

St. Bede's College Rugby

- Q: How do we register to play at St. Bede's?** **A:** Registration takes two forms. One is online on "Sporty", the NZRU database. The link for that is <https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/104519>. The other is on paper, carried out in February, to allow the school to organise trials and to give you some information about pre-season games etc. **Both are necessary.** Players already in the system from the previous season have been sent an email from Sporty inviting them to register for the 2020 season, but boys new to our rugby system must sign-up afresh.
- Q: What are the subs and how is that money used?** **A:** \$130. The money received in the form of subs is used to provide gear (balls, training equipment etc.) and larger assets such as goal posts, as well as to cover annual team registration fees, contribute towards the cost of having an RDO and to help fund our volunteer appreciation initiatives.
- Q: Do players in the 1st XV pay an extra levy?** **A:** Yes, they do. Sponsorship specific to the 1st XV subsidizes costs, but players also contribute.
- Q: Does the College encourage early specialisation of its players?** **A:** No. We particularly want junior boys to continue playing a summer sport. Research proves that there is no correlation between early specialisation on rugby and success at the top levels of the sport. Boys are encouraged to enjoy their cricket, rowing, athletics etc. over summer and, if they can juggle the commitments, also play the likes of basketball, judo etc. during the winter season.
- Q: What teams are there?** **A:** Hopefully in 2020 we will operate four U18 teams (including the 1st XV), two U16 teams, three U15 teams and four junior teams (U14 and U58kgs U13/U14) teams, so a total of 13 teams.
- Q: Is there a deadline for boys deciding whether or not to play in an open grade (eg: U14 or U15) or in an age/weight grade?** **A:** Yes, in order to be able to organise the teams smoothly we ask that players make a decision by Friday 28 February.
- Q: Is there a deadline for online player registrations?** **A:** Yes, to allow smooth planning of what teams we field and coaches/managers we need, we request that all boys register on the NZRU Sporty website by Friday 28 February. (Link: <https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/104519>). Players who were registered with us in 2019 will receive an email from Sporty inviting you to register for 2020.
- Q: When are the trials?** **A:** They will start in late March for senior school boys and in April for the juniors, once summer sport is finished.
- Q: Will players need to register in person to play in trials?** **A:** Yes, Registration Day will be at school from 11:00am on Sunday 1 March. This is separate to the process carried out through the NZRU Sporty website link given above.
- Q: How many All Blacks has the College produced?** **A:** A total of about 12, but some moved to other schools in their later school years. Our recent All Blacks are Andy Earl, Jon Preston and Elliot Dixon.
- Q: Do we have old boys playing at the top level in New Zealand?** **A:** Yes, Loose-forward James Lentjes has been named as captain of the Highlanders for 2020. Prop Siate Tokolahi is with him in the same squad. Wing Solomon Alaimalo is in the Chiefs and flankers Billy Harmon and Charlie Gamble will play for the Crusaders and Waratahs respectively. There are also several old boys playing professional rugby overseas.

