

2018 NHSSRU SECONDARY SCHOOL RUGBY BY- LAWS

These By-Laws outline the operating procedures and must be read in conjunction with the Constitution.

1. The limits for the various grades are:

1st Grade	Under 18 (open weight)
2nd Grade (Open B)	Under 19 (open weight)
3rd Grade (Open C)	Under 19 (open weight)
4th Grade	Under 19 and Under 69kg (Wider Auckland Sec Sch Grade)
5th Grade	Under 15 (open weight) or Under 16 and Under 55kgs
6th Grade	Under 16 and Under 60kg
7th Grade	Under 15 and Under 52kg
Girls	Under 19 (open weight)

Ages are as at 1 January 2018

2. All competition games shall be played at the time and place as notified in the official draw, or as notified by way of amendment to the draw. Teams may vary this by mutual consent, however both teams must agree to any change, otherwise the official draw shall stand. Any game which is deferred must be played without undue delay, or no competition points shall be awarded for that game.

3. Each team shall provide a team sheet to the referee before a game shall commence. Any team that does not provide the referee with a team sheet shall forfeit the game.

4. Each school shall email or fax the results to the Draw Steward on the first school day after games are played. No competition points will be awarded for teams from that school where this is not done.

5. A win shall count as 4 points, a draw shall count as 2 points and a loss by 7 points or less shall count as a bonus point and a bonus point shall be awarded if a team scores 4 tries or more, for all grades.

- a) Where a default occurs, the winning team receives 5 points.
- b) Where a default occurs and both teams are from the same school, the higher graded team will receive the points.

6. If a school closes its grounds it shall forfeit any games due to be played on those grounds while they are closed, unless prior arrangements are made with opposition teams in advance of the date the games are due to be played, unless the Management Committee rules otherwise.

7. Any school which intends to close all of its grounds should advise College Sport, and North Harbour Rugby Union Draw Steward, who will collate such information and pass it on to the Management Committee.

8. The Management Committee may cancel all or some of the games on any day and for any reason. They must do so if 6 or more member schools notify that they are closing their fields. Such cancellation is to be notified by email, fax and/or radio as appropriate. The Management Committee may subsequently reschedule some or all of these games.

9. Where a school requests another school to defer a game, it must be for a valid reason, and both parties must be reasonable. In cases of dispute, the Management Committee will make a ruling, otherwise the Official Draw will stand. In such situations and the North Harbour Rugby Referees Association must be informed.

10. All games shall be refereed by the referee as appointed by the North Harbour Rugby Referees' Association. Where such a referee has not been appointed, or fails to arrive, then it shall be the home team's responsibility to provide a referee, who shall then have all the powers and authority of an official referee. Where possible the referee should not be the coach of either side.

11 Any team intending to default a game must do so by 12 noon on the day prior to the game. They must inform the opposition, the Draw Steward, and the Referees Association by that time. Failure to do so may result in a penalty of a fine and/or loss of points being imposed by the Management Committee.

12. Any change to a team's normal playing colours should be notified to all schools. Where a clash of colours will occur it will be the responsibility of the home team to wear alternative colours. In the case of games at neutral grounds, the Management Committee shall rule as to which team must change.

13. (a) All players must be Registered before they play in any grade. Registered means that player details are entered, by the school, on the official NZRU Registration database.

(b) For Players to be registered after the Schools official Weigh-in and Registration Day has been completed:-

- The player details must be entered on the official NZRU Registration data-base via the on-line registration process or paper registration form,
- The player's official, signed, registration form must be received by the North Harbour Rugby Union from the school,
- Registration must be confirmed by the Union by phone or e-mail, before being permitted to play.
Note - Players in weight restricted grades also need to be officially weighed by the Union before being permitted to play.

(c) Only players who have been officially weighed may play in a weight restricted grade. The weighing must be carried out by a person appointed by the Management Committee, usually an NHRU official/employee. This applies to all players including those who arrive at a school, or opt to take up rugby, during the season.

(d) The NHRU official conducting the weigh-in at each school be provided with an electronic listing of the names, dates of birth, and weights of all players weighed, before leaving.

(e) Before being weighed in the players must present their signed paper Registration form to the Union Official weighing the players. The official will record the weight on the form and sign it. If a player has registered on-line, the school must provide paper spread sheet of players registered on line to the Union official to record weights and eligible grades.

(f) The Union Official will take the original registration form or the annotated spreadsheet of players registered on-line, for filing immediately after the weigh-in, the school to take a copy of the form before forms are taken away for filing.

14. In age restricted grades, all players must be under the specified age on the 1st January of the current year. It is the responsibility of each school to ensure that all such players meet this criteria. Where there is any doubt or dispute, the Management Committee may request to see proof of age. In such cases the player must not play until proof of age in form of a birth certificate or passport is produced.

15. Any team which fields a player who is ineligible for that grade or is otherwise ineligible shall forfeit any points for that game and will be penalised a further 4 points unless the Management Committee rules otherwise.

16. In all cases of dispute a school should first try to settle the dispute by contacting the teacher-in-charge of rugby or principal of the other school involved. Where a dispute cannot be resolved in this way, or it is inappropriate to do so, then a Protest is to be submitted to the Chairman and Union staff by 5pm of the first working day after the fixture.

17. Movement of players between grades.

(a) Players may move freely between any 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grade teams until the semi-final or championship playoff rounds when only those players who have;

- (i) played fewer than 7 games in a higher graded team and,
- (ii) played more than 5 regular season games for the lower graded team or,
- (iii) been granted a re-grading or dispensation, may play in a lower graded team.
- (iv) when a player is moving between teams as a substitute, time on/off, playing position or did not play (DNP) is to be recorded on the team sheet.

