



Julianne Zussman

Player, coach and now referee, Julianne Zussman has excelled at every level of her rugby career. At the local level, Zussman's career as a player began in the grassroots game playing at her high school, Ashbury College. She went on to play for four different rugby clubs across Canada including the Ottawa Irish, Town of Mount Royal RFC, Velox RFC and Castaway Wanderers RFC. Julianne also played on Rugby Quebec's Provincial Team.

As an international rugby player, Zussman earned a total of 44 caps over the span of her career, scoring a total of 18 tries, often running in the back three. She earned her first cap against Scotland in 2007 and played for Canada at the 2010, 2014 and 2017 Rugby World Cups, claiming a silver medal in 2014. At the conclusion of the 2017 Rugby World Cup, Julianne was named to the World Rugby Dream Team and was named the 2017 recipient of Rugby Canada's Gillian Florence Award, a peer selected award given to the player who "best represents the qualities of Canadian rugby". Zussman also represented Canada on the 7s pitch, playing in 11 international tournaments.

Since retiring as a player, she made significant strides in her career as an international match official. In 2019, she officially became the first capped women's Canadian rugby player to referee at the international level, making her debut on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series. Since then, she has officiated several international sevens tournaments and 15s fixtures, including the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, the Women's Six Nations, the Rugby World Cup Sevens and the 2021 Rugby World Cup (played in 2022).

Off the field, Zussman has spent time as a coach and volunteer with the University of Victoria Women's Rugby Team and the Dawson College Women's Rugby Team.

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