

Waikato Secondary Schools Rugby Union

CHAMPIONSHIP RULES 2017 Waikato Secondary Schools Competition

For any breaches of the championship rules 2017 please refer to the sanctions

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1. SCHOOL PLAYER REGISTRATION

All players playing from the Waikato Secondary Schools Rugby Union must be registered both with the Waikato Rugby Union and the WSSRU. Students playing in the Super 8, Central North Island and the Counties Manukau/Waikato competitions will need to be registered with the WRU.

The WSSRU Secretary will need to be notified of players transferring from the Super 8, Central North Island and Counties Manukau/Waikato competitions back into a WRU controlled competition. These changes will need to be approved by the Secretary by 12:00pm on the Thursday before they are to play in our competition. All rules regarding students moving between teams, contained in this document, will apply.

The Sporty online registration system will be used to register all players, while team lists provided at the start of the season will automatically register players for the WSSRU Competitions.

*please note WRU will require team lists from the outside competitions (Super 8, CNI and the Counties Manukau/Waikato).

2. COMPETITION POINTS

The competition points for all grades will be:

- four (4) points for a win
 - five (5) points for a default to the opposition.
 - two (2) points for a draw
 - one (1) point for scoring four tries or more
 - one (1) point for a loss by seven (7) or fewer points
 - zero (0) points for a loss by more than seven (7) points.
- a) If two (2) or more teams are equal on points the rankings of the teams will be decided by the points differential system, involving the points FOR minus points AGAINST, will apply.
- b) If the points differential rule cannot be applied the below will:
- i) If only two (2) teams are involved the team that won when they last met will be regarded as the higher ranked team of the two.
 - ii) If three (3) teams or more are involved the who beat who rule will apply if one team has beaten all the other teams on the same points or if one team has lost to all the other teams on the same points.
- c) If two (2) teams or more are still equal then the team which scored the greatest number of tries will be ranked highest.
- d) If two (2) or more teams cannot be separated by these rules, a toss of the coin will apply.

3. TEAM LISTS AND PLAYER IDENTIFICATION

ID Books

All teams, both boys and girls, must have available at each game the following information in booklet form.

- Name of player
- Photo ID
- Date of Birth
- Entry date into school
- Weights for Under 55kg and 65kg teams
- Overall team list
- Players with dispensation must be identified using attached email from union
- A page for opposition managers or coaches to sign

The majority of this information can be obtained directly from your school management system.

Rulings

- Teams must produce their ID book to the opposition, well before the start of each game.
- The opposition Coach/Manager must sign each other's books.
- If a team doesn't turn up with an ID book PLAY THE GAME, then if you have a complaint send it to the WSSRU secretary. Complaints must be with the WSSRU secretary by midday Monday following the game, the offending team will be notified on the Tuesday and asked to supply any information to support their case and a decision will be made by the WSSRU secretary by or on the following Friday. Schools who feel they have been unfairly treated can appeal to the WSSRU Chairperson, however his/her decision will be final.
- If a team fails to provide the relevant information or the correct information the game will be seen as defaulted and 5 competition points will be awarded to the opposition.

4. AGE GRADES – Under 14 / Under 15 / Under 16

This competition will be decided based on the number of teams entered.

All players in this grade must be under the age, as of the 1 January 2017 to be eligible to play in this grade. Dispensations may be granted under exceptional circumstances at the discretion of Committee if applications are received.

If a team fails to comply the game will be treated as a default and 5 competition points will be awarded to the opposition. In the second instance the draw steward will withdraw the team from the competition.

5. UNDER 55KG

This competition will be decided based on the number of teams entered.

- a) All players must be under 15 as at 1 January 2017.
- b) The vast majority of players are expected to weigh 55kg or less however teams are allowed a maximum of 10kg to allocate between squad members who are over 55kg. No individual player can weigh more than 57kg.
- c) All schools are expected to work within these guidelines when creating teams and no dispensations will be granted for weight.
- d) If a team fails to comply the game will be treated as a default and 5 competition points will be awarded to the opposition. In the second instance the draw steward will withdraw the team from the competition

6. UNDER 65KG

This competition will be decided based on the number of teams entered.

