



RUGBYWA

**JUNIOR COMPETITION RULES
AND REGULATIONS**

2024

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1.0 Definitions

For the purposes of these Rules, the following definitions shall apply: For the purposes of these Rules, the following definitions shall apply:

“Age Group” means Registered players and teams participating within a common chronological age group e.g. Under 12.

“Appeals Committee” means the committee or a subcommittee thereof.

“Appeals Tribunal” means the tribunal appointed by the committee and convened by the Junior Competition Coordinator to hear any appeals against decisions of the Judiciary.

“Rugby AU” means Rugby Australia Limited (Rugby AU) and its affiliates.

“Rugby AU Policies” means the policies published by Rugby AU from time to time and included on the Rugby AU website.

“Rugby AU Registration Report” means the form produced by the Online Administration System for registration of players and coaches.

“Assistant Referee” means a person who:

Holds a current Rugby AU Referee accreditation; or

Holds a current Rugby AU Assistant Referee accreditation; or

Has successfully completed the Rugby AU Pathway course, is a member of a Referees Association, and is actively refereeing Under6s to Under12s.

“Away Team” means the Team which is not the Home Team.

“Club” means a body, incorporated or unincorporated, that executes a Competition Participation and Affiliation Agreement and enters Teams into Competition(s).

“Club Affiliate” means any Registered Player, Team, Club Official, Team Affiliate or any other individual or organization that has an association with the Club.

“Club Registrar” means the person(s) responsible *for overseeing and maintaining the Club’s player registrations on the Online Administration System*.

“Club President” means the person(s) who holds the position of President in a Club as advised by the Club to the Administrator.

“Coach” means the Coach of the Team.

“Code Of Conduct” includes the Codes of Conduct issued by Rugby Australia and its’ affiliates.

“Committee” means the RugbyWA committee or a subcommittee thereof.

“Competition” means all Competitions (including the Friday Night Competition, the Saturday Competition, and the Sunday Competition) organized, administered, and conducted by the Junior Competition Coordinator.

“Competition Rules” mean these rules which are the Competition Rules for the current season. The Competition Rules shall be read in conjunction with the Laws of the Game, Rugby AU Policies, and the Code of Conduct.

“Finals Series” means Matches designated as Semi-finals, Preliminary finals, and Grand finals.

“Financially Indebted” means any sum outstanding to RugbyWA which has remained unpaid for thirty (30) days after the date on which such payment was due.

“Grade” means a part of an Age Group for which the Junior Competition Coordinator conducts a competition.

“Home Team” means the Team who usually plays at the venue at which a Match is to be played or, if there is no such Team or both Teams usually play at that venue, the Team that appears first for the match in the Official Draw. However, if the venue for a Match is moved to a venue that is not the home venue for either Team playing, then the Team requesting the move shall be deemed to be the Home Team.

“Judiciary” means a committee appointed by RugbyWA and convened to investigate and adjudicate on Send-Offs, Code of Conduct violations and breaches or disputes of the Competition Rules.

“Junior Competition Coordinator” (JCC) is the person so nominated by the RugbyWA Board and deemed responsible for the day-to-day operational management of the RugbyWA Junior Competition.

“Laws Of the Game” mean the World Rugby Laws of the Game, the World Rugby Regulations, the Rugby Australia Law Variations and the Rugby Australia Under 19 Law Variations, which are included on the Rugby Australia website.

“Laws Of Rugby” mean for Matches in Competitions, for:

Under 6 – Under 12 age groups shall be played in accordance with the Pathway Laws, subject to the variations as outlined in these Competition Rules, which will have preference in the case of any uncertainty: and

Under 13 – Under 16 age groups shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game subject to the variations as outlined in these Competition Rules which will have preference in the case of any uncertainty.

“Lodgement Date” means the final date for the submission of forms as directed by the Junior Competition Coordinator.

“Match” means a game in the Official Draw.

“Match Official” means the Referee, Assistant Referee or Touch Judge.

“Minimum Number of Players” means ten (10) registered players for a twelve (12)-a-side competition and twelve (12) players for a fifteen (15)-a-side competition.

“Misconduct” means conduct, action or behaviour that is detrimental to a Club, Junior District, a Club Affiliate, RugbyWA or Rugby Australia or one of its Affiliates.

“No Match” means a scheduled Match that has not been played within the required time period.

“Official Draw” means the draw for Competitions as issued by the Junior Competition Coordinator from time to time.

“Participant” means any player, coach, official or volunteer registered with Rugby AU.

“Pathway Laws” mean the modified Laws of the Rugby Australia Kids Pathway.

“Playing Enclosure” means the playing area and the space around it normally bounded by permanent perimeter fencing. If no perimeter fencing is evident then the natural boundary such as buildings or rock faces, and in the absence of any natural or physical boundary then an area not less than 5 meters where practicable surrounding the playing area.

“Proven Offence” means an offence that has been found proven by a judiciary of a sporting code.

“Referee” means a person who holds a current Rugby AU Referee accreditation.

“Referees Association” means a Referees Association approved by RugbyWA.

“Registered Player” means a person who *has registered on the Online Administration System*.

“Regular Season” means the season from Round 1 to the Final Round immediately prior to the Finals Series.

“Representative Game” means any match of competition as determined by the Junior Competition Coordinator and includes but is not limited to the Rugby WA Juniors State Championships, the RugbyWA Junior Regionals and matches involving the RugbyWA Junior representative teams.

“Representative Player” means a Registered Player who is nominated or selected to play in a Representative Game, even though they may subsequently withdraw due to injury or any other circumstance, and in the current year they will be a Representative Player:

Up to the day immediately before the first day of the RugbyWA Juniors State Championships, if they were nominated or selected to play in a Representative Game, even though they may have subsequently withdrawn due to injury or any other circumstance, at any time during the previous calendar year.

From the first day of the RugbyWA Juniors State Championships, if they were nominated or selected to play in a Representative Game, even though they may have subsequently withdrawn due to injury or any other circumstance, at any time from the beginning of the current calendar year to the end of the RugbyWA Juniors State Championships.

If they are nominated or selected to play in their first Representative Game for the current calendar year after the RugbyWA Juniors State Championships, even though they may subsequently withdraw due to injury or any other circumstance, then from the day of their first Representative Game after the RugbyWA Junior State Championships for the current calendar year.

All Registered Players selected, even though they may subsequently withdraw due to injury or any other circumstance, in the Rugby AU's Junior Gold Youth (Under 18) 7s, national Gold Squad, Junior Gold Squad, Junior Gold Under 15 High Performance Camp or any other Rugby AU High Performance Unit squad as determined by the Junior Competition Coordinator for the current calendar year, are considered Representative Players from the date of their selection.

"RugbyWA" is the West Australian Rugby Union Inc.

"Scheduled Game Time" means the venue, date and time as specified by the Competition Manager in the Official Draw.

"Sent Off" means permanently suspended from a Match, trial carnival or tournament, general signalled by the referee showing the player a red card and Send Off shall have a similar meaning. May also be referred to as 'red carded'.

"Sin Binned" means suspended from a Match, trial carnival or tournament for a period of five (5) or ten (10) minutes, generally signalled by the referee showing the player a yellow card, and Sin Bin shall have a similar meaning. It may also be referred to as 'yellow carded' and/or 'temporarily suspended'.

"Sports Trainer" means a suitable trained person that participates in providing medical treatment, carrying water, or providing a kicking tee when required.

"Suspension" means a prohibition from playing in any rugby matches organized under the auspices of Rugby Australia or its affiliates (including school rugby) and may be imposed by the Judiciary or automatically pursuant to the Competition Rules. Suspend and suspended shall have similar meanings. In accordance with Rugby AU policy, the Junior Competition Coordinator recognizes all sanctions and suspensions imposed by other sporting codes in relation to all Proven Offences.

"Team" means the list of Registered Players in a team as contained on the Rugby Xplorer team list.

"Team Affiliate" means Trainer, First Aid Officer, Parent, Guardian, or Spectator.

"Team Official" means a Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, Assistant Manager or Trainer of a Team.

"Temporary Suspension" means Sin Binned.

"Trainer" means a person who administers water to players, deliver and retrieves the kicking tee and attends to injured players of his Team.

"Transferable Player" means any Registered Player who is permitted to move between grades and Age Groups within their club.

"Two Year Window" means the Age Grade Two Year Window Policy issued by Rugby Australia, which states that a player shall not participate in an age grade competition more than two years above his or her age on 1 January in the year in which the competition is run. This two-year period is known as the two-year window.

"TSM" means Team Spectator Manager for a team nominated in the RugbyWA Junior Competition.

"WARURA" means the West Australian Rugby Union Referees Association Inc.

"WASRU" means the West Australian Schools Rugby Union.

"World Rugby" (formerly International Rugby Board – IRB until 2014) is the world governing body for the sport of Rugby Union.

"World Rugby Laws of The Game" – means the Rugby Laws incorporating the Playing Charter that are issued by World Rugby and are on the Rugby Australia website.

"World Rugby Regulations" mean the Regulations of World Rugby, which are on the Rugby Australia website.

2.0 Preamble

PREAMBLE

These Rules set out the minimum standards and procedures that apply to Competitions conducted under the jurisdiction of Rugby Australia and its Member Unions.

