



## Jill Zonneveld

In the 1990's, Zonneveld played an instrumental and leadership role in the development and organization of the Women's International game in Canada as well as the development of the Women's Rugby World Cup (WRWC).

The very first women's world tournament was played in 1990 and was organized and governed by the 4 participating Unions and was referred to as the World Rugby Festival for Women. The second event, referred to as the Women's Rugby World Cup was held in 1991 and again was organized and governed by the 12 participating Unions.

Zonneveld's significant involvement administratively at the international level began in 1994 where the ad hoc governing Board of the Women's international game, (which she was Canada's representative), was invited to be represented at the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) at their biennial AGM in Vancouver. It was at this meeting that Zonneveld and two other Board members became the very first members of the IRB's Women's Advisory Committee (WAC). Zonneveld held that position for an additional 10 years when she stepped down from the committee. During this period, (1994 – 2003) WAC worked directly with rugby unions to further the game for girls and women, encourage more tournaments and access for girls in both 15's and 7's.

Zonneveld joined Rugby Canada's Board of Directors in October of 1993 as VP National Senior Women's team and held that position for 6 years. During her tenure, Zonneveld was instrumental in furthering international competition for Canadian women with the introduction of the Canada Cup; improved funding for national team players, increased international fixtures and increasing the number of teams attending WRWC's.

It was at the 1998 WRWC where the Canadian Women's Team improved their standing to 4<sup>th</sup> place, the highest they had ever achieved and maintained the 4<sup>th</sup> place finish at the ensuing two WRWC (2002 & 2006). It is without a doubt, the women's international program flourished during Zonneveld's six years at the helm, both in standings and in funding. A true administrative beacon for the Women's game at the national and international levels.

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