



## **RUGBY CANADA (“PACIFIC PRIDE”) PERFORMANCE ACADEMY BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Naming and location of Academy**

The nickname “Pacific Pride” has been included to honour the more than 140 alumni of the original program that both played for Canada and contributed to the growth of the game across the country. The Academy will be based out of Rugby Canada’s home campus in Langford, BC in order to benefit from the existing infrastructures and resources present.

### **Player Recruitment**

Although based on the west coast, it is imperative that the recruiting for the academy be nationwide, identifying players most capable of moving into international rugby. Rugby Canada will work to identify emerging talent from various teams and competitions in Canada including age grade national teams, provincial teams, the Canadian Rugby Championship, club rugby, university rugby and Canadian qualified overseas players. The head coach of the Academy will collect information on potential players through communication with Provincial Unions and coaches of teams in the above mentioned competitions with ultimate oversight of final selection provided by the Director of Men’s Rugby. The player pool currently being considered is directly reflective of the player population in the various regions across Canada.

### **Academy Players**

Players would be expected to play at the Academy for 2-3 years. However, selection will be done annually and players would need to earn their selection year over year. As with all high-performance development environments, players in the program will have ongoing reviews with coaches to discuss their progress and their status. The training schedule and time commitments will be designed to ensure that players are able to either work or go to school should they choose to do so. Should a player decline an invitation to the Academy, for any reason, Rugby Canada will continue tracking talent across the country and will monitor them in their own environments.

### **Competition**

The team will assemble in mid-August and begin competing within the BC Rugby Premier League competition in approximately late September to allow for a pre-season. The Academy will play 12 away matches against each other team in order to interact with each Club’s home environment. The team will not participate in the BC Rugby playoffs, but will have the games count in the regular season standings to allow for a top-level of competition.

Rugby Canada is committed to ensuring that the league stays strong and competitive - as such, there is an existing agreement with BC Rugby and the teams within the BC Rugby Men’s Premier League to ensure Academy selection equality.

### **Funding**

The Academy will be fully funded by Rugby Canada via existing allocated centralization budgets. There are two primary funding streams that support both men’s and women’s development, including the Academy structure, and those come from funding that is awarded based on men’s 15’s performances (World cup qualification) and women’s 7’s performances (Olympic results and World ranking).



### **Men's XV Centralized Program**

The men's carded group over the past couple of years has primarily been players who are in their mid-20s and capped internationals. With the recent establishment of the MLR, the bulk of those players have since signed MLR contracts and will be with their MLR clubs between December and June moving forward. We are confident that they are in first rate training and competition environments. We are adapting to this new landscape, and are therefore able to redirect funds to the Pacific Pride Academy and further invest in the young talent from across Canada.

### **National team selection**

National team assemblies in 2020 and beyond will take place in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year with summer internationals in July, the America's Rugby Championship in the early fall and fall internationals in November.

### **Women's Academies**

There are currently two strong women's academies in Langford and Toronto that are proving to be successful in identifying and developing young talent, and Rugby Canada will continue to support these existing programs through the current funding streams.