

World Rugby

World Rugby as the world governing body for rugby union was formally founded by the rugby unions of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales as **International Rugby Football Board (IRFB)** on 1887, Dec 05.

England joined the IRFB in 1890.

For decades the board itself and its members recognized the IRFB only as law maker of the game and its strict amateurism. Organization of championships and tournaments was not the duty of the IRFB.

In 1948, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, France (1978), Argentina, Canada, Italy, and Japan (1991) became members of the board next. Today (2018) World Rugby has 117 member federations.

After longer discussions the IRFB decided to organize a world cup for the first time in 1987. More competitions followed the next years.

After the first test match (England vs. France in 1986) women's rugby grew rapidly and concluded in the inaugural Women's World Cup in 1991.

In August 1995, the IRFB declared the game as "open" and ended more than 100 years of amateurism.

The board deleted "Football" from its name to become **International Rugby Board** in 1998.

As rugby was already played at the Olympic Games from 1900 to 1924 rugby sevens is now accepted as part of the Olympic Games 2016.

The Council, which meets twice a year, controls the IRB. The Council has 28 members: Australia, England, France, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, and Wales (these founding unions have two votes), Argentina, Canada, Italy, and Japan, the six regional associations (one vote each).

On 2014, Nov 18 IRB was rebranded simply as **World Rugby**.



Chairmen

Until 1996 the chairman was supplied by one of the eight founding members for one year in rotation. Since then, the chairman is elected by the Council.

?? .01.1996 - 24.04.2003 †	Vernon Pugh WAL
24.04.2003 - 19.11.2003	Syd Millar IRL; acting
19.11.2003 - 31.12.2007	Syd Millar IRL
01.01.2008 - 30.06.2016	Bernard Lapasset FRA
01.07.2016 -	Bill Beaumont ENG

Chief Executives

01.07.1998 - 11.04.2002	Stephen Baines ENG
11.04.2002 - 31.01.2012	Mike Miller ENG
01.02. - 14.08.2012	Robert Brophy IRL, acting
15.08.2012 -	Brett Gosper AUS

World Rugby Awards (not a complete list of all awards)

	Player of the Year	Women's Personality of the Year
2001	Keith Wood IRL	Shelley Rae ENG
2002	Fabien Galthié FRA	Monique Hirovanaa NZL
2003	Jonny Wilkinson ENG	Kathy Flores USA
2004	Schalk Burger RSA	Donna Kennedy SCO
2005	Daniel Carter NZL	Farah Palmer NZL
2006	Richie McCaw NZL	Margaret Alphonsi ENG
2007	Bryan Habana RSA	Sarah Corrigan AUS
2008	Shane Williams WAL	Carol Isherwood ENG
2009	Richie McCaw NZL	Debby Hodgkinson AUS
2010	Richie McCaw NZL	Carla Hohepa NZL
2011	Thierry Dusautoir FRA	Ruth Mitchell HKG
2012	Daniel Carter NZL	Michaela Staniford ENG
2013	Kieran Read NZL	<i>not awarded</i>
2014	Brodie Retallick NZL	Magali Harvey CAN
2015	Daniel Carter NZL	Kendra Cocksedge NZL
2016	Beauden Barrett NZL	Sarah Hunter ENG
2017	Beauden Barrett NZL	Portia Woodman NZL
2018	Johnny Sexton IRL	Jessy Trémoullière FRA
2019	Pieter-Steph Du Toit RSA	Emily Scarratt ENG
2020 ¹	Richie McCaw NZL	Jessy Trémoullière FRA
2021	Antoine Dupont FRA	Zoe Aldcroft ENG
2022	Josh van der Flier IRL	Ruahei Demant NZL
2023	Ardie Savea NZL	Marie Packer ENG
2024	Pieter-Steph Du Toit RSA	Ellie Kildunne ENG

Remark: 2001, 2002, 2012 and since 2014 "Women's Player of the Year" instead

	Sevens Player of the Year	Women's Sevens Player of the Year
2004	Simon Amor ENG	
2005	Orene Ai'i NZL	
2006	Uale Mai SAM	
2007	Afeleke Pelenise NZL	
2008	DJ Forbes NZL	
2009	Ollie Phillips ENG	
2010	Mikaele Pesamino SAM	
2011	Cecil Afrika RSA	
2012	Tomasi Cama NZL	
2013	Tim Mikkelson NZL	Kayla McAlister NZL
2014	Samisoni Viriviri FIJ	Emilee Cherry AUS
2015	Werner Kok RSA	Portia Woodman NZL
2016	Seabelo Senatla RSA	Charlotte Caslick AUS
2017	Perry Baker USA	Michaela Blyde NZL
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2019	Jerry Tuwai FIJ	Ruby Tui NZL
2020 ²	Jerry Tuwai FIJ	Portia Woodman NZL
2021	Marcos Moneta ARG	Anne-Cécile Ciofani FRA
2022	Terry Kennedy IRL	Charlotte Caslick AUS
2023	Rodrigo Isgro ARG	Tyla Nathan-Wong NZL
2024	Antoine Dupont FRA	Maddison Levi AUS

¹ Instead of awarding the best of rugby on the field over the past calendar year, the best players of the decade were selected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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