- a) The vast majority of players are expected to weigh 65kg or less however teams are allowed a maximum of 10kg to allocate between squad members who are over 65kg. No individual player can weigh more than 67kg.
- b) All schools are expected to work within these guidelines when creating teams and no dispensations will be granted for weight.
- c) If a team fails to comply the game will be treated as a default and 5 competition points will be awarded to the opposition. In the second instance the draw steward will withdraw the team from the competition

7. WEIGH IN FOR PLAYERS FOR U55KG & U65KG

This will take place at a time and place established by the WSSRU. A tournament is normally played on this day. All prospective players from all schools are expected to attend including if possible players who may be too ill or injured to play. All players will be weighed on the same set of scales and players who are not able to attend the weigh in will be required to be weighed in by the WRU during the following week. Players in these circumstances should have documentation from their Principal or Deputy Principal explaining why they were absent on the official weigh-in day. Students new to the school (during the season) would also need to be weighed by the WRU.

When being weighed-in the player must have a photo ID provided by the school. This can easily be produced from your school management system.

8. PLAYERS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

The aim here is to allow students to play rugby who would otherwise not have that opportunity. These students could be homeschooled or attending a school that does not have a rugby team for them. Dispensation for these players must be gained at our dispensation meeting and when making decision the committee will consider the individual needs of players as well as the potential advantage that may be given to a particular side. A limit may be placed upon the number of players in this situation

playing for a particular team. These players are not required to wear the dispensated orange socks.

If a team contains players from another school that cannot qualify for regional or national competitions such as the Chiefs cup, national finals, the Co-Ed cup and the Condor Sevens. This also applies to girl's rugby.

9. COMBINED SCHOOL TEAMS

Combined teams can play in the competition however permission must be granted by the WSSRU. The same criteria will be used as per players from other schools.

If a team contains players from another school that cannot qualify for regional or national competitions such as the Chiefs cup, national finals, the Co-Ed cup and the Condor Sevens. This also applies to girl's rugby.

10. LIMITS ON PLAYING DISPENSATED PLAYERS

Where the committee has granted multiple dispensations in terms of age a maximum of only three age dispensated players can be on the field at any one time. This applies to all teams and all grades. These players are to wear the dispensated orange socks pulled up and clearly visible.

11. PLAYERS WHO HAVE LEFT SCHOOL

Once they sign off from school they cannot play secondary school rugby. To play you must be enrolled as secondary school students.

12. JERSEY NUMBERING

Division 1, 2 and 3, therefore top 24 teams must have numbered jerseys, no duplicate numbers.

13. CLARIFICATION FOR PLAYERS MOVING UP AND DOWN IN GRADES

Once a player has played 5 competition games (at any level) that player cannot be moved down into a lower grade. Note, the player simply needs to be named on the team's sheet to be counted, they may in fact not have taken the field but still will be counted. When considering team rankings, an age grade team will be regarded as having a higher ranking than a weight graded team. Where a team needs replacements due to injury, players may be moved up a grade to fill that position at any time during the competition. Where schools have multiple teams within one grade, no movement between teams should take place once term 3 starts. Players new to a school during the season can be placed into a team appropriate to their ability.

Protest Process

Email to the WSSRU Secretary stating that you are protesting and the school you are protesting against and why, and that you are claiming the points for that game. This must be received by Midday Monday following the game. The WSSRU Secretary will advise the school by 4.00pm Tuesday that a protest has been lodged against them.

14. RULES PERTAINING TO THE PLAYING OF GAMES, CHANGE OF VENUE, TIME, GROUND CLOSURES AND DEFAULTS

a) Changes of venues

Applications for changes to scheduled venues must be made to the Draws Steward in writing/email by both schools involved no later than 4 days (Wednesday 3pm) prior to the match being played. Confirmation of venue change will be notified to schools.

b) Ground Closures

Requests from the Hamilton City Council and/or other District Councils for venue changes may occur due to inclement weather conditions.