This Competition, as with all competitions played under the auspices of RugbyWA, are community competitions. All participants in the Competition are to be made aware of the [WR Playing Charter](#); which include:

- a. [Principles of the Game](#)
- b. [Principles of the Laws](#)

All participants are to be made aware that by virtue of the acceptance of a team into this competition by the Match Organiser, RugbyWA, that their respective participants and any other person authorised to enter the playing enclosure, subjects themselves and agrees to be bound by the rules and the disciplinary processes of the competition.

3.0 Laws of the Game

LAWS OF THE GAME

All games will be played in terms of the [WR Laws of the Game](#), including any of the following variations:

- 2.1 [Under 19 Variations](#)
 - (a) [Rugby AU Under 19 Variations](#)
- 2.2 [Rugby AU Kids Pathway U6 to U12](#)
- 2.3 [10-a-side Variations](#)
- 2.4 [7-a-side Variations](#)
- 2.5 [Rugby AU Touch 7s Laws](#)
- 2.6 [Rugby AU Veteran Rugby Law](#)

4.0 Governance of the Competition

GOVERNANCE OF THE COMPETITION

All matches in the Competition shall be played in accordance with the [WR Regulations of the Game](#) and Rugby Australia Regulations, Codes and Policies etc. (see section 4 below).

In addition, Rugby AU publishes '[Game Management Guidelines](#)' annually that have been prepared to assist Unions in the administration and playing of the game in domestic competitions within Australia.

5.0 Rugby AU Codes and Policies

RUGBY AUSTRALIA CODES AND POLICIES

The effective governance and administration of rugby requires adherence to a wide range of codes and policies around safety & welfare, integrity, inclusion, member protection & child safety and

privacy etc. Therefore, all matches shall be played in accordance with all [Rugby AU Codes, Policies and Procedures](#):

5.1 Safety & Welfare

Rugby must be as safe, inclusive, and fair as possible. Rugby Australia has several policies and initiatives aimed at ensuring that rugby is safe to play and is enjoyable for all participants.

- a. Concussion Management.
- b. Serious Injuries.
- c. Welfare Initiatives.
- d. Player Dispensation.
- e. Match Day Safety; and
- f. First Aid medical.

5.2 Child Safety

Rugby Australia is committed to ensuring that rugby is a safe environment for children and young people.

- a. Child Safe Framework and Guidelines.
- b. Reporting.
- c. Working with Children Checks.

5.3 Integrity

Rugby Australia's Codes, Policies and Procedures have been developed to provide a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment for all rugby participants in Australia.

This includes the following:

- a. Australian Rugby Disciplinary Rules - these have been developed to ensure a consistent approach to foul play, citing and judicial hearings.
- b. Anti-Doping Code - all participants are bound by the Anti-Doping Code and must be aware of the requirements.
- c. Supplement Policy.
- d. Code of Conduct – provides a set of standards that everyone involved in rugby is required to comply with to ensure that the image and integrity of the sport is protected. The Code also outlines the procedures for reporting, complaint handling and investigations of any alleged breaches.
- e. Medical Policy - provides information on the use of medications, medical procedures, and measures to protect the health and welfare for semi-professional and professional players.
- f. Member Protection Policy – ensures that all Participants feel included and safe in rugby; and
- g. Anti-Corruption and Betting Policy – applies to all Participants and they need to be aware of its requirements.

5.4 Additional Comp Rules

Additionally, the following documents are included as part of these Competition Rules:

- a. Inclusion Policy
- b. Safety and Participation Policy.
- c. Registration Regulations.
- d. Registration Terms and Conditions; and
- e. Smart Rugby Policy.

5.5 Reporting a Concern

Any concerns that arise as a result of an alleged breach of any of the above provisions can be reported at [Reporting a Concern](#).

6.0 Team Nomination

RWA 1 – Team Nomination Rules

Rule 6.1 Participation, and or Competitions, shall be initiated by the calling for nominations from each age group, as shown in the RugbyWA Junior calendar for that year, or as otherwise directed by RugbyWA.

Rule 6.2 By submitting the *Team Nomination Summary (RWA Form 1) and Individual Team Nomination Form (RWA Form 2)* by the requested date set by the Junior Competition Coordinator, the Club, the team, and its team officials agree to abide by the RWA Junior Competition Rules and Policies.

Rule 6.3 Any breach of the Rules outlined in Policy RWA 1 – Team Nomination Rules by a club could result in a team nomination being withdrawn at the discretion of the Junior Competition Coordinator, until such time as the team and/or club have complied with the above rules.

Full details of the nomination requirements, forms, and procedure to be followed are provided in RWA 1 – Team Nomination Policy.

Rule 6.4 Manager Eligibility – Team management (including coaches) are responsible for the actions of their team, and they must be conversant with the applicable laws, Competition Rules, RugbyWA and Australian Rugby Policies and Procedures. Team managers must be registered on Rugby Xplorer and added onto the Rugby Xplorer team list for each round.

Team Management (including coaches) are responsible for the actions of their team, and they must be conversant with the applicable Laws, Competition Rules, Rugby WA and ARU Policies and Procedures.

Coaches, Managers and Club Officials are to:

- Be conversant with the Competition Rules; and
- Be conversant with the ARU Laws of the Game, including Under19 variations; and
- Be conversant with the principles of Team Spectator Management; and
- Be conversant with the contents of Team Managers Handbook issued by RugbyWA; and
- Read, and understand, the RugbyWA Code of Ethics (Appendix 2) and will be responsible for their actions if in breach of the Code; and
- Where applicable, you must obtain a Working with Children Card.

Full details on eligibility are provided in RWA 3 – Eligibility of Players, Coaches and Managers and RWA B Team Spectator Management.

7.0 Registration

RWA 4– Registration Policy

Rule 7.1 The following are mandatory Registration requirements as per [Rugby Australia's Registration Regulations](#)

(a) It is a mandatory requirement of Rugby Australia that all players, Non-Playing Members and Match Officials are registered via Rugby Australia's [Rugby Xplorer System](#)

(b) It is a mandatory requirement of Rugby Australia that the Competition Management System (CMS) attached to Rugby Xplorer is also used for all Sub Union Competition games, Senior, and Junior.

No player shall be eligible to play for a club within the Union unless:

- i. The player has registered on Rugby Xplorer, **and**
- ii. The player has provided Proof of Age to the club Registrar by means of:
 - Copy of Birth Certificate or Passport; or
 - Official documentation proof from their country of State of Birth; or
 - Any other evidence supported by a Statutory Declaration signed by the players' parent/guardian.
 - **Clubs should keep a copy of the Proof of Age (POA).**
- iii. The club is satisfied that the player is not currently registered with another team and/or club and that they are eligible to play in the team and/or competition; and
- iv. Any applicable fees or levies have been paid; and
- v. The player has been included on the Team Nomination Form; or for late registrations their details have been submitted to the Junior Competition Coordinator prior to the player participating in their first match. They must also be added to the teams Rugby Xplorer Team List prior to their first game.

It is the clubs' responsibility to distribute the [Rugby Australia Code of Conduct](#) to all players and parents/guardians and to make them aware of the content of this document.

Once a player has played or been shown as available on a Team Sheet for three (3) matches, they remain current for that season and are not to be removed from a club's Team Nomination Form, or the Rugby Australia database, unless they have transferred to another club or Union. For registration purposes, any actions required by the player are to be taken to mean actions by the player's parent or legal guardian, where the player is not legally competent to sign or complete any document required for registration.

Should the Junior Competition Coordinator object to any proposed player's registration, the Competition Coordinator shall, without delay, advise the club concerned that the player must not play until the objection has been resolved.

Rule 7.2 In the event a club breaches any Registration rulings, disciplinary action may be taken at the sole discretion of RugbyWA. If the player has played, the club concerned will be considered an unregistered Player. In the event of a club permitting an unregistered Player to take part in any game, the game will be deemed a forfeit to the non-offending team and points awarded as per the criteria listed for Forfeits.

The club will also be asked to show cause as to why the club, team or player should not be penalized further in respect of a two (2) week suspension for playing an unregistered player.

Further details on the registration process, and requirements thereof can be found in RWA 4 – Registration Policy.

8.0 Transfers

RWA5 – Transfer Policy

Rule 8.1 Domestic Clearance

- i. Club to Club player movements for currently registered players
- ii. Requirement for a currently registered player registering in the same season to another Club for the same or different registration type. Restricted at XV's, 10s, 7s and Veterans registration types in Competition Rugby only.

No player shall play for any club other than the current club to which he/she is registered as a player unless, and until, he/she is first given clearance.

A player who is registered with a club in the RugbyWA competition in that year of competition, may only transfer clubs if the following procedure is followed:

- Completion of a junior player 'Clearance', via Rugby Xplorer, an official from the club in which the player wishes to leave has approved the transfer; and
- Approval has been granted by the Competition Coordinator via Rugby Xplorer, as well as the original club.

Note: Until such time as this approval is received, the player is **not** eligible to play for another club.

Payment of Fees:

Member Union/Competition fees: No player will be charged for Member Union or Competition fees that have already been paid. The Rugby Xplorer system will treat subsequent registrations at subsequent clubs as a 'Secondary Registration' and will only charge any 'difference' in fees being charged by the subsequent club.

Club fees: Refund/payment of fees etc. is a matter for the player and the two clubs concerned.

Rule 8.2 International Clearance

i. The international Player Clearances Policy within Rugby states:

1. A player leaving their current Union to play in another Union shall not be registered or eligible to participate in competitions organised, recognised, or sanctioned by that new Union until they have an endorsed International Clearance.
2. Therefore, players wishing to play within another International Union are required to complete the Rugby Australia International Clearance Form:
<https://australia.rugby/participate/rugby-administration/international-clearance>

Further details on the requirements of the transfer process for both domestic and international clearances can be found in RWA 5 – Transfer Policy.