12. **Q: Do boys need to buy rugby jerseys?** **A:** Numbered playing jerseys are provided (sponsored) and kept by the College for use the following season, but the College Shop also sells jerseys if you wish to buy one for practice use.
13. **Q: Do we take part in the National U15 tourney?** **A:** Yes, our U15A team, plus boys of appropriate age invited from other St. Bede's teams attend the National Tourney. In 2020 it will be held in Christchurch.
14. **Q: Are there pre-season sessions?** **A:** Yes, weight-training sessions for Year 10/11 and above started in November and will resume in February. Skill sessions start in February.
15. **Q: Is there a Facebook page for information for parents and players?** **A:** Yes, there are two. One, **St Bede's College Rugby** is open to the general public and the other, **St Bede's Rugby Noticeboard** is a closed group that you need to apply to join. The latter provides more detailed notices about operational matters. Once teams are selected, it is common for managers to set up their own Facebook or chat groups to share more specific team-related information with parents and players.
16. **Q: Can parents be involved as coaches or managers?** **A:** Yes, definitely. Our aim is to have a teacher involved with each of our teams, but that is not always possible. Parent managers are particularly welcome. Please do not hold back, contact Mark Ealey about either role: mealey@stbedes.school.nz
17. **Q: What are the 1st XV traditional fixtures?** **A:** We have traditional games with St. Pat's Town and Silverstream in Wellington, St. Kevin's in Oamaru and St. Peter's in Auckland.
18. **Q: What is the UC Championship?** **A:** It is the 1st XV competition played among the strongest dozen or so schools located the Crusader region. St. Bede's last won it in 2015.
19. **Q: When are 1st XV caps awarded to players?** **A:** After they have played in twelve competition matches or games of equivalent significance.
20. **Q: Please explain the selection process.** **A:** Selection in each grade is normally carried out by several coaches after more than one selection event. The standard approach is for the selectors to select the top team from that age-grade then the remaining boys to trial again for clarify rankings for B and C team selection. Some boys will opt not to trial because they are happy to go straight into the C team or 4th XV. The U16 boys will trial in the U18 group before having a separate U16 trial (depending on numbers).
21. **Q: Please explain the U16 vs 2nd XV selection policy.** **A:** The policy is that Under 16 boys not selected for 1st XV will play in their relevant age grades. However, with the approval of the Master-in-Charge-of-Rugby, in individual cases this policy may vary when it is deemed it is in the best interests of the player and the team involved that Under 16 players are included in the 2nd XV roster. The main two criteria will be the depth in certain positions and whether the player is a Year 12 student. The over-riding consideration will always be that one team is not strengthened at the expense of another with regard to their relevant competitions.
22. **Q: The CRFU introduced an U58kgs grade for U13 and U14 boys in 2019. Will that continue?** **A:** St. Bede's College supported that grade by entering two teams this year. We want to do the same in 2020.
23. **Q: Can I join the Rugby Committee?** **A:** Yes, parents are welcome to join. There are other ways to contribute to St. Bede's Rugby such as assistance on Club Day or helping to manage a team.

24. **Q: What is the Mentors Programme?** : This is a new initiative designed to take advantage of the significant rugby knowledge that exists among our parent body. People in the Mentors Group will make the minimum commitment of watching a boy (chosen by coaches) play, giving him some positive feedback and then potentially repeating this, or following up with a phone call. In some cases this level of mentorship will suffice, but in others it may continue further. Some mentors may also be asked to help mentor our student coaches. We will start on a relatively small scale to ensure that the system is effective moving forward.
25. **Q: Does Rugby survey its stakeholders?** A: Survey Monkey is used every year to give our parents, players and other stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback on how we run rugby at St. Bede's. We use a collaborative approach and genuinely welcome constructive feedback.
26. **Q: Is it possible for a boy to play for a club in his first year and to join a College team later?** A: Yes, it is, but we highly recommend that boys play for the school. Doing so creates a valuable opportunity to make new friends. Trialling within the College system but then going to play for a club because of dissatisfaction with the outcome of the selection process is best avoided.
27. **Q: What is the International Rugby Programme?** A: The IRP is a 22-week programme of rugby and study for boys and girls from overseas.
<https://hail.to/st-bedes-college/article/QsfYsFX>
28. **Q: What is the Venerables?** A: The Venerables" is the St Bede's Rugby Supporters Club. A number of events were hosted throughout 2019 including the golf day, match day functions and post-match get togethers at the Venerables Club House - The Elmwood Trading Company. Membership continues to rise and the funds raised are going towards the betterment of the game at every level in the school. Please treat this as an invitation to join the Venerables, have some fun and support the boys.
29. **Q: What is "Game on"?** A: It is a new NZRU initiative that aims to limit the number of defaults due to there being not enough front rowers or players. It will be used below Sections 1. Game On will only be used when a team(s) has fewer than 15 players and/or insufficient front rowers to commence the match. Agreement must be reached between teams and match officials prior to the match starting. Teams are encouraged to agree on the Game On options in the days leading up to match day. For more detail: <http://nzrugby.co.nz/game-on>