(b) The 1A Grade is designated a Premier Competition under College Sport By-Laws. All 1st XV players and 2nd XV players playing or reserving in the 1A Premier Competition are subject to College Sport By-Laws. Eligibility and transfers are covered by By-Laws 3 – 8. College Sport By-Laws take precedence over any North Harbour Secondary Schools Rugby Union By-Laws.

(c) Players may not move between 4th and 5th Grades after the third week of play unless they have been granted a re-grading.

(d) In all other cases, once a player has played three games in 4th, 5th and 6th grades, he is deemed to belong to that grade. He may subsequently play "up" one or more grades, but may not play "down" one or more grades without first being re-graded.

(e) Where a school has more than one team in a grade, the school shall indicate whether the teams are "equal", in which case players may not move between the teams after the third week of play unless they have been granted a re-grading, or that they are "A" and "B" teams, in which case a B player may play up to two games in the A team; he will become an A player if he plays in a third game. Players who have played three games for an A team will be deemed A players, and must be re-graded before they can then play in a B team.

(f) Where a player changes school within the North Harbour Union during the season, sections (a), (b) and (c) still apply.

(g) A re-grading is unlikely to be granted for the semi-final, final or championship playoff rounds.

(h) A player is deemed to have played a 'game' if he plays 50% of the game. In the case of teams playing in a Premier Grade under College Sport By-Laws, a player is deemed to have played a 'game' once the player takes the field.

(i) Where a player has played for a team in a semi-final, or championship play-off, he cannot then play in a lower grade final for another team unless a re-grade has been granted.

18. The Draw Steward, in consultation with the Management Committee and/or General Meeting, shall decide on the format of all competitions. Such competition formats should provide the maximum number of games in the time available.

19. **Dispensations.**

A school may apply for dispensation to play a player in a grade for which he is ineligible, either because he is too heavy, or because he is too old, provided that the player is not over the age as specified by the Auckland Secondary Heads Association. In normal circumstances dispensation will only be granted where the weight exceeds the limit for that grade by 2 kg or less, or where the player is no more than 2 months too old. In all cases dispensation must be sought and granted before the player involved can play. A list of dispensated players will be circulated to schools.

20. A 'dispensated' player must play in the lowest team in a grade where a school has more than one team in a grade. Where teams are designated equal then dispensated players must be distributed evenly between teams unless the Management Committee rules otherwise.

21. Any team that has more than two 'dispensated' players will not be eligible to win any championship, whether or not the dispensated players actually play. Such a team would become eligible to start earning competition points once they informed the Management Committee they no longer had more than 2 dispensated players.

22. **Transfers**

(a) In order for a transferring student of a COLLEGE SPORT member school to obtain eligibility for the NHSSRU competition for his school after the beginning of the school year as designated by the Ministry of Education or after the final date for player registration or after the official start of competition, the student's name, age, and date of departure from his former school must be recorded with the NHSSRU and COLLEGE SPORT Executive.

(b) The transfer rule applies to all students enrolled in secondary school at Year 7 and above. It applies to all COLLEGE SPORT member schools.

(c) Any student who transfers from an COLLEGE SPORT member school after the final day of registration and or, the official start of competition and who has played for his original school in competition in rugby will be deemed ineligible for a maximum of ten weeks of official rugby competition or until the NHSSRU Management Committee, COLLEGE SPORT CEO or Commissioner grants eligibility.

(d) Any student who enrolls in an COLLEGE SPORT member school from outside the COLLEGE SPORT region after the final date of player registration or the official start of competition will be deemed ineligible for four successive competition games or until the NHSSRU Management Committee, COLLEGE SPORT CEO or Commissioner grants eligibility.

(e) Any student who has been registered by their school in their North Harbour Secondary Schools Rugby 1st XV team in 1st (1A), 2nd (Open B) or 3rd (Open C) grades with College Sport and NHSSRU and subsequently transfers in that year or the following year to another North Harbour Secondary School will be stood-down for six consecutive 1st XV competition games in the North Harbour Secondary Schools Competitions.

23. **Media Statements.** Only the Chairman of the North Harbour Secondary Schools' Rugby Union or any other person the Chairman may ask to deputise for him, shall make any statements to the news media on behalf of the North Harbour Secondary Schools' Rugby Union.

24. **Game Day Management Protocols.** The NHRU Game Day Management Protocols apply to all secondary school rugby games. All school grounds must be adequately roped off for all games. Fields must have post pads fitted, field flags in place and be properly marked in accordance with World Rugby Laws of the Game. Each school must appoint a Game Day Controller for all games hosted at home to liaise with referees and team managers and to manage teams and spectators under the NHRU Game Day Management Protocols.

25. All Secondary School team reserves, coaches and managers are to be placed behind the dead-ball line behind their team for the duration of the game, swapping ends with the opposition at half-time. For 1A 1st XV fixtures being televised, team reserves, coaches and managers are to be placed in marked and roped technical areas either side of half way with

both teams on the same side of the field. For 1A 1st XV televised fixtures North Harbour Rugby Referee Association will provide a Sub-Controller to manage substitutes and replacements.

26. **Attendance of Compulsory Coaching Courses.** The School of any secondary school team whose coach has not attended the compulsory Rugby Smart course by 31 May of the current season, will incur the following sanctions:

- (a) the school will be fined \$250 + GST
- (b) the team will lose 4 competition points, and
- (c) the Coach will be stood down from coaching.