9.0 Competitions

This rule governs the procedures involved in conducting competitions under the control of the RugbyWA. The rule has been divided up into the following sub-procedures.

RWA 6:

- **A** - Draw/Grading/Timings
- **B** - Scoring
- **C** - Conduct of Matches
- **D** - Age Group, Laws, and Number of Players
- **E** - Replacements/Reserves
- **F** - Playing Enclosure
- **G** - Team sheets and match results
- **H** - Home Carnivals
- **J** - Forfeiture of Matches
- **K** - Player Uniforms

9.1 Draw/Grading

RWA6 A – Draw/Grading/Timings

The RWA Junior competition will be conducted in accordance with the RWA6 A Policy. Further details can be found in *RWA6 A – Draw/Grading/Timings on:*

- management of all divisions.
- movement of teams between the two.
- handling of subsequent competition points

The Competition will be conducted in accordance with a schedule of matches/competition rounds, as appropriate to the number of team nominations received, and drawn up by the Junior Competition Coordinator prior to the start of the season and varied as necessary from time to time.

The divisional (Gold and Swan) split will be determined by the Competition Coordinator. For age groups with 14 or less teams, there will be no divisional split, the competition will be conducted in a single division. The divisional placements decided by the Junior Competition Coordinator will be final.

Competition points will be re-distributed for teams changing divisions across all competitions in the following manner:

- Any team moving to a new division shall receive competition points equal to that of the team at the median of the applicable division they are transferring to. This team will be given for and against points of zero (0) point for and zero (0) points against.
- If there are an even number of teams in a division (meaning there are two (2) median scores), then the entering team will be given the lower score of the division they are transferring to.
- The Competition Coordinator will be required to place the finalists from the prior year Swan competition into the gold competition for the following year.

9.2 Timings

RWA6 A – Draw/Grading/Timings

Matches will be played at the times and ground indicated in the fixture list or as set by the Junior Competition Coordinator.

Matches will be played at the times and ground indicated in the fixture list or as set by the Competition Coordinator.

Clubs wishing to alter playing venues and timings must seek approval by the Comp Coordinator NO LATER THAN Friday 12:00pm the week before the fixtured game. This request must be made by a club official. If that game is being changed, this may affect medical coverage and referees provided.

With the agreement of the participating clubs, WARURA and the competition coordinator, games may be scheduled to be played at night, under lights, if the standard of lighting conforms with the approved [Sports Lighting - Australian Standard](#)

9.3 Scoring

RWA6 B – Scoring

The record of a team in the Competition is compiled by the aggregated competition points obtained. Competition points obtained will be in accordance with RWA6 B Policy. Competition points: the record of a team in the competition is compiled by the aggregated competition points obtained, namely:

- Under 12 – under 18:
- Four (4) points for a win
- Two (2) points for a draw
- Up to two (2) scoring bonus points (sbp).

Bye points: a team with a 'bye' fixture (except in the case of a general competition bye) shall be awarded four (4) competition points.

Scoring bonus points (sbp):

Up to a maximum of two (2) per match are awarded in reference to what a team's scoring margin was in their game.

- 1 sbp for 4 tries scored.
- 1 sbp for 3 try difference (winning team)
- 1 sbp for 7 or less points difference (losing team)

It is the responsibility of both teams to ensure that:

- All players and team officials (where required by the Competition) must be selected in their respective team list for the match.
- All details of point scorers are to be recorded.
- All players who have either been suspended (yellow card), sent from the field of play (red card) or have a suspected concussion (blue card) must have all their details recorded.
- All movements of players following an injury (blood or otherwise) or for tactical reasons shall be recorded (where required by the Competition).
- The match day scoring, and stats can be entered by ONE team manager for BOTH teams, and EACH team manager for their OWN team. It is also permissible to have an independently appointed ground manager that does the scoring for both teams.
- The referee is to confirm the result of the match by confirming this on the Match Day App in the presence of both teams; and

All clubs must enter the team list, scoring and stats of all matches online via the Match Day App by no later than noon on the first working day following completion of the match. PLEASE NOTE: Competitions reserve the right to require this information earlier than this timeline if necessary.

Information entered must include:

- All players' details including substitutes.
- Team Officials' details
- Result of the match.
- Tries.
- Conversions.
- Penalties.
- All players suspended (yellow card).
- All players sent from the field of play (red card).
- Players who have a suspected concussion (blue card).

PLEASE NOTE: Clubs failing to follow the procedures are liable to receive penalties in relation to Competition points.

Further details can be found in *RWA6 B – Scoring on:*

- Competition points.
- Ranking criteria; and
- Club Championship points.

9.4 Conduct of Matches

RWA6 C – Conduct of Matches

- Matches will be conducted according to the laws appropriate to the age grade.
- Rugby Australia Game Management Guidelines for Community level rugby are to be used in conjunction with the current World Rugby Laws of the game.

Further details can be found in *RWA6 C – Conduct of Matches on:*

- Playing Times.
- Match Timings.
- Ball Sizes.
- Pre-match Checks.
- Maximum *Player* Playing Time.
- Mercy Rule; and
- Extra Time

Each competition match shall be played in two halves with an interval not exceeding five (5) minutes between each half. **Playing Times are below:**

- Under 18's: 2 x 30 Min Halves
- Under 12's - 16's: 2 x 25 Min Halves
- Under 9's - 11's - 2x 20 Min Halves
- U8's & U7's - 2 x 15 Min Halves
- U6's - 2 x 10 Min Halves

Match Balls:

All age groups MUST use an appropriate size match quality ball for all competition matches.

- Under 13 – 18s: Size 5
- Under 10 – 12s: Size 4
- Under 8 – 9s: Size 3
- Under 6 – 7s: Size 2

As per the Rugby Australia U19 Law variations for players in the RugbyWA Junior competition, playing time is restricted to:

'90 minutes in accordance with the Laws of the Game, in any one day no matter what the games are called (trial, knockout, carnival or tournaments). The number of games in the day is not an issue; the playing time is the issue. It is expected that due care is taken by coaches with regards substitution or replacement of players and that the time issue is always the over-riding consideration.'

Teams are required to be on the appointed field at least 10 minutes prior to the kick-off time to allow for referee boot/mouth guard checks etc. This will also ensure that games start on time.

MERCY RULE:

1. The referee will call half-time if the score reaches a difference of **35 points** before the normal half time.
2. The referee will call full-time if the score reaches a difference of **50 points** before the normal full-time.

When the referee has called full-time after a points difference of 50 points has been reached before the normal full-time, the opposing coaches, in consultation with the referee will decide if the game will continue in the same format, in a modified format or if the game is ceased altogether.

9.5 Age Groups, Laws & Number of Players

RWA6 D – Age Groups, Laws & Numbers of Players

The table below shows the minimum number of players required to participate in an Under 6 – Under 18 competition matches.

Criteria for determining how a match can/should proceed where minimum numbers of players are not available for one, or both teams, at the start of a match, or after a match has commenced, can be found in *RWA6 D – Age Groups, Laws, and Numbers of Players*.

AGE GROUP	LAW	NO. OF PLAYERS	SCRUMS
Under 6	Pathway	7	Tap Restart
Under 7 & 8	Pathway	7	3 (no contest)
Under 9	Pathway	10	5 (no contest)
Under 10 & 11	Pathway	12 (minimum of 10)	6 players
Under 12	Pathway	15 (minimum of 12)	8 players
Under 13-18	Under 19	15 (minimum of 12)	8 players

9.6 Replacements / Reserves

RWA 6 E – Replacements and Reserves

Under 6 – Under 18: In keeping with the philosophy of the Junior Player Pathway (JPP), and in accordance with the current World Rugby Laws, for maximizing skill development, enjoyment and safety, teams should adhere to JPP rules regarding replacements. **Under 6 – Under 18:**

In keeping with the philosophy of the Junior Player Pathway (JPP), and in accordance with the current World Rugby Laws, for maximizing skill development, enjoyment and safety, teams should adhere to JPP rules regarding replacements namely 'to give all players a game' and **any** number of replacements made, according to the conditions below:

- 'Unlimited rolling substitutions will be implemented for all rugby aged U18s and below. Substitutions are only to be made once the referee has signaled approval'.
- Rationale: 'This legalizes common practice and allows for maximum participation of as many players as possible at young age groups.'
- When a player incurs a yellow card, they are to sit out for a period in temporary suspension.
- In age groups U13 and above, they are not to be replaced.
- U16 and below incur a 5-minute period of temporary suspension.
- U18 and above incur a 10-minute period of temporary suspension.

Any number of players may be replaced due to injury at any time during a match as per the laws of the game and may not return to the field of play for that fixture.

Substitutions may only be made **when the ball is dead and with the permission of the referee.**

Under 15 and Under 18:

When 23 players are nominated in a team there must be sufficient front row players to play at hooker, tight-head prop and loose-head prop who are suitably trained and experienced to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement in each front row position is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.

Should a team not be able to meet this obligation for any reason during a game, or should a team not have three suitably trained front row players to commence a game with contested scrums, then the team concerned must play with one player fewer than would otherwise be allowed.

If, subsequently, a qualified front rower becomes available so that scrums can be contested then that player will be allowed onto the field and the team may return to the appropriate complement of players.

