

2019 Senior Club Rugby Competition Rules

Club Status and Applicability to Competition Rules

1. Clubs who field a Premier 1 team must also field another senior grade team entered in the 2019 club rugby competitions eg. Premier 2, U21, U85Kg, Women and Presidents Grades. All Clubs who field teams in the Premier 1, Premier 2, U21, U85Kg and Presidents Grade teams are subject to the 2019 Senior Club Rugby Competition Rules. Clubs who field teams in the Auckland grades eg. Women, are subject to the Auckland Rugby Union competition rules for that grade.

Defaults

2. Any club unable to play the next scheduled game in any senior grade must advise the opposition/union officials by Friday at 12pm preceding the match by telephone in the first instance or, alternatively by email. Defaulting COC Delegate or, Club Captain in his absence, must advise the following:

- a. Opposition COC Delegate or, Club Captain in his absence
- b. NHRU Rugby Operations Staff

3. All senior teams defaulting with late notice (ie. after 12pm on the Friday preceding the match) will be fined \$250 in accordance with NHRU bylaws. Where extenuating circumstances exist, the defaulting club may make an appeal to the COC for fines to be quashed. The appeal must be lodged within 48 hours of default fine notification.

4. In the event of a default, the game and five points are to be awarded to the opposition. Some grades may only be awarded four points as determined by COC.

5. Should a senior grade team default two matches on consecutive occasions or three on non-consecutive occasions it shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition and any games played will not be counted in the competition.

6. Should a Premier 1 team be withdrawn from the competition, the COC shall direct that club's officials are to appear for review to determine whether that club may field a Premier team in the next season's competition ie. Premier grade status. The COC would review such circumstances during the annual competition review at the end of the season.

7. Should a club be withdrawn from the following season's Premier 1 competition (ie. loses Premier grade status) that club cannot be considered eligible for future Premier 1 grade competition until it makes the semi-finals of the Premier 2 competition and, the re-instatement is endorsed by the COC.

8. Minimum team numbers and front row forwards to allow a game to proceed, is as determined by Law 3 of the NZRU Domestic Safety Law Variations.

Player Interchange & Playoffs Eligibility

9. Free interchange of all players is permitted throughout the Senior grades up to commencement of the Playoffs (quarter finals, semi-finals and final) structure as determined for each grade. Thereafter Senior players can only play in the playoffs for the grade for which they are entered on the relevant Playoff Team Sheet (submitted on the day prior to playoff match) or in the case of an injury or illness occurring between the time the Playoff Team Sheet was submitted

and commencement of the match, the Standard Team Sheet (used on match day) see rule 19. & 20. below eg. If a player is entered on any Premier 1 Playoff Team Sheet or Standard Match Day Team Sheet during playoffs for his club then he cannot play in a lower grade such as Premier 2 or U21 grades unless rule 12. applies (see below).

10. For Under 21 grades, player interchange is permitted up to Playoffs but a player must be of the correct age for the grade in which he interchanges to.

11. Higher grade players interchanging to the Under 85 Kg grade must meet the weight criteria prior to playing.

12. A player is always eligible to play in a higher grade than that for which he is registered but if he does play in a higher grade playoff match he cannot subsequently play in any lower grade playoff match unless he has “started” six competition games during the season for that lower grade. Starting in six competition games in a lower grade is the determining criteria for a player’s eligibility to that grade. “Started” is determined by the players name being listed 1-15 on the Standard Team Sheet.

13. Protests should in the first instance be advised verbally to the opposition manager then marked on the team sheet which is signed by both parties in the usual manner and the Referee, who in affect witnesses the protest. The team protesting must then communicate the protest in writing through their club officials to the NHRU within 72 hours of the fixture.

14. Penalty is the loss of competition points or reversal of the result for the game(s) in which the ineligible player played.

Substitutions and Squad Size

15. Senior grades will have squads of 22 players and must substitute players as determined by Law 3 of the NZRU Domestic Safety Law Variations.

Team Sheet and Result Administration

16. No team sheet submitted in any game means forfeiture of points for that game.

17. Team sheets (by Home Team Manager or club) and Club result sheets to be faxed/emailed to NHRU by 10am on Monday after fixtures.

18. Team sheets are to be annotated for player substitutions/send-offs/sin-bins/serious injuries.

19. Standard team sheet is to be used for Qualifying Round/Play-offs/Quarter/Semi/Finals.

20. Playoff Team Sheet is to be completed for each team prior to commencing each playoff match. All players must be registered to their club to appear on the Playoff Team Sheets.

