



Junior Rugby Policies

North Harbour Rugby Union

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North Harbour Junior Rugby Red Socks Player Policy

In all grades players in the youngest age bracket are able to be open weight. Open weight players who exceed the weights for any grade during the season are to be notified by their club as a 'Red Socks Players' and are subject to the following guidelines to ensure the safety and development of all players:

1. All Red Socks players must be registered as such with their club and all Red Socks players must be notified to the NHRU.
2. There will be a list of Red Socks players distributed to all coaches by the start of the season.
3. Red Socks players must always wear RED socks when on the field of play.
4. Coaches must discuss and identify the Red Socks players in each other's team with each other and the referee prior to the start of the game.
5. Red Socks players should be spread evenly throughout teams if clubs have more than one team in a grade.
6. Red Socks players are limited to three on the field of play at any one time in 15-a-side grades and two on the field of play at any one time in 10-a-side grades.
7. Red Socks players cannot be used to dominate play or team tactics. i.e. lead rushes from free kicks, penalties and run off the back of scrums. (This includes a tap kick and then pass to the special).
8. In the spirit of sportsmanship, any team that has Red Socks players can share those players with opposition teams to allow a more even contest and to ensure maximum player participation.
9. IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR ALL COACHES TO FULLY EXPLAIN THE PRINCIPLES CONCERNING RED SOCKS TO ALL PLAYERS AND THEIR PARENTS.

Notification for junior player- Red Socks Weight form can be found by [Clicking Here](#)



North Harbour Junior Rugby Dispensation Policy

1. The purpose of dispensations is to allow players, who will be adversely affected by playing in the correct grade for their weight/age to be re-graded to play in a lower grade. These will be granted only in very special circumstances
2. Parents/guardians must apply to their club committee, whom, if deemed worthwhile will forward onto the JRC for consideration.
3. All dispensations must be received by March 26 after which decisions will be made. Players that need to be viewed will be viewed in the first 3 weeks of rugby in the grade they are eligible for.
4. Each dispensation will be determined on an individual basis. The Factors the JRC will take into consideration are as follows:
 - a. Primary Factors (Players must meet one of the primary factors)
 - i. Safety/Risk of injury
 - ii. Medical reasons
 - iii. Exceptional circumstances
 - b. Secondary Factors
 - i. No impact on the grade
 - ii. No other team to play for
 - iii. Without this player not enough numbers to make at team
5. Players who are sufficiently skilled and considered capable of playing in their grade will not be dispensated.
6. Dispensated players may compete in the finals tournament as long as they fit the grade chart.
7. All clubs will be notified of all dispensated players and the team and grade they play in.
8. Players that apply for dispensation must stay in the grade they are eligible for until a decision is made to dispensate into a lower grade.
9. Players that have their dispensation declined and have no team to play for at the club of choice will have the option of playing at another club in the correct grade.

Junior Rugby Dispensations forms can be found by [Clicking Here](#)



North Harbour Junior Rugby Cleared Secondary School Players Policy

Secondary School players would normally play for their school but may be cleared to play Junior Club Rugby by the Junior Rugby Committee under the following criteria:

1. Year 9 Secondary school players only may be cleared for junior club rugby.
2. If there is a 5th, 6th, or 7th grade team at their school they will not receive a clearance.
3. Secondary school players can only be cleared to play in the J1 grade, or the JRC may decide to clear a player to J2 at their discretion.
4. Players under 14 years of age at 1 January of current season cannot exceed 44 Kg and Under 13 years of age at 1 January of current season may be Open weight.
5. Club officials must apply for the clearance on the designated form. It must be signed off by the player's school in the first instance.

Clearance for Secondary School player to play junior club rugby form can be found by [Clicking Here](#)



North Harbour Junior Rugby Protocol for Junior Rugby Rules and Policy Remits

Prior to the Post-season Junior Rugby Forum held in September the Junior Rugby Committee (JRC) will call for Remits from Junior Sections of the Clubs to amend or propose junior rugby rules or policy. The JRC will review the Remits and then circulate to the clubs prior to the Forum. The Remits will be placed on the Forum Agenda and the author of the Remit will present it to the Forum for discussion. The Forum will vote on the Remit and JRC will consider introducing the Remit at their October meeting. If the JRC vote to implement the Remit, the Chairman will circulate Remits to seek endorsement from the Council of Clubs at their November meeting and the Remit will be implemented or otherwise in the next season.

Timeline is as follows:

1. At the August JRC meeting, JRC call for Remits from the Junior Sections of the Clubs.
2. Remits close 31 August.
3. At the September JRC meeting, all Remits are reviewed and those with merit are added to the Post Season Junior Rugby Forum Agenda.
4. Remits are circulated to clubs two weeks prior to the Post Season Junior Rugby Forum.
5. At the Post Season Junior Rugby Forum Agenda, the author of the Remit presents it for discussion and the Forum attendees vote on endorsing the Remit for consideration by the JRC – one vote per club.
6. At the October JRC meeting all endorsed Remits are considered and a decision is made to recommend to the COC for inclusion in the next season junior rugby rules and policies. Remits are circulated to the COC two weeks prior to the November COC meeting.
7. At the November COC meeting the JRC Chairman presents the Remits for endorsement by the COC.
8. The approved Junior Rugby Remits are implemented in the following season.



North Harbour Junior Rugby Team Composition Protocol

The following protocol relates to the implementation of sanctions, and or disciplinary measures against individuals, teams and or clubs that fall into the category of repeat or blatant participation in;

- ***Super team construction – to the detriment of fellow players or teams***

As per the 2014 NHRU Rules and guidelines for all junior grades, teams selected on ability or merit is strictly not permitted.

Where a club has multiple teams in any one grade, it is the responsibility of the club committees to ensure an even distribution of new and experienced players in each team.

If any club or team is found to be in breach of the above rule and no action is taken to remedy the situation via re-distribution of players, then the following sanction will be implemented;

The club in question **will not** be eligible to compete in the end of year knock out tournament in the corresponding grade that the super team is playing in.



North Harbour Junior Rugby Sideline Behaviour Incidents Procedure

Should any off-field sideline behaviour incident occur at a junior rugby match, the procedure is as follows:

- The team management person (Coach or Manager) concerned about the incident should talk to the opposition team management and advise them of their concerns about the behaviour.
- Should this behaviour continue or escalate, the team management should report the incident verbally to his junior club official (Junior Club Captain or Junior Chairman) within 24 hours of the completion of the match.
- The junior club official of the reporting team's club considers the verbal report and decides if he/she should contact the opposition junior club official to discuss the incident.
- After discussion with the opposition junior club official and if it cannot be dealt with satisfactorily between the two clubs, the reporting junior club official then asks his team management person to complete a North Harbour Junior Rugby Match Incident Report Form and forwards this to Junior Rugby Committee Chairman who attempts to resolve the matter.
- If the incident cannot be resolved by the Junior Rugby Committee Chairman, it is passed to the Operations Manager, North Harbour Rugby Union within 48 hours of the incident who will take the necessary action through NZRU discipline procedures.

Junior Rugby Match Incident Report forms can be found by [Clicking Here](#)