If neither team has suitably trained front row players to start a game with contested scrums the above arrangements do not apply to the game, even if qualified front rowers subsequently become available.

If a team is unable to provide a suitably trained front row or front replacements for any reason, and/or at any point in the game, the referee will order a non-contested scrum, with the following to apply:

- It is the responsibility of the referee to record on the team sheet the elapsed match time, the score at the time of, and the reasons for, awarding uncontested scrums.
- Coaches or teams are not to call for uncontested scrums when they have available, either on the field, or as reserves, suitably trained players who can play in those positions. This would be viewed as gaining an undue advantage over the opposing team.

Further details can be found in *RWA 6 E – Replacements and Reserves on:*

- Specific replacements/reserves requirements for the U6-U18 age groups.
- Front Row replacement law variations for the Under 10 to Under 18 age grades.

9.7 Playing Enclosure

RWA 6 F – Playing Enclosure

- The only persons authorized to enter the playing enclosure whilst all age group matches are in progress are:

- Match Officials.
- RugbyWA Staff.
- Venue managers.
- Sports trainers/Medical personnel/St. Johns' & PMV Ambulance staff.
- Teams (x2)
- Assistant referees (x2)
- 4th / 5th officially appointed referees.
- Team coaches (as per age group conditions)
- Criteria for all other personnel permitted to enter the playing enclosure.

Under 6 – Under 9 age groups: A team coach is always allowed onto the field of play during matches. Team manager and Sports Trainer must remain on the sideline.

Coaches are not allowed on the field beyond Round 7 of the seasons in the Under 9 age group.

Under 10 – Under 18 age groups: A team coach is only permitted to enter the playing field upon the invitation of the referee, except at half-time when the team officials may enter.

Sports Trainer/Medical Officer: A sports trainer is permitted to enter the playing field at any stage whilst the game is in progress, to attend to an injured player, if they do not impede the conduct of the game. The sports trainer must always be visible wearing a high vi vest/coat.

Team Officials and Reserves:

Both team officials and reserves must be co-located on the same side of the field whilst the match is in progress. Team managers are to be close enough that they can, without delay, consult each other when necessary. All other team personnel must remain within the roped-off tech zones, or behind the ropes, always.

Authorized Persons on Playing Enclosure:

The only persons authorized to enter the playing enclosure whilst all age group matches are in progress, are:

- RugbyWA Officials.
- WARURA Referees.
- Venue managers.
- Sports trainers/medical personnel/Ambulance staff.

9.8 Team Lists and Match Results

RWA 6 G – Team Sheets and Match Results

Team Lists: must be updated each week on Rugby Xplorer by each team for all matches **including Forfeits**. Prior to the match the **team manager** will confirm the records on Rugby Xplorer App for each of the following:

- For each player: Name (last name, first name); Jersey number
- Remove any players listed on the team list that are not playing.
- Ensure that the details of managers, coaches, TSM (Ground Marshal) and Assistant Referees are correct and are on the team list.
- During the match, the team manager will record on Rugby Xplorer:
- Any tries, conversions, penalty goals and field goals.
 - Any temporary suspensions and send-offs, including club, player name and jersey number.
- On completion of the match, the manager should confirm:
- Total the number of points scored by each team.
- Meet with the opposition manager **and** Match Official to agree on score, and view team list if required.

At the end of every match, each team shall show the referee team list, recorded score and any cards entered for the referee to verify the score, temporary suspensions & send-offs, and once satisfied that all details are correct, submit the result via Rugby Xplorer. If even after verification by the referee, the team sheets record different scores, then the Referee's score card will be the nominated result. If there is no Referee card, then the home team's team sheet will be the recorded result. This will include all yellow and red card recordings.

Any team that neglects to correctly, and legibly, fill out a team records on Rugby Xplorer each week, will receive a caution on the first occasion, and for repeated neglect thereafter will incur a penalty of the loss of one (1) or more competition points as determined by the Junior Competition Coordinator.

U6-U9 Junior Carnivals

Team sheets are to be lodged on Rugby Xplorer on the day of the match unless otherwise directed by the Competition Coordinator. Failing this, a copy of the team sheet must be scanned and sent to RugbyWA, to arrive no later than midday on the Monday following the match.

In the event of any team sheet not being received by the RugbyWA Competition department within 21 days of the match being played, that team sheet shall NOT be used when determining Player Eligibility for finals.

ALL AGE GROUPS

- Each club **must** in put their completed team list online via rugby Xplorer by Monday midday (12pm) following the match.
- Team managers, coaches, assistant referees and TSM's (ground marshals) must be added to team list for u8's and above.
- For each competition match, teams must enter match results into rugby Xplorer by 6.00pm on the day of the match. Where night matches are played the results of any games, played after 6.00pm. Should be entered within an hour of the last game being completed.

Further details can be found in RWA 6 G – Team Sheets and Match Results.

9.9 Home Carnivals

RWA 6 H – Home Carnivals

All Home Carnivals (U6-U9 game hosting shared in a North, Central and South club venue) must comply with the following criteria:

Nominations for Home Carnivals must be received no later than the deadline set by the Competition Coordinator, on the Home Carnival Nomination form (*RWA Form3*). Clubs are to provide details as to who will be appointed 'Ground Manager' for their Home Carnivals, and a detailed description of their field layout when forwarding their Carnival Nominations.

Clubs are to undertake and run the Carnival in accordance with the 'Home Carnival Guidelines' set out by the Competition Coordinator.

Each club will be required to provide referees with relevant accreditation to officiate ALL games in the instance that a referee has not been appointed.

9.10 Forfeiture of Matches

RWA 6 J – Match Forfeits

A match may be forfeited for the following reasons:

Time – a team not in position to commence a match at the allocated venue within five (5) minutes of the prescribed **Kick Off** time as advised by the Competition Coordinator.

Minimum Numbers Before Match – a team which does not have the minimum numbers to commence a match as per the Competition Rules. In such cases the match will be deemed a forfeit, and after player numbers are balanced a friendly match can proceed without recording the score.

Minimum Numbers During Match – for U12 and older, a team in which the numbers fall below the minimum numbers of 12 after the match has commenced, the match may proceed, however if disparity is so great that safety of players is a concern, the coach of the team with the lesser numbers should have the Referee stop the match and forfeit to the opposition. After balancing the numbers, a friendly game can continue afterwards, if agreed.

Club Officials are required to contact the Junior Competition Coordinator by 10am on Friday before a scheduled match is to take place if they are unable to field a particular team in a particular grade and a forfeit shall be recorded. Clubs who do not contact the Competition Coordinator within this time frame may be penalized by way of a financial penalty, or loss of competition points.

Where a club or team forfeits a match, for whatever reason, the match is deemed to have been won by the opposing team against which the match would, but for the forfeiture, have been played.

The opposing team will be awarded five (5) competition points for the win, twenty-five (25) field points for and zero (0) field points against. If the match is played but regarded as a forfeit due to a breach of competition regulations, and the actual field score is greater than twenty-five (25) points, then the higher margin shall be awarded (not exceeding fifty (50) points).

THE JUNIOR COMPETITION COORDINATOR MAY DISQUALIFY A CLUB OR TEAM THAT FORFEITS THREE (3) OR MORE MATCHES IN ANY ONE SEASON, AND, UPON ITS' DISQUALIFICATION, THE SUCCEEDING MATCHES SCHEDULED TO BE PLAYED BY THAT CLUB OR TEAM DURING THE BALANCE OF THE SEASON ARE DEEMED TO BE FORFEITED, AND FORFEIT POINTS AWARDED ACCORDINGLY.

Further details can be found in RWA 6 J – Match Forfeits

9.11 Players Uniform

RWA 6 K – Player Uniforms

Every player taking part in a competition match shall wear the approved club jersey, shorts, and socks, as authorized by RWA. Players taking part in a competition match shall wear on the back of their jersey a distinguishing number. Such numbers shall be a **minimum length of 150mm** and of such color as to be easily discernible within a reasonable distance.

- No two players in a team shall wear the same numbered jersey on the playing field at any time.
- The distinguishing number shall correspond with the information supplied by the club on the team sheet submitted to the competition department for that match.

Any breach of this rule may result in the loss of one (1) or more competition points by the offending team at the discretion of the Competition Coordinator.

A player does not commit an offence against this rule by reason only of replacing a jersey damaged during play, with a jersey bearing an alternative number, provided that the alternative number is not worn by any other player on his or her side.

Further information relating to the permitted specifications for additional items of clothing may be found in the current World Rugby Laws – Law 4, or Regulation 12.

Note: these regulations may be different for both boys' and girls' rugby.

Mouthguards:

It is compulsory that a mouthguard be always worn whilst playing and is recommended during warm-ups and training. Referees will check all players have a mouthguard prior to kick-off. If the referee notes that a player is not wearing his/her mouthguard during play, then the Referee may award a penalty at the point of infringement. The player is to be warned that it is a requirement and as such must wear the mouthguard during play. If he/she does not have a mouthguard in their possession, then the player is to be removed from the field of play until such time as they satisfy the rule.

The wearing of **long nails and jewelry** such as rings, earrings, piercings, hair beads and any similar items of adornment, are strictly prohibited whilst playing and any player not conforming to this rule is not to take part, or any further part, in the match, until the situation is rectified.