Weigh-in Administration

21. All Under 85 Kg teams to have a set of calibrated (in date) scales for round-robin and semi-final fixtures. Round-robin weigh-in to be overseen by both team managers using home team scales only. COC delegates of effected clubs to oversee semi-finals and NHRU officials to oversee finals. NHRU scales to be used for finals.

22. Weigh-in procedure is as follows:

- a. Check weigh-ins from 60 minutes prior to fixture
- b. Official weigh-in at 45 minutes prior to fixture by overseers as applicable
- c. Players weighed out may have a second weigh-in no later than 15 minutes prior to fixture kick-off
- d. Players weighed out will not be permitted to participate in the fixture
- e. Overseers will annotate the official team sheet for players weighed out
- f. Players need not wear full playing kit for the weigh-in
- g. There is no tolerance on the prescribed weight eg. 85Kg or less.

Age Group Eligibility and Dispensations

23. Eligibility for U21 grade is under 21 years of age as at 1 January 2019.
24. Dispensations may be granted in the Under 21 grade in 2019. Clubs are to make application for dispensations through their COC Delegate to the COC Dispensation Sub-Committee. No player older than 21 may be dispensated to play in the Under 21 Grade.
25. No dispensations will be granted in the Under 85kg grades in 2019.

Presidents Grade Eligibility

26. Presidents Grade players must be over the age of 35 years as 1 January 2019 or be turning 35 years of age in the 2019 season.

Secondary School Players

27. Secondary school players must play for their school and are not permitted to play in senior club rugby grade/teams apart from during school holidays and then only with written permission of the school Principal or Teacher in Charge of Rugby. The Union is to be provided with a copy of the correspondence prior to playing. The player must also be registered to the club and grade.
28. Secondary school players may play in the senior club sevens tournament for their club in the off-season.

Registrations

29. Players for the 2019 season are to be registered by 1 May 2019 apart from Premier 1 and Premier 2 players which must be registered by 29 March 2019. Union staff will conduct registration checks from team sheets after 1 May 2019.
30. New players during the season are to be registered on NZRU Registration Database by 5pm of the day before they play club rugby.
31. NZRU registrations close off date is 31 July 2019.
32. Playing un-registered players will result in a fine and/or loss of points for the club and/or team concerned as determined in the NHRU Bylaws and/or competition rules.

33. Age Group players who have never been registered on the NZRU Registration Database previously ie. as a junior or secondary school player, must have their age verified by a club official ie. sight a driver's license, birth certificate or passport to verify date of birth.

Transfers

34. Inter-Club transfers (between North Harbour Clubs) are only required after the 2019 season commences and if the player has already registered with another club (in the 2019 season).

35. Inter-union transfers are only required for new players to NHRU club rugby who have played in another Union after the 2019 season commences and if the player has already registered with another club (in the 2019 season).

36. No inter-club or inter-union transfers are permitted after 10 weeks of competition for each senior grade. For Premier 1 and 2 grades the cut-off is 1 June 2019, and for the U21 and U85 the cut-off is 8 June 2019. No transfers in the aforementioned grades will be permitted after those dates.

37. The new club must contact the player's old club to request that the transfer be accepted and should the request be refused then NHRU is to be contacted to assist in facilitating the transfer.

38. Players transferring during the season into a North Harbour club are not permitted to play until the transfer is completed electronically in the NZRU Registration Database.

Blue Card Concussion Protocols

39. Clubs or Teams who breach the Blue Card Concussion Protocols and play a player who has received a Blue Card without the required medical clearance and completion of the appropriate stand-down period will be referred to the NHRU Disciplinary Committee for appropriate sanctions.

Fees and Fines

40. The NHRU Bylaws Schedule of Fees and fines is amended as follows:

a. Protest Fee is \$250 plus GST to be paid in full when protest documentation is submitted.

b. The Fine for playing un-registered or in-eligible players is \$50 plus GST per instance up to a maximum of \$250 plus GST.

c. A fine for the non-registration and non-attendance of a Rugby Smart or Junior Coaching Course, as applicable, by a person designated as coach, co-coach or assistant coach in any club team, is \$500 plus GST.

Trophies

41. Club competition trophies are to be returned to NHRU operations staff by 1 October 2019. Union trophies awarded to clubs, representative players and administrators will not be allowed to be removed from the Union prize-giving or awards event, miniature trophies will be awarded to the prize-winners as appropriate. Clubs are responsible for the repair or replacement of lost or damaged NHRFU trophies. NHRFU Club Competition trophies are to be kept in club trophy cabinets for the duration of tenure.