

BARBARIANS RUGBY: Our Bright Future

The Barbarians Rugby Advisory Group wish to take this opportunity to update all our players, parents, whanau, sponsors and supporters on what the remainder of the year looks like and 2022.



As we come to the conclusion of the season (other than 7's), it is appropriate to share with you how delighted we are with the teams and the rugby programme in 2021. We have made some real progress on and off the field and have encountered connectedness, fun, hard-work, whanau and welcomed wider community this season.

Barbarians Academy UPDATE – Term 4

We have identified 4 dates: **10th November, 17th November, 24th November and 1st December**, where coaches from all teams will be present to run fun filled sessions that include food and drink. These sessions will focus on connecting with one another, having fun and developing a culture across all team which is inclusive. We are also excited to be welcoming Ōtūmoetai Intermediate players to these sessions. The Academy sessions will begin at 3:30pm on the main field at Ōtūmoetai College. All players from all teams, male and female are welcome. It is FREE.

Barbarians Advisory Group

Over the last two years we have created and developed an Advisory Group working behind the scenes to help run and grow rugby. This has been a very successful model.

Peter Blackwell, our local legend and current Chairperson, is retiring and makes way for Emma Henderson who will take the reins and oversee the Advisory Committee from 2022. The Barbarians Rugby Programme can consider themselves very fortunate to have Emma lead our group into the future. She brings a wealth of proven leadership experience. Other group members are: Todd Mead, Bryce Lawrence, Richard Brown, David Brown and Rachel McGill.

Head of Rugby

A new role called The Head of Rugby has been created for 2022 and beyond. This role has the responsibility to support all the teams and infrastructure of Barbarians Rugby and Richard Brown has accepted this role. Richard wishes to thank all the players and whanau for their support over the years and will also help with coaching. He looks forward to continuing to grow our values and performance-based programmes, on and off the field, while enhancing the connection with community service projects via Good Neighbour.

Register your interest now - we want you playing rugby

For students who have recently arrived in Tauranga and enrolled at Ōtūmoetai College and those students who wish to give rugby a go in 2022, including being a part of our Term 4 Academy, please send Richard Brown a quick email, asking how you can be included into our rugby programme. His email address is: rbrown@otc.school.nz

Rugby Teams

Barbarians Rugby are forecasting 3 teams again in 2022. An Under 14 Team and Under 16 Team and a First XV.

Under 14's: We are yet to confirm a coaching and management team for the Under 14's, however, we have been very fortunate to have James Henderson and Lisa Adams indicate that they will be involved with helping coach and manage this team. This is very exciting to already have names attached to an Under 14 Team at this early stage.

Under 16's: Jason Crawford, David Brown and Brett Fisher will continue on with the team that they have been positively developing from the Under 14 grade and will likely play in an Under 16 grade in 2022. This coaching and management team are building a wonderful culture and developing a rugby skill set amongst their players. Our rugby programme is fortunate to have these 3 involved and contribute so positively to our players' development.

Female Rugby: This year our females combined with Mount Maunganui College. This was a championship team that went on to win their respective competition. We have many talented female athletes playing rugby and will look to build further on the successful 2021 season.

7's Rugby: The 7's season has been impacted by Covid. The North Island Competition scheduled in Term 1 was cancelled. We are hoping that the tournaments scheduled for November 3rd and 10th will go ahead. Again, we have many talented 7's athletes, both female and male and will look to develop this programme in the future.

First XV

Matt Black will be the Head Coach in 2022.

Koti Whittaker and John O'Loan will be the Assistant Coaches.

Bryce Lawrence, Joe MacPherson, Luke Moulds and Mark Lunjevich will continue to manage the various aspects of a First XV team.

See below for a little background information about the First XV Coaches:

Koti Whittaker is new to the area, coming up from the Wairarapa to study at Bethlehem Teachers College. He has played representative footy and coached for a number of years at senior level.

John O'Loan will continue on in a coach advisory role in 2022 offering 20 years of coaching experience both locally and abroad.

Matt Black has for the last 10 years coached junior and senior rugby at Tauranga Sports, and is a former Ōtūmoetai College student - *"I feel very privileged to be able to give back to my old school"* .

The First XV coaches all bring different experiences to the coaching group which will help bring the best out of the 1st XV and the Barbarians wider group as a whole.

The 4-week rugby academy in Term 4 will be a great chance for the new coaches to get an early glimpse of the talent of our Barbarians Rugby Programme and it's players.

Any prospective First XV Rugby player wishing to make contact with the appointed coaches, details are below.

Matt Black – mathewblack@hotmail.com

Koti Whittaker – kotit@student.onlineclassroom.nz

John O'Loan – joloan@sharp.net.nz

Bryce Lawrence – bryce.lawrence@nzrugby.co.nz