Further details can be found in *RWA 6 K – Player Uniforms*

9.12 Player Dispensation

RWA 6 L – Player Dispensation Policy

Rugby WA's policy aligns with [the National Rugby Australia 'Participation Policy' and the associated dispensation procedures](#). It aims to assist players to participate in a safe and inclusive environment.

Further details can be found in RWA L – Player Dispensation Policy on:

- Dispensation Eligibility
- Mandatory Assessments
- Size for Age Guidelines
- Dispensation procedures for Age Grade, Mixed Gender, Disability and Gender Identity

10.0 Venue Setup & Control

RWA 7 – Venue Setup & Control Policy.

The set-up and control of playing fields and a venue are critical to the safety and enjoyment of all participants, including spectators.

Rule 10.1

The Playing Enclosure is to be marked in accordance with the [Laws of the Game \(Rule 1\) and Junior Pathway Laws](#).

Ropes - should be placed a minimum of five (5) meters from the sideline and the dead ball line, unless dispensation is granted by the Competition Coordinator.

Goal Post Pads - all goal posts within the playing enclosure, being used for match or training purposes, must be fitted with goal post pads. Goal post pads and ropes must be in place prior to the commencement of any game.

Home Carnivals: all clubs are reminded that the above principles should also be applied. Club officials should refer to the [Junior Player Pathway Law book](#) for further information, available on both the Rugby Australia and RugbyWA websites.

Pack-Up: the last two teams participating in a match on a given field must pack-down / undress the field and collect all equipment together to allow the venue staff conducting Pack-Up duty to exercise their duty effectively. Repeated failure by a club to pack down their field as required will be advised to RugbyWA and appropriate action taken against that team as determined by

RugbyWA. **Authorized Persons in Playing Enclosure:** - refer to *RWA Junior Policy JRWA6F Playing Enclosure* for a list of who is authorized to enter the playing enclosure.

CLEAN-UP: TEAMS ARE TO ENSURE THEY CLEAN UP THEIR RESPECTED TECHNICAL ZONE AREAS AFTER EACH MATCH.

Rule 10.2 For any event, where several clubs/age groups are participating, one or more clubs will be rostered to assist with RugbyWA staff with the set-up of the venues (Finals etc.)

Further details can be found in RWA 7 – Venue Set-Up & Control Policy

11.0 Match Officials

RWA 8 – Match Officials Policy

There should be a **Referee** for every match.

Under 11s and higher age groups:

The WARURA Junior Coaching and Appointments Board (JCAB) will strive to appoint referees for all fixtures at U11 and higher age groups where applicable.

Referee Injury or Illness:

If a referee is unable to officiate for the whole match through illness or injury, a replacement shall be appointed, as directed by the JCAB, or if not so directed, by the referee, or if unable to do so, by the home team. In all circumstances, the referee must be qualified.

Home Carnival: the team named first in the fixture list is to supply a qualified referee to officiate All games at Under 10 level or below.

New Referees – These **new** referees are to undertake training to become an active and accredited referee registering for a Smart Rugby Course held by RugbyWA. Upon becoming accredited this person or persons must be available for the WARURA during the season to assist with ensuring there are sufficient referees available to officiate at all required junior fixtures held in metropolitan WA.

Replacement Referee: in the case where the WARURA appointed referee is unable to officiate (either through non-attendance or injury), the replacement referee is required to hold a minimum of a Smart Rugby Certification. It will be the responsibility of both teams to discuss and appoint a referee for the game.

Assistant Referee (AR): Clubs are required to appoint an accredited Assistant Referee **for every match a team plays in, in the Under 8 – Under 18 age groups**, except finals series matches. Teams that do not provide suitably trained Assistant Referees may be penalized in the form of a financial penalty.

All Assistant Referees shall report to the Referee at least 5 minutes prior to the start of the match, to confirm their accreditation, or not, and ask the referee if he/she has any special requirements of them.

Every accredited Assistant Referee supplied by a club must be distinguishable as an Assistant Referee and to be recognizable as an official. They must be equipped with a flag and are to be appropriately dressed, including suitable footwear. Both clubs and referees are to ensure ARs are suitably ready to perform their duties.

All accredited Assistant Referees officiating in a competition match must include their name on each team's team list on Rugby Xplorer in the section provided.

12.0 Finals

RWA 9 – Finals Policy & RWAJ10 - Finals Dispensation Policy

Finals Qualification: For the purposes of determining teams that have qualified to play in the Finals Series, the competition table, as at 5pm on the Tuesday following the last competition fixture, will be used. The point on any team lists subsequently received will be applied to the competition table at the discretion of the Junior Competition Coordinator.

Awarding of Premierships: Premierships will be awarded as follows:

- **Under 6 – Under 11:** there will be no premiership competitions in these age groups, therefore no Points Tables.
- **Under 12 – Under 18:** Minor Premierships will be awarded on the competition standings at the conclusion of the scheduled rounds. Major Premierships will be awarded after a final series between the top four finishing teams. Pennants will be awarded to both Major and Minor Premiers.

Finals Series Format:

The Finals Series to determine the competition Major Premiership for Under 12 – Under 18, will be decided by the playing of Preliminary final, Semi-final, and Grand final matches:

- **Semi Final** – 1st placed team will play 4th placed team; and
- 2nd placed team will play 3rd placed team; and
- **Grand Final** – winner of both Semi-Finals will play in Grand Final.

Finals Times & Venues:

All finals matches will be played at venues, and commence at such times, as determined by the Junior Competition Coordinator. For any finals series matches, if a team is not ready to take the field by the scheduled start time as notified by the Junior Competition Coordinator, that team shall forfeit the match. Where, at the end of a final's series match, the scores of the teams are equal, extra time is determined as follows:

- Semi-finals – **NO** extra time allowed. The team which entered the match with the higher competition place on the points table shall be declared the winner.
- Grand finals – and extra **five (5)** minutes each way shall be played to determine the winner. One minute shall be allowed to change ends at full time and after the first period of extra time.

Method of restart for each period will be a kick-off at halfway that will be decided by the toss of a coin.

- If points scored by teams are equal after playing extra time, no further extra time shall be played, and both teams shall be declared joint winners.
- In the case of Joint Premiers, the highest placed team will be presented with the Trophy (Cup), and their pennant and medals will be issued once the subsequent order has been received. The other team shall receive the Premier pennant and medals upon the day.

Player Numbers:

Teams competing in the Finals Series may nominate 23 players in a team where there must be six (6) players to play in either the front row or at hooker, tight-head prop, and loose-head prop, who are suitably trained and experienced to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement in each front row position is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.

Should a team not be able to meet this obligation for any reason during a game, or should a team not have three suitably trained front row players to commence a game with contested scrums, then the team concerned must play with one player fewer than would otherwise be allowed. If, subsequently, a qualified front rower becomes available so that scrums can be contested, then that player will be allowed onto the field and the team may return to the appropriate complement of players.

If a team is to nominate less than 23 players, they must abide by the [World Rugby Law 3.5](#).

Finals Directive and Bench Management Protocol: will be issued by the Junior Competition Manager for each Finals Series and will set out actions and conditions to be met by a team. Failure by a team, or its' Management, to conform to the Finals Directive may result in the team forfeiting the match and any other penalties on the club, team, or team management, that the Competition Coordinator considers appropriate.

Finals Eligibility:

A player is not eligible to play for any club in Finals matches in any grade, unless:

- They are registered with a club competing in the RugbyWA Junior competition; and
- The club has fulfilled its' obligations under Policies RWA6E and 13 (Fees); and
- The player has taken the field in a minimum of five (5) games for his nominated team and has played most of his/her games in that team or a team in a lower division or a younger age group, for the club.

Players can only play in one (1) final playing team and the club must decide in which team this player is to play. If the player is required to play in a different final team and provided that to all other intents and purposes, they are eligible, the club must seek dispensation from the Comp Coordinator.

For Under 18 / Colt's finals qualification, refer to *RWA11 Policy*.

Finals Team Lists:

All teams competing in a final series match must lodge an official RugbyWA team list, for the purpose of determining Player Eligibility, with the Junior Competition Coordinator, by 10am on the Tuesday prior to the match. Teams that fail to submit team nomination sheets may be penalized by a financial penalty. The team list should include:

- List of all eligible players in 'Playing Order (1-23)' including jersey number, last name, first name and MyRugby ID
- Jersey number
- Clubs should specify on the team's finals list all trained front row players and their trained positions.

A player's eligibility to play in a Finals Series match is determined by their availability to play in competition round matches by either:

- Name on a team sheet; or
- Name on a team sheet in the case of a forfeit as available to play; or
- Played in the State Championships for their respective regions; and
- on Representative duties (RugbyWA or ARU).

Note: Suspension or Disqualification does NOT count towards eligibility.

Playing an unregistered or ineligible player in the Finals series matches will disqualify the offending team from all finals matches.

Player dispensations: can be achieved, however they must comply with RugbyWA Junior Player Dispensation Guidelines (*RWA6 L & RWA10*). The Junior Competition Coordinator will determine if players will be dispensated to allow them to play in the Finals competition.

Further details can be found in *RWA 9 – Finals Policy & RWA 10 Finals Dispensation Policy*

13.0 U18 Transition to Seniors

RWA 11 (RWA21) – Transition Procedures for Junior U18 to Senior Competition

Who applies to:

These rules apply to all players who are eligible and wish to play in both the Junior U18 and Senior competitions.

Eligibility:

To meet eligibility criteria to play in both U18 and senior grades a player must be under 18 as of 1st January of the calendar year in question.

