



Kelly McCallum

Kelly McCallum was first introduced to rugby in 1992, playing with Douglas Rugby Club in New Westminster, BC. She spent one season with Brothers RFC in Brisbane, Australia in 1998, earning honours as the club's top scorer with 109 points in 16 games. McCallum returned to Douglas Rugby Club in 1999, captaining the Premier team to four consecutive provincial championship matches, winning in 2001 and 2002, and earning several awards as outstanding back or MVP. In 2002, she became the first-ever winner of the BCRU Women's Player of the Year award.

McCallum earned more than 30 caps for Canada's Women's Rugby Team between 2001 and 2006, and was the starting flyhalf at the 2002 and 2006 Rugby World Cups. She captained the team 16 times between 2004 and 2006, including at the 2006 Rugby World Cup, where she played her last career game for Canada against France. McCallum scored 100 points over her career, and her 29 points at the 2006 Rugby World Cup ranked ninth in the tournament. She was also the leading scorer of the first-ever Canadian women's sevens team that competed at the Hong Kong Sevens in 1997.

McCallum represented BC in 1994, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, and 2002, captaining the province from 2000 to 2002. In provincial inter-union competition, she won the Hellerud-Brown Cup twice with Fraser Valley, in 2000 and 2001.

Her playing and coaching career took her around the world. From 2002 to 2005, McCallum played for the Richmond Rugby Club in London, England, earning the Premier team outstanding back title in 2003 and the Premier team MVP title in 2005, while also coaching for Richmond Academy. She then moved to Australia to finish her career with Sydney University, retiring as a player after the 2006 Rugby World Cup and becoming head coach of the university's first division and sevens teams.

Prior to coaching in England and Australia, McCallum initiated the girls' rugby program at Elgin Park High School in Surrey, BC. After Australia she moved to Japan, working with the Japanese rugby program from 2010 to 2012 as a member of the high performance committee, technical advisor for the women's team, and head coach of Japan Olympic Academy's women's sevens team.

Since 2013, McCallum has lived in Whangarei, New Zealand and continued coaching high school and women's teams. She is a lecturer at Auckland University of Technology in the Masters Sports Leadership program and is a doctoral candidate in Emotional Intelligence and Inclusive Practices in Sport Governance. She was involved in the organization of the 2021 Rugby World Cup (played in 2022), helping set up coaching workshops. She continues to play with the Manaia Golden Oldies men's team.

McCallum's accolades also include being the first woman inducted into the BC Rugby Hall of Fame (as a player) in 2015 and the first women's rugby player inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame in 2019. In 2021, McCallum was named as the flyhalf for the Brothers RFC Silver Jubilee all-star team, which was selected by a committee of coaches and managers to celebrate 25 years of women's rugby at the club.

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