

# 2020 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:

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

**Ages are as at 1 January 2020**

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, 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 or no competition points shall be awarded for that game.

3. Each team shall provide a team sheet to the referee for signing. 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 competition points and a winning margin of 30.
- 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. 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.

10 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.

11. 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.

12. (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.

13. 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.

14. 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. *The Management Committee may automatically disqualify a team which fields a player which is ineligible in a semi-final or championship playoff match.*

15. 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.

#### 16. **Movement of players between grades.**

- a. Players may move freely between any 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grade (1A, 1B, 1C, Open B, Open C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) teams until the semi-final or championship playoff rounds. To be eligible to play in a playoff game (in a lower grade) they must have:
  - i. started 6 games, or less, in a higher graded team (started means starting the game in the starting 15 players on the team list) and,
  - ii. started at least 5 regular season games for the lower graded team (started means starting the game in the starting 15 players on the team list) or,
  - iii. been granted a re-grading or dispensation. A regrading or dispensation is to be requested in writing to the North Harbour Secondary Schools Management Committee with clear reasons as to why that player has not met the required games played.
  - 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. A player **may not** move between the grades outlined in part 1 to a grade not listed unless;
  - i. Their school does not have a second team in any of those grades, therefore the lower grade becomes their "2<sup>nd</sup> XV" and,
  - ii. they meet all weight and age criteria for that grade.
  - iii. The same criteria in parts 1a-1d apply in this instance for any playoff match.
- c. Once a player has played 6 games in a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade team, 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 regraded.
- d. Players may not move between 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> Grades after the third week of play unless they have been granted a regrading.

- e. Once a player has played three games in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> 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 regraded.
- f. Where a school has more than one team in any grade, the school must indicate whether the teams are "equal" or "A" and "B" teams.
  - i. Where schools identify as "equal" players may not move between the teams after the third week of play unless they have been granted a re-grading.
  - ii. Where schools identify as "A" and "B" 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.
- g. Where a player changes school within the North Harbour Union during the season all eligibility criteria still apply.
- h. The NZRU "half-game ruling" applies to all players, except those in 1A and Open B grades. Under this rule, every player in Open C, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grades, must play a minimum of 50% of a game each week.
- 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. If in a semi or final a player went on for a blood-bin or injury replacement then that is not counted, only a tactical substitution counts as playing.

## 17. Semi-finals and Finals Rules:

### **Eligibility Checks**

The process for eligibility checks prior to semi-finals is as follows:-

- Schools submit a team sheet of all eligible players (maximum of 26) that may play in their semi-final team by the Monday prior to the semi-final
- North Harbour Rugby Union confirms the eligibility of these players
- Any changes to the supplied team sheet are to be advised by Friday at 9am
- Harbour emails the confirmed photo sheets to the opposition schools by 12pm Friday for issue to team managers

### **Tied Team Formula at the End of Round Robins or Second Rounds**

Where any number of teams finish on equal points at the end of the round robin or second round, the team rankings for semi-finals will be determined by the following criteria:-

- Who beat who, in the last game(s) played between the teams, then if still tied
- The team with the highest number of wins in all games, then if still tied
- The team with the best points differential (points for - points against)

### **Semi-final Rules**

- There will be no extra time played in semi-final games
- if the scores are tied at full-time, the team progressing to the final will be the team that:-
  - has scored the most tries in the match
  - if this is equal then the Team who scored the first try in the match
  - if neither Team scored a try, the team that scored the first points.
  - In the case of no points then the Team progressing to the final will be the Team that was the higher ranked going into the semi-final, based on the preceding competition.

### **Finals Rules**

- No extra time to be played.
- If at the end of any Championship final both teams are level, the winner shall be:
  - team that scored the most tries in the match
  - if this is equal, the team that scored the first try in the match
  - if neither team scored a try, the team that scored first points.
  - In the case of no points then the higher ranked team going into the final based on the preceding competition.

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. Any school may apply to the Management Committee for a dispensation for a player under 19 to play in 1B and Open C. A maximum of 2 players may be dispensated per school under this ruling. When playing a match with a dispensated player the NZRU age band policy must be taken into account.

21. 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.

### 23. **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 1<sup>st</sup> (1A), 2<sup>nd</sup> (Open B) or 3<sup>rd</sup> (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.

24. **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.

25. **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.

26. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> XV televised fixtures North Harbour Rugby Referee Association will provide a Sub-Controller to manage substitutes and replacements.

27. **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.