Player choice to play and register:

Just because a player meets the age eligibility criteria there is no obligation for that player to register and play in higher aged competitions.

It is the player's choice.

Senior Grade Dispensation:

Any player who is yet to reach 18 years of age must gain a formal dispensation to play senior rugby before the player can play for any senior team. Refer to the ARU – Senior Rugby Dispensation Consent Form.

A player turning 18 years of age during the season must apply for dispensation if they wish to play senior rugby prior to turning 18 years of age.

Once a player reaches the age of 18 years of age they no longer need to apply for a dispensation, they are automatically entitled to seek to play senior rugby.

Competition Identification:

The RWA Juniors U18 competition and the RWA Senior competitions are two separate competitions with different fees and administrative record keeping. Both competitions are, however, administrated through the ARU Rugby Xplorer system.

Dual Competition Registration:

A player wishing to play in each competition must register in each competition separately. This separate registration is required to ensure the fees and insurance component of the player profile matches the costs and risk profile associated with each competition. The system enables the respective junior and senior competition administrators to track match games and player eligibility in each of the competitions.

Registration: Players are to register to their primary age grade first e.g., if a player is of U18 age, they are to register in the RWA Juniors U18 competition as their first (primary) registration. If no dispensation is required, the player could register with the RWA senior competition as a secondary registration.

Fees:

Under the ARU fees and insurance plan there are levels of cover provided in different age competitions. (Refer to the ARU and MU season fees). The Rugby Xplorer system is designed to enable players from the lower cost juniors, not paying full duplicate fees to participate in the senior competition. The junior player is simply required to pay the difference ('transition gap') in the higher cost senior competition. This system is known as the primary and secondary competition registration.

Transition Fee Gap Calculation:

A player will only pay the 'transition gap' when completing a secondary registration.

E.g., an U18 will pay the standard \$190 (+ club fees) to play in the U18 competition, and then will only have to pay the 'difference' of the senior in insurance and NPRF (+ club fees). Note that Rugby Xplorer will automatically recognise and calculate this difference.

Examples of the difference in costs are contained at Appendix 1 to this document.

Finals Eligibility:

If a player plays in both Junior U18 and Senior grade competitions, they are potentially eligible to play in finals in the respective competitions subject to the following competition rules and conditions.

Match Grading:

Each player's record of matches played will be graded each weekend to determine the age grade that the player is graded as playing for that weekend match round. This will be done in accordance with the following conditions:

- A. If a player only plays in one (1) grade team of either U18 or a senior grade team on any weekend, the player will be graded for that team i.e., U18 or the senior team.
- B. If a player plays in both U18 and a senior grade on any weekend match round they will be graded according to the higher **starting** team, they played in i.e. if a player is listed on U18 team sheet as a starting player and reserve player for a senior grade (not in starting team) they will be graded as U18 for that round of matches.
- C. If a player starts in both U18 and a senior grade match on any weekend, they will be rated as senior match for finals eligibility for that round.

Junior U/18 Finals eligibility:

For U18 finals qualification, a player is not eligible to play for his club in the U18 age grade finals matches unless:

- A. The player is registered with that junior club.
- B. The player has completed a minimum of 5 games in the U18 team during the current regular season; and
- C. The player has played the majority (and not equal or less) games in a team in the U18 grade compared to senior rugby at the conclusion of round 12 of the RugbyWA Junior competition.

N.B. Round 12 is noted as the cut off for junior grade eligibility as this is the scheduled completion of the senior grade competitions.

Senior Grade finals playing:

If a junior player's team qualifies for a senior grade final and the player is selected to play in those finals matches, these senior grade finals matches will not count toward the junior player's eligibility for U18 finals qualification count.

Grading Examples:

Examples of player grading and qualification calculation scenarios are provided in Appendix B and should be referred to for further clarity on this condition.

Finals Dispensation:

Inevitably as finals approach, other mitigating factors will be identified that may have prevented a player from qualifying for the U18 grade.

In the event of a dispensation claim relating to any issues that impact on a player's eligibility for junior finals such as, but not limited to:

- Injury during the season.
- Suspension or other disciplinary offence.
- Other absence reason.
- Safety in team specialist position – Front Row Only

Then the player and club may lodge a detailed submission providing an explanation and a case for why these mitigating factors should be considered and the player provided an exemption to play in U18 age finals.

14.0 Protests, Disputes and Appeals

RWA 12 – Protests, Disputes & Appeals Policy

REGISTRATION / AGE:

Any person who disputes the Registration/Age of a player, is to submit to the Junior Competition Coordinator, through their club committee, the following details:

- Name.
- Rugby ID number.
- Date of Birth.
- Team and club of player submitting the dispute.
- Opposition club and team.
- Date of Match.
- Endorsement by committee member.
- Copy of signed team sheet of the player in dispute.

A club or team official who is asked to supply details of a player as outlined above, must supply said details at the time. The dispute will be dealt with by the Competitions Coordinator, who shall determine the matter and if there is a breach of the rules, shall direct the matter to the Judiciary.

PLAYER TRANSFER:

If a player's transfer is not granted, the new club can then apply to RugbyWA to adjudicate. Primary consideration is the wishes of the player; however, viability of the player's original team must also be considered, in the decision-making process.

APPEALS AGAINST JUNIOR COMPETITION COORDINATOR:

A club or person affected by a decision of the Junior Competition Coordinator under these rules may appeal to the General Manager against that decision in writing/email, within two business days of receiving written notification of the decision.

REFEREE FEEDBACK AND COMPLAINT PROCESS: Any club representative, coach or manager wishing to provide feedback or submit a complaint regarding the referee appointed to one of their matches must do so in the following way:

1. Report concern through - <https://australia.rugby/about/codes-and-policies/reporting-a-concern>
2. Select "Other Incident"
3. Write the report – please include as much detail as possible. Game times, communication, and actions.
4. The report will be sent to the Southern States Referee Manager and Referee Association Admin.
5. The report will be investigated thoroughly. More information might be requested – game footage etc.

15.0 Fees, Insurance & Fines

RWA 13 – Fees, Insurance & Fines Policy

PLAYER/INSURANCE FEES: Each player who is registered for a junior rugby club will pay:

- A **National Participation Insurance Levy (NPIL)**.
- A **State Member Union Fee (RWA Fee)**
- A **Club Fee**

The fee structure will be advised by RugbyWA Junior pre-season. Only clubs participating in the RugbyWA Junior Metro competition will pay the RugbyWA Junior competition fee.

UN-FINANCIAL:

- A club is declared 'un-financial' if there are outstanding/unpaid invoices or fines applicable to that club.
- A club that is unfinancial will be barred from participating in any match until such debt is cleared, and in a final's series match, unless the debt is cleared at least seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the final round.
- **FINES:**
- A list of the current Schedule of Fines, as determined by RugbyWA, and that may be enforced because of these Competition Rules, is shown in Table B below.

CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO PAY FINES:

If a club, affiliated body, or person, fails to meet or pay any monetary penalty provided for or imposed under these rules, RugbyWA may disqualify the defaulting club, affiliated body, or person, or may exclude it or him/her from participating in the competition either absolutely or on such terms as RugbyWA (in its' absolute discretion) sees fit.

16.0 Refund Policy

Further Details can be found in – RWA 13 – Registration Refund Policy.

Refund Responsibility

The liability and discretion for providing a refund of Participant fees and levies lies with each body relevant to each player and the fee or levy.

For example, Rugby Australia is responsible for refunds regarding the Insurance Levy (NPIL), the Member Union (Rugby WA) is responsible for refunds regarding the State fee, and the relevant Association and the relevant Club is responsible for refunds regarding the club fee. If a refund is approved, they will receive a \$5 transaction fee taken off the initial refund amount.

The details, process, and scope of responsibility for refund requests can be found in:

RWA 13 – Registration Refund Policy.

17.0 Team Spectator Management (TSM)

Further details can be found in RWAJ-B Team Spectator Management (TSM) Policy on:

Team Spectator Managers (TSMs) work on the front line at sporting events dealing with crowd control and conflict situations to ensure the inappropriate actions of a few don't ruin the overall sporting experience for everyone. Like Administrators, Coaches and Club Officials, they are an essential part of allowing junior rugby to run smoothly and without incident. This policy outlines what a TSM needs to know and how to do it.

WHAT DOES A TSM DO?

You are responsible for managing side-line (off-field) behavior for club's spectators.

You support and uphold the principles of fair play.

You wear a vest and represent your club.

You are a complaints receiver, a listener, and an enforcer.

You issue warnings the first time a person breaches a code of conduct on the side-line.

You report off-field inappropriate behavior that contravenes the codes of conduct using formal incident recording and reporting processes.

Facilitate the removal of people where appropriate.

With the assistance of a committee members/referees you involve the Police if the situation escalates beyond your control

BREACH OF RULES

A club or person contravening these rules is liable, where no other penalty is expressly provided, to a minimum penalty of \$50. RugbyWA may impose any penalty provided by these rules and in default of payment of a monetary penalty, may disqualify the defaulting club or person, or exclude it or him/her, from the competition.

RULE 17.1 CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO PAY FINES

If a club, affiliated body, or person fails to meet or pay any monetary penalty provided for or imposed under these rules, RugbyWA may disqualify the defaulting club, affiliated body or person or may exclude it or him/her from participating in the competition either absolutely or on such terms as RugbyWA (in its absolute discretion), sees fit.