These changes will be published on

<http://draws.nzrugby.co.nz/competitions/Fixtures.aspx?Provincial=2530&Name=Waikato%20RFU> website as soon as they are approved. Please note that the draw as published in the Waikato Times may not be accurate and it is the responsibility of team management to check for changes of venues.

c) Game Time Changes

Games are to be played at the time set in the draw. Should a time change be required both schools must agree to the change in writing and then inform the draws steward by 3pm Wednesday before the game.

d) Defaults

- a) Any team intending to default their game must inform the Draws Steward (via email) by 9:30pm on Thursday night prior to the scheduled game.
- b) Any school who fails to notify of their default within the scheduled time will be subject to a fine of \$150. This fine will only be excused in the case of exceptional circumstances.
- c) A second default by a team after the scheduled time and subsequent defaults thereafter will result in a fine of \$150.
- d) All matches shall commence at the time and at the venue as per the published draw, unless changed as per rule 8.
- e) Where a team is unable to provide 15 players (including three trained front rowers) to start the match, this team shall forfeit the competition points. The match may still be played.
- f) Five (5) competition points will be awarded for a default to the opposition (except Junior non-competition grades).

e) Results

- a) All team sheets must be fully completed, including results and amount of tries scored, and must be sent only by email to results co-ordinator Rob Hewitt at robh@mooloo.co.nz, by midday on the first working day immediately after the match.
- b) Technical default - Front row players must be identified on your team sheet.
 - i) Where a team is unable to provide 15 players (including three trained front rowers) to start the match, this team shall forfeit the competition points. The match may still be played.
 - ii) Each player in the front row and any potential replacement(s) must be suitably trained and experienced.
 - iii) 3.5(c) DSLV Law 2014: If a team nominates 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 or 20 players it must have a minimum of 3 players who are trained to play in front row positions.
 - iv) The replacement of a front row forward must come from suitably trained and experienced players who started the match or from the nominated replacements.

15. SUBSTITUTIONS (DSLV Law 12 & 13)

1. Substituted players re-joining the match

A player may be used as a substitute only once
A substituted player may be used as a permanent or temporary replacement.

2. Rolling Substitutions

Rolling substitutions are **not** permitted at any level of rugby in New Zealand.

16. NZ RUGBY HALF GAME RULE (DSLV Law 15)

Application:

Applicable at all levels of domestic rugby below but not including Secondary School 1st XV grades. Includes all representative rugby at Under 16 level and below.

- a) Playing time
All players in a squad of 22 players or less must play a minimum of half a game each match.
- b) Although substitutions at $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ time will be permitted, as long as each player plays at least half a game.

NB: Application of the Half Game Rule is a Team Coach responsibility. Team coaches not complying with the Half Game Rule will be subject to the following sanctions.

Sanction: to be determined by each individual organising body/Provincial Union.
New Zealand Rugby recommends:

- I. First offence. Formal letter to individual/organisation informing that any future breach will result in disciplinary action.

- II. Second offence. Disciplinary hearing with starting point a one week stand down from coaching for the offender.

17. QUARTER, SEMIS AND FINALS

In all the Semi & Quarter Finals a winner has to be found.

In the case of a drawn match at full time the following will apply:

Duration of Match

- a) Play in a match lasts no longer than 70 minutes, after a total of 70 minutes playing time, the referee must not allow extra time to be played in the case of a drawn match in a knock out competition. DSLV law 5.1
- b) If no winner is found after this time the winner will be found by the team who has scored the most tries in the game.
- c) If no winner is found after this the winner will be the team who scored the first try in the match.
- d) If at this time no winner is found the winner of the match will be the team who won the previous match in the main round.
- e) If there is still no clear winner/decision the winner will be decided by the toss of the coin.

Finals: Rules used in semi-finals to find winners will apply in finals.

18. FINAL ROUND VENUES

The venues of the semi-finals will be based on the final rankings of the teams at the end of the round robin with the home advantage being given to the higher ranked team.

19. Top 4 & Co – Ed Top 4 rules:

The highest placed eligible teams from the following competitions:

- WSS
- CNI
- Super 8
- Counties/Waikato

Must have the opportunity to challenge each other for the right to represent the top 4.
Coed: CNI v Counties Waikato (winner) challenges top WSS.

