**Women in Rugby Governance Programme 2026**



**APPLICATION INFORMATION**

#### **Introduction**

#### The New Zealand Rugby Women in Rugby Governance Programme 2026 has been designed to provide high-quality and tailored governance content specific to women in Provincial Union rugby leadership.

#### Funded by New Zealand Rugby and run in partnership with the Institute of Directors New Zealand (IoDNZ), the programme offers:

#### Practical governance training tailored for women in rugby

#### Professional and personal development opportunities

#### Networking across Provincial Unions

#### **Who can apply?**

#### The programme is open to women in New Zealand who are:

#### planning to move into a Provincial Union rugby governance role within the next two years,

#### in an emerging/aspiring director role in rugby, or

#### currently in their first term as a director on a rugby board.

#### Other applicants may also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

#### **What will I learn?**

This programme is designed to:

* Allow the participants to grow in confidence and flourish in traditional governance environments.
* Equip participants with the fundamental level of requisite knowledge to participate in governance effectively.
* Encourage confidence in approach to participate effectively – asking the right questions and holding to account where necessary.
* Promote an understanding of the power of gender and cultural diversity.
* Share experience and form a network of women in rugby governance who are skilled and equipped to perform effectively.

#### **What does the programme cover?**

#### The programme will run from February to June 2026 and includes:

1. Foundations of Governance and Knowledge – half-day online facilitated session 9:00am – 12:00pm on **9 February 2026**.
2. Whakawhanaungatanga Dinner – 6:00pm in **Wellington** on **17 February 2026** (venue tbc).
3. Governance Essentials – full-day in-person workshop in **Wellington** on **18 February 2026**.
4. Introduction to Mentoring – one-hour online presentation 12:30-1:30pm on **26 February 2026**.
5. Introduction to Finance - One-hour self-paced online module series to be completed prior 7 March 2026.
6. Mentoring – six hours of online mentoring sessions during March – May 2026 (dates, times, and structures to be agreed with your mentor).
7. Programme review – **90 minute online facilitated review** and feedback on **28 May 2026.**
8. Feedback Survey – open **29 May – 12 June 2026**.

Programme participants must be able to commit to the all the dates above and have access to equipment and internet bandwidth capable of hosting Microsoft Teams.

NZR will cover the cost of:

* The Programme fee
* 1 night accommodation & dinner (Feb 17) and catering (Feb 18)

The cost of return travel to Wellington, any additional accommodation, and incidentals for the in-person workshop are not included in the programme, so these should be discussed with your Provincial Union.

#### **Who is the facilitator?**

**Kiriwaitingi A Rei LLB, B.SocSc, BA (Hons), MInstD**

Kiriwaitingi is a qualified solicitor who had previously held the role of CE at Māori Investments for 10 years. She is now the Head of Māori Alliances at Zespri, based in Tauranga.

While being heavily involved in the kiwifruit industry and Māori economic/commercial development, she currently holds directorships on Ngāti Awa Group Holdings Ltd, Waiu Dairy LP, Putauaki Trust, and the Zespri Sustainability Advisory Board. Kiriwaitingi is also the Deputy Chair of the Māori Kiwifruit Growers Inc and was the first woman appointed to the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union. She was also a future Director to the Board of Auckland International Airport from 2016 – 2018. In her free time, Kiriwaitingi enjoys watching and participating in kapa haka, F45 and netball.

#### **How to apply**

You will need endorsement from your Provincial Union to be considered for this programme. Please complete the application on the following page and send it **to your Provincial Union’s Chief Executive** by **Sunday 19 October 2025**.

Successful candidates for the programme will be confirmed by NZR by 3 November 2025.

#### Enquiries can be sent to:

#### [judy.obrien@nzrugby.co.nz](mailto:judy.obrien@nzrugby.co.nz) for general programme enquiries

#### [eileen.baxter@nzrugby.co.nz](mailto:eileen.baxter@nzrugby.co.nz) for programme co-ordination enquiries.

### **APPLICATION FORM - NZR WOMEN IN RUGBY GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME 2026**

Please complete the application form below and email it **to the Chief Executive of your Provincial Union by Sunday 19 October 2025**.

Use the subject line: [your name] – Women in Rugby Governance Programme 2026 Application.

Provincial Union contacts: <https://www.nzrugby.co.nz/about-nzr/contact-us/provincial-union-contacts/>

**Participant application information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: |  |
| Preferred name (name tag): |  |
| Pronouns (optional): |  |
| Email Address: |  |
| Cell Phone Number: |  |
| Which Rugby Union and/or Club do you belong to or are associated with? |  |
| Provide a high-level summary of your career and/or involvement in rugby, including any current rugby role/s or position/s. |  |
| What is your experience in governance of any kind? |  |
| Please explain your motivation to complete this programme e.g. your rugby leadership goals and the skills/competencies you would like to develop over the course of the programme. |  |
| Select your mentoring preference. (We’ll try to assign your preference, but it is not guaranteed.) | One-to-one mentoring  Small group mentoring |
| I want information about NZR’s online governance basics learning modules. | Yes  No |
| I commit to attend the online introduction on 9 Feb. | Yes  No |
| I will attend the whakawhanaungatanga dinner on 17 Feb. | Yes  No |
| I commit to attend the in-person workshop in Wellington on 18 Feb. | Yes  No |
| I need support from my Provincial Union to attend the workshop on 18 Feb. | Yes  No |
| I commit to attend the online introduction to mentoring on 26 Feb. | Yes  No |
| I commit to complete Intro to Finance online module before 7 Mar. | Yes  No |
| I can access equipment and bandwidth to support Teams meetings. | Yes  No |
| Your ethnicity/ethnicities (optional): |  |
| I agree to the sharing of my information with NZR and IoD for the purpose and duration of this programme: | Yes  No |
| **For PU decision**: | Primary nomination  Secondary nomination |