.

Appendix A: Example Profile / Feedback form

Player Name		School			
Position		Birthdate			
Date					
Coach					
			Self	Coach	
Player Safety	<i>Demonstrate requisite competency ensure physical and mental safety for the developmental age and physical maturity required for a given age group.</i>				
	Tackle (Attack)	Protects self and ball. Creates space. Provides outlet for ball. Roll away, get to feet.			
	Tackle (Defence)	Tracks ball carrier. Targets low. Head behind. Strong shoulder and wrap. Footwork and leg Drive. Get to feet quickly			
	Contact	Low body position; Flat Back; Shoulders above hips, Binding, Drive with legs			
Player Performance	<i>Demonstrates on-field performance during practice activities and assessments of rugby skills and physical testing</i>				
	Ball Handling	Hands ready, Reach for ball, Release to target, Transfer above waist			
	Running	Evasiveness to create space, side-step, change of pace, explosive power			
	Decision in Support	Angle toward ball, come from depth, runs straight, attacks space, communicates effectively			
	Decision with Ball	Creates space, Draws defender, Maximizes options, Know option prior to getting the ball			
	Fitness	Speed, Strength, Power and Endurance.			
Team-work	<i>Demonstrates ability to cooperate and collaborate with fellow players, and their contribution to a positive, respectful and inclusive team environment.</i>				
	Off-field Support	Looks for work, Asks when unsure, Seeks duties and or tasks			
	Leadership	Knows own strengths, willing to be vulnerable and learn, encourages others, models the way.			
Attitude	<i>Players will be evaluated on their positive, considerate and appreciative attitude towards the game, officials, coaches, support staff and teammates.</i>				
	Effort	Gives 101%, Does the hard work, knows their limits			
	Positive impact	Is grateful for opportunity, Is forgiving, acknowledges own mistakes.			
Positional Requirements	<i>Demonstrates required skill set of their preferred positions, any other position the coaches recommend and compliance with the Laws of the game</i>				
	Tactical Awareness Attack	Reads the play, adjusts to patterns, knows primary role, identifies patterns from set piece			
	Tactical Awareness Defense	Maintains structure, takes the space, uncompromising attitude, adjusts lines to condense space			
	Open field skills	Rucks, Tackles, Jackles, Kicks for continuity of play, plays to strength			
	Set piece skills	Scrum, Lineout, Restarts.			
Commitment: <i>Demonstrates contribution to continuous individual and team improvement.</i>					
	Self Autonomy	Regulates emotion, Self starter, curious to learn			

RATING

1	Emerging – Demonstrates some of the time in practice and games
2	Developing- Demonstrates most of the time in practice, but only sometimes in games
3	Proficient- Demonstrate consistently in practice, and most of the time in games
4	Maximizing – Demonstrate all of the time in practice, with high consistency in games
5	Excelling – Demonstrate beyond level (age group) in both practices and games