20. RANKINGS

All final rankings from the 2016 competition will count for the 2017 competition.

21. COMPETITION TROPHIES

Division 1	Ian Foster Shield
Division 2	Warren Gatland Cup
Division 3	Marty Holah Cup
Under 16A	John Boe Cup
Under 16B	TBC
Under 15A	Strawbridge Cup
Under 15B	TBC
Under 14A	Steve Gordon Shield
Under 14B	TBC
Under 68kg	Jono Gibbes Trophy
Under 57A	Pat Bennett Trophy
Under 57B	TBC
Girls	Vanessa Cootes Cup

- a) The Tricolor Trophy is to stay in the premier 1st XV competition. All teams in this competition are eligible to play for it. It will be played for on a home and away basis and it is to be played for right through the competition including the semi-finals and finals. As in the past the school holding the cup at the end of the year would have naming rights.
- b) In the case outlined above the cup would go to the highest ranking team in the 1st XV premier division based upon the previous year's rankings.

22. ELIGIBILITY FOR GRADES

Any new team entered or any team which played in earlier years but withdrew for the previous season by the date set for confirmation of entries but which now wishes to re-enter will be placed in a division as decided by the WSSRU.

23. OVERSEAS CLEARANCES

- a) Any player who has played rugby overseas and wants to play rugby with WSSRU, must first obtain IRB clearance from NZR which is done through the WRU and register with the new school. It is the responsibility of the player and the school to ensure that all necessary clearances and registration processes are adhered to; the player shall be stood down from all rugby until the process is complete.
- b) Any school that allows a player to be named in the 22 players on the team sheet without IRB clearance and/or registration will forfeit the match.
- c) Any school taking a rugby team overseas must gain a clearance through the Waikato Rugby Union at least one month before departure.

24. REGISTRATIONS

- a) All players must be registered with NZR:

Process for registration:

1. All online registrations need to be approved by the authorised school registration co-coordinator/TIC via Sporty. To approve the valid registration click a Tick icon next to the player's name.
2. Has filled out a blank registration form, and given this to the T.I.C to enter in to Sporty system or sent it directly to the WRU.

Either i or ii must be completed before any player takes the field and in the exception for the player who "turns up on the day", in that case the hard copy of the registration form must be registered on Sporty or in the hands of the WRU on the first business day following the match along with the team sheet. The onus is on the sender to ensure that the registration is received by the WRU. It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the player(s) details are correct. A player(s) shall not be deemed to be registered unless the WRU has one of the above. No player may take the field in a competition controlled by the WSSRU unless they have completed a 2017 NZR registration form.

- b) During the Season

25. TRANSFERS

Any player transferring to a WSSRU school from outside the WRU area after the first competition game, must complete the NZR registration process as per Rule 19b and the new school must notify the WRU to request the transfer electronically via the NZR database.

26. SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) **Playing Strip**

Any school new to our competition must have its playing strip approved by the WSSRU. Any existing school wishing to make a substantial departure from their traditional colours should do the same.

- b) **Playing Strip Clashes**

Where there is a clash of jersey colours the home team is required to wear an alternative strip.

- c) **Crowd Control**

The Home School is required to erect barriers for crowd control if there are no permanent barriers.

- The Home School is responsible for keeping spectators behind the crowd control barriers.
- During the game coaches and reserves need to be located behind the goal posts located at the attacking end of the field, unless an alternative area has been designated, such as a Technical Zone. All reserves and coaches must stay within the technical zone.

*The technical zones commence a minimum of five metres and a maximum of 10 metres from the half way line. The technical zones must not exceed ten metres in length and three metres in width and must not be less than two metres from the touchline.

- Only one water person or a team medic may be inside the barrier and follow the team along the side-line. This person will attend to injuries but cannot be the coach.
- Event Manager – all schools are encouraged to have a designated Event Manager present while games are being played who will deal with issues of crowd control, direct teams to the appropriate fields and changing rooms, will call an ambulance if required and direct it onto the field.