RULE 17.2 PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOING POLICY

RugbyWA policy on photography or videoing children aligns with [Rugby Australia's Member Protection Policy Rule 7.2 – Taking Images of Children](#) RugbyWA will authorize people to take photographs & videos at RugbyWA Junior sponsored events such as Final Series matches. These persons may be given permission to be inside the barrier, but under **no** circumstances are they to be within two (2) meters of the Touch or Dead Ball lines.

RugbyWA may authorize people to take photographs or videos, and will use the same, for media, training, selection, and memorabilia purposes.

If a Parent or Guardian wishes that a photograph or video of their child not be used for media purposes, they are to inform the club or official at the venue and follow it up in writing. The club/venue can restrict anyone (except RugbyWA) from taking photographs or videos.

THE FOLLOWING SHOULD NOT BE RESTRICTED:

People authorized by the club responsible for the venue.

Parents/guardians/relatives and teams who take photographs as memorabilia or for team/club history.

Parents/guardians/relatives who video games as keepsakes.

Teams who video their games for training purposes, and even video their potential opposition leading into finals.

Inclusions in this policy can be found in RWA 14 – Photography and Videoing Policy.

18.0 Club Organized Events, Tours, and Visits

RugbyWA welcomes the organisation, by clubs, of games and/or tours by some of their club teams, either elsewhere in Australia, or overseas, and similarly, games for visiting teams from these other areas to local clubs in Western Australia.

Teams/ Clubs will need to send an application to RugbyWA for approval for inter-state AND international tours.

Tour Applications must be submitted to Competition Coordinator 6 months days prior to tour/ game(s).

Visiting teams/clubs are to conform to the World Rugby Laws of the Game, and the U19 variations, as directed by Rugby Australia, and for Under 6 – Under 12 matches, teams must conform to the Rugby Australia relevant Pathway Laws relevant for that age group.

ALL GAMES PLAYED WITHIN THE UNION ARE TO BE PLAYED UNDER THE RUGBYWA JUNIOR COMPETITION RULES, AND THE OPPOSITION TEAMS ARE TO BE INFORMED OF SUCH. WHEN VISITING A TEAM OUTSIDE OF THE UNION, THE COMPETITION RULES OF THAT UNION WOULD APPLY.

Club

For Club organized events, clubs must follow all [Rugby Australia Event Sanction Guidelines](#), as well as ensure that [Event Sanctioning Form](#) has been submitted to the Junior Competition Coordinator 30 days prior to said event.

Further details can be found RWA 15 – Games, Tours & Visits Policy.

19.0 Notification of Competition Rule Changes

A copy of the Competition Rules shall be sent to each Affiliated club/association for approval by the Council of Clubs, prior to the commencement of the current rugby season. Clubs may apply to RugbyWA for amendments, alterations, or interpretations of these competition rules from time to time, as is necessary. RugbyWA may at any time, amend, appeal, or add to these competition rules throughout the season.

INTERPRETATIONS

In these Competition Rules, unless the context indicates a contrary intention:

- a. Words denoting the singular number include plural and vice versa.
- b. Headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation.
- c. References to clauses and sub-clauses, are references to clauses and sub-clauses of these Competition Rules; and
- d. Words denoting the male gender include the female gender and vice versa.

Appendix

RWA 1 Team Nominations

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure title:	Team nomination policy
Procedure reference no:	RWA1
Adapted by:	RW
Date last modified:	13 th December 2023

Participation, and or Competitions, shall be initiated by the calling for nominations from each age group, as shown in the RugbyWA calendar for that year.

By submitting the Team Nomination Summary (RWA Form 1) and Individual Team Nomination Form (JRWA Form 2) by the requested date set by the Junior Competition Coordinator, the Club, the team, and its team officials agree to abide by the RWA Juniors Competition Rules and Policies.

STEP BY STEP PROCESS

The procedure for nominating teams is as follows:

TEAM NOMINATION SUMMARY: Team Nomination Summary form (*RWA Form 1*) is to be completed by each Junior Club wishing to participate in the Junior Competition, with details of all coaching staff and their coaching accreditations and/or certificates.

The Junior Competition Coordinator can allow teams to be accepted after the deadline on the condition that but not limited to:

- There is an odd number of teams in the age group to which a team is nominating, thereby replacing the 'Bye;' or
- A previously nominated team withdraws from the competition in that age group; or
- Is in the interest of Rugby or the Competition.

Each club who nominates a team in any of the Under 11 – Under 18 competitions must also provide the name and details of a new referee who has registered with the WARURA (via Rugby Xplorer) meeting the following ratio:

- Clubs with 1-6 teams in the above age groups are to provide one (1) x new referee.
- Clubs with more than 6 teams in the above age groups are to provide two (2) x new referees.

If after the 1st of June, clubs whose 'nominated referee' have failed to complete their accreditation or have not been available to referee, will be required to rectify this situation by the 15th of July. Any club failing to comply with this clause shall still be eligible to play in the 2021 competition, but potential penalties may be considered by RugbyWA until this clause is complied with.

ACCREDITED ASSISTANT REFEREES - it is a Condition of Entry into the Under 8 -18 Competitions that each team accept the obligation to provide one (1) Accredited Assistant Referee. This person needs to be available and is the Assistant Referee for matches played by that team.

Failure, without reasonable justification, to have an accredited Assistant Referee for a match, as reported by the opposing team, and/or referee, to the Junior Competition Coordinator, will:

- In the first instance, be in the form of a warning to the parent club.
- Incur loss of one competition point for each subsequent reported breach.

The Team Nomination Summary will record acceptance of this Condition of Entry.

Failure, without reasonable justification, to have an accredited Assistant Referee for a match, as reported by the opposing team, and/or referee, to the Junior Competition Coordinator, will:

- In the first instance, be in the form of a warning to the parent club.

Incur loss of one competition point for each subsequent reported breach.

A Team Nomination form (*RWA Form 2*) must list all registered Club players nominated for that team as well as contact information for the coaches, manager, TSM, and nominated Assistant Referee.

In addition to submitting *RWA Form 2* to the Competition Coordinator by the required date, Clubs must register all teams via Rugby Xplorer. Clubs must provide details of a Team Manager and Coach in team entry as well as add all players to the 'Team Squad List.'

Team Nomination forms must be received by the deadline as determined by the Competition Calendar. Note there may be different deadlines for different age groups within the competition to consider any grading games being planned.

Unless approved by the Junior Competition Coordinator, Team Nomination forms must list the minimum number of players as shown below:

- Under 6 – Under 8 : 7 players
- Under 9 : 10 players
- Under 10 – Under 11 : 12 players
- Under 12 – Under 18 : 15 players
- Under14 – Under17 girls: 10 Players

1. Any club wishing to nominate a second team in the Under 10s upwards must have a minimum of 35 eligible, registered players.
2. Any club wishing to nominate a third team in the U10s upwards must have a minimum of 50 eligible, registered players.
3. A club with more than 22 and less than 35 players in an age group will be encouraged to form composite teams with other clubs in a similar position and should collaborate with the Junior Competition Coordinator to achieve this outcome.
4. Clubs that have nominated a team in Gold and Swan divisions who then drop a team mid-season will be encouraged to drop their swan side.

Once a Team Nomination form is submitted, subsequent late player registrations are to be submitted on an additional Team Nomination form, prior to the player playing their first match. The form is filled out as for the previously submitted Team Nomination form, with the new player/s added below the last player. This player must also be added to the team list on Rugby Xplorer. Any breach of the rules (RWA1) by a club could result in a team nomination being withdrawn, at the discretion of the junior competition coordinator, until such time as the team and/or club have complied with the above rules.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Juniors 2024 Competition Rules

RWA 2 Age Eligibility

Lead area:	RugbyWA
Lead procedure title:	Age eligibility and age group
Procedure reference no:	RWA2
Adapted by:	RW
Date last modified:	13th December 2023

All Junior players must prove their eligibility, in respect of age and gender, to play in an age group certified by the Club Registrar of the club submitting the Team Nomination Forms.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

PROOF OF AGE:

It is the responsibility of the Club Registrar to ensure that a player provides authentic documentary evidence of their birth date. This evidence must consist of an original of either:

- A Birth Certificate or an Extract of Entry of Birth; or
- A current Passport; or
- Official documentary proof from their Country or State of Birth; or
- A current Driver's License or Permit; or any other evidence supported by a Statutory Declaration signed by the player's parent/guardian.

AGE GROUP ELIGIBILITY:

Is determined as per the Rugby Australia recommendation: 'A junior age rugby player must be younger than the age group in which he/she is playing as of the 1st of January of the playing year.

- e.g., A player in the U15s must be younger than 15 years of age as of the 1st of January, in the playing season.'

TWO YEAR WINDOW POLICY:

RugbyWA has adopted the Rugby Australia Two Year Window Policy for its Competition.

The policy states: 'All junior competitions played with Australia are recommended to observe a Two-Year Window where no player should participate in a game more than two years above his or her chronological age. For example, a player participating in an Under 12 competition, should be turning 11 or 12 years of age during the calendar year.'

UNDER18s / UNDER 20s:

U18s players wishing to play U20s must comply with the Rugby Australia Two Year Window policy as well as the Senior Rugby Consent Form and Policy as directed by Rugby Australia. This will include payment of the Senior Insurance levy.

U18s players must also understand that restrictions to Finals eligibility may be affected by playing in a higher age group as advised by the Finals Directives and Player eligibility policy.