- **This relates to all grades of rugby**

d) **Trophies**

All trophies must be handed back cleaned/polished and engraved to the Committee by the **1st June each year**, if schools fail to do this they will be invoiced for the cost. If for any reason the trophy is damaged or lost whilst in your schools possession, the school is liable for the cost of replacement or repair of the trophy.

27. JUDICIAL – DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

Temporary Suspension (“Yellow Card”)

A player Temporarily Suspended on two occasions during a playing season shall be advised in writing by the WRU that in the event he is Temporarily Suspended on any further occasion during the same playing season he will be subject to an automatic suspension of one week to be applied from the week immediately following the third Temporary Suspension.

A player Temporarily Suspended on three occasions during the same playing season and having received the notification required shall be automatically suspended to be applied to the next competition match immediately following the match in which the third Temporary Suspension was issued. The WRU will advise of the one week suspension in writing. This automatic suspension is subject to the right of the Player to request a hearing.

If the player and/or his school wish to request a defended hearing, this request must be made within 48 hours after the game following the third sin bin. The process will then follow the same process as for a hearing.

Ordering Off (“Red Card”)

All team members ordered off (red card) in a game for any offence, are automatically stood down for two weeks.

However, the player, his school and/or the referee or the citing officer have the right to request a hearing. This request must be made within 48 hours after the game.

Disciplinary Hearings

If a hearing is requested the player is required to attend a disciplinary hearing, held under the authority of the Waikato Rugby Union (WRU).

Hearings will be held at WRU Office on the Wednesday following the game, from 6pm.

All team managers should be instructed to contact their school delegate for advice.

The WRU will fax a copy of the Referee’s Report and any other supporting documents to the player’s school following receipt by the WRU.

Appeal Process

- a) There shall be an Appeal Committee of the Union appointed by the WRU Board. Members of the Appeal Committee must not also be members of the Judicial Board that heard the original case.
- b) Any school, player, referee or WRU citing officer may appeal to the Appeal Committee within seven (7) days of the decision they are aggrieved by. Such appeal must be in writing and state the grounds of the appeal. Appeals must be accompanied by a fee which will be determined by the complaints review officer. The fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.
- c) The Appeal Committee shall review the matter or rehear the case in respect of the decision of the Competitions Committee.
- d) The Appeal Committee shall have the power to reduce, increase or confirm any suspension/penalty imposed by the Competitions Committee.
- e) Decisions made by the Appeals Committee are binding and final.

SCHOOL BREACHES

The Committee design and formulate the various competitions in Waikato Secondary Schools Rugby.

Rules are set by the Committee to ensure that competitions are run on a fair and equal basis.

If these rules are broken, the Committee may impose sanctions on the respective schools or players.

If a school or player wishes to appeal against any Committee decision a Competition Appeals Panel, appointed by the WRU board, will conduct a hearing to review any such appeal.

Any decision made by the Competition Appeals Panel will be binding and final.

28. SANCTIONS THE WRU CLUB COMPETITION COMMITTEE MAY IMPOSE

Written Warnings

A letter of censure, addressed to any or all of a player, team management member or school, advising that the Committee has decided that a breach of the rules has occurred and that no further action will be taken in the present circumstances, but warning that any further breaches of the rules, within a specified time limit, will entitle the Committee to take into account the existing breach, when considering the sanction to be imposed in the subsequent breach.

Stand Down

A Player, team, team management member may be suspended from playing or participating in competition games for a time that the Committee deems appropriate, in the circumstances.

Fines

A Player, team management member or school may be fined an amount that is, in the opinion of the Committee, appropriate in the circumstances. Failure to pay the fine imposed within a reasonable period of time, as decided by the Committee, may result in additional or alternative sanctions being imposed.

Points Deduction

Competition points, for one or more games in the current competition may be deducted from a team, by the Committee, as the result of any Player, team management member or school, breaching the competition rules.

29. HEARINGS

- a) Judiciary
- b) Appeals committee for Judiciary rulings

30. REGULATIONS FOR OVERSEAS TOURS BY SCHOOLS

1. Overseas clearance for any school rugby tour must contact the WRU for an international team clearance before the team can travel overseas.
2. Please contact the WRU administrator admin@mooloo.co.nz