MINIMUM AGE:

The minimum age to play rugby is five (5) years of age. A junior rugby player must be younger than the age group in which he/she is playing as of the 1st of January of the playing year. For example: A player in the Under 15s must be under 15 years of age as of the 1st of January, in the playing season. A player MUST BE 4 years of age before being registered with a Club.

PLAYING DOWN AN AGE GROUP:

No player is permitted to play in a team whose age group is younger than the player's determined age group. **Note:** No exceptions to this rule are permitted for boys or mixed gender rugby unless

dispensation is determined by the Junior Competition Coordinator. Dispensation will be granted in accordance with RWA6 L Age Grade Dispensation Policy

GIRLS RUGBY POLICY:

- Females can participate in mixed gender rugby as per the Rugby AU Mixed Gender Dispensation Procedure up to and including the age of 12 in that calendar year.
- A girl over the age of 12 may, subject to meeting the requirements of the dispensation procedure, play in a mixed gender team in the Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 age groups where no other opportunity to play regular rugby exists. Females can seek approval to play in an age group one (1) year lower than their chronological age, up to U12. i.e., a girl who should play U12s may play down in U11s only.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Juniors 2024 Competition Rules
- RWA6 L Age Grade Dispensation Policy
- Rugby AU Dispensation Procedures (Age Grade, Mixed Gender, and Disability)

RWA 3 Eligibility of Players, Coaches and Managers

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Eligibility Of Players, Coaches And Managers
Procedure Reference No:	RWA3
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	13th January 2024

All participants must be registered in Rugby Xplorer if they wish to participate in the RugbyWA Junior Competition.

STEP BY STEP PROCESS

The procedure for determining eligibility of players, coaches and managers is as follows:

Coaches, Managers And Team Spectator Manager (TSM):

Team Management (including coaches) are responsible for the actions of their team, and they must be conversant with the applicable Laws, Competition Rules, Rugby WA and ARU Policies and Procedures.

Eligibility:

A player is eligible to participate in each competition match(es) if:

- He/she is a registered player on Rugby Xplorer
- He/she is listed on a Team Nomination form; or
- He/she is listed with an older aged team provided that the Two-Year Window Policy is adhered to.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

Gold and Swan Divisions:

Those clubs that nominate a Gold Division and a Swan Division team in the same age group must supply a list of their nominated 20 Gold Division players. All other players are considered Swan Division players. Any Swan Division players can play for the gold team provided they abide by the ARU Under19 Law Variations in relation to the **ARU 90-minute Safety Rule**. Clubs may re-nominate their gold division players after Round 5. If a club has two teams in an age group, then no more than four (4) Gold Division players can be enlisted to assist a Swan team, as bench players, in each match, of whom two (2) must be front row trained (props and hookers) in the interests of safety. The Gold division players playing in the swan division should not be the starting players from the gold division team. If a club has two teams in one age group and one division then no more than five (5) players are permitted to 'back up' the other team.

State Representatives:

State Representatives (Nationals) from the current year, or the previous calendar year, can NOT be enlisted to play in the Swan competition if your club has two (2) teams in the age group, regardless of if they are front row trained. If your club only has one (1) team in the age group, this rule does not take effect.

Team Nominations and Registered Players:

A player not listed on a team's nomination form must not play in place of a nominated player, if the latter is present, available, and ready to play. An exception to this rule shall be allowed if the former is a trained front row player playing in position and the latter is not.

Playing Registered Players:

Players should only participate in games for the clubs to which they are registered. Participation for a team from another club should only occur if that club has less than the minimum numbers required to field a team, in which instance, the team fielding player(s) from another club will have deemed to have forfeited the match and a friendly match will take place.

WHERE A TEAM CONTRAVENES ANY OF THESE RULES, THE OFFENDING TEAM SHALL FORFEIT THE MATCH AND BE SUBJECT TO LOSS OF COMPETITION POINTS FOR THAT WEEKEND. THE NON-OFFENDING TEAM WILL BE AWARDED POINTS AS PER THE CRITERIA LISTED FOR FORFEITS.

COACH ELIGIBILITY:

Coaching qualifications are required at all levels of rugby as follows:

Smart Rugby:

All coaches for Under 6 – Under 18 must complete a ‘Smart Rugby’ seminar at least once every four years, with an online renewal every second year.

Under 6 – Under 12:

The team listed first in the Under 6 – Under 10 age groups must provide a suitably qualified referee for each game. When team nominations are due the team must have a coach specially for that age group and they will acquire a minimum of Smart Rugby.

Under 13 – Under 18:

Each team in these age groups should have a coach who holds a current Foundation or higher (Level 1, 2 or 3) coaching accreditation, or have attended or be enrolled on, and participate by mid-season (30th June), a Foundation Coaching course.

No team nomination will be accepted unless these criteria are met.

COACHES, MANAGERS AND TEAM SPECTATOR MANAGER (TSM):

Team Management (including coaches) are responsible for the actions of their team, and they must be conversant with the applicable Laws, Competition Rules, Rugby WA and ARU Policies and Procedures.

Coaches, Managers and Club Officials are to:

- Be conversant with the Competition Rules; and
- Be conversant with the ARU Laws of the Game, including Under19 variations; and
- Be conversant with the principles of Team Spectator Management; and
- Be conversant with the contents of Team Managers Handbook issued by RugbyWA; and
- Read, and understand, the RugbyWA Code of Ethics (Appendix 2) and will be responsible for their actions if in breach of the Code; and
- Where applicable, you must obtain a Working with Children Card.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Juniors 2024 Competition Rules
- RWA 2024 Managers Handbook
- RWA-B Team Spectator Management Policy

RWA 4 Registration

Lead Area: RugbyWA

Lead procedure title:	Registration Policy
Procedure reference no:	RWA 4
Adapted by:	RWA
Date last modified:	13 th December 2024

This policy documents the RWA Junior Policy for the registration of junior players to be eligible to play for an affiliated club in a match conducted or controlled by the Union and in accordance with the RugbyWA Junior Competition Rules.

It is also a RWA and Rugby Australia mandatory requirement that all Non-Playing Members and Match Officials be registered via Rugby Xplorer

STEP BY STEP PROCESS

- The procedure for registering a player(s) is as follows:

A player may play for the club of his/her choice and clubs have no propriety rights over a players' movement from year-to-year/season-to-season, except:

- Where a player has outstanding fees owing to another club, the gaining club would be morally obligated not to register that player until the situation had been resolved; and
- Clubs are NOT to actively seek players of another club as it is not in the spirit or the best interest of Junior rugby and growing the game, and any club/individuals found to be doing so should immediately be reported to the Junior Competition Coordinator, for action if required or appropriate.

In the event a club breaches this Rule 1., further action may be taken at the sole discretion of RugbyWA. Each club shall ensure that all its' players, coaches and officials are properly registered for the current season on Rugby Xplorer as prescribed by the [2023 Rugby Australia Registration Regulations](#)

A player shall be eligible to play for an Affiliated Club in a match conducted or controlled by the Union only if he/she is registered as a playing member of that Affiliated Club for that year.

No player shall be eligible to play for a club within the Union unless:

- i. The player has registered on Rugby Xplorer, **and**
- ii. The player has provided Proof of Age to the club Registrar by means of:
 - Copy of Birth Certificate or Passport; or
 - Official documentation proof from their country of State of Birth; or
 - Any other evidence supported by a Statutory Declaration signed by the players' parent/guardian.
 - **Clubs should keep a copy of the Proof of Age (POA).**
- iii. The club is satisfied that the player is not currently registered with another team and/or club and that they are eligible to play in the team and/or competition; and
- iv. Any applicable fees or levies have been paid; and
- v. The player has been included on the Team Nomination Form; or for late registrations their details have been submitted to the Junior Competition

vi. Coordinator prior to the player participating in their first match. They must also be added to the teams Rugby Xplorer Team List prior to their first game.

It is the clubs' responsibility to distribute the [Rugby Australia Code of Conduct](#) to all players and parents/guardians and to make them aware of the content of this document.

Once A player has played or been shown as available on a Team Sheet for three (3) matches, they remain current for that season and are not to be removed from a clubs Team Nomination Form, or the Rugby Australia database, unless they have transferred to another club or Union. For the purposes of registration, any actions required to be taken by the player are to be taken to mean actions by the player's parent or legal guardian, where the player is not legally competent to sign or complete any document required for registration.

Should the Junior Competition Coordinator object to any proposed player's registration, the Competition Coordinator shall, without delay, advise the club concerned that the player must not play until the objection has been resolved.

Playing an un-registered player:

If the player has played, then the club concerned will be considered as having played an unregistered Player. In the event of a club permitting an unregistered Player to take part in any game, the game will be deemed a forfeit to the non-offending team and points awarded as per the criteria listed for Forfeits as well as a breach notice.

The club will also be asked to show cause as to why the club, team or player should not be penalized further in respect of a two (2) week suspension for playing an unregistered player.

FAILURE OF A CLUB TO RESPOND TO RULE 9. TO TRY AND RESOLVE THE MATTER WITHIN SEVEN (7) DAYS WILL RESULT IN THE PLAYER BEING DECLARED UNREGISTERED.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Junior 2024 Competition Rules
- [2023 Rugby Australia Registration Regulations](#)

RWA 5 Transfers

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Transfer Policy
Procedure Reference No:	RWA5
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	17 TH January 2024

This policy documents the procedure for the transfer of junior players to be eligible to play in the RWA Junior competitions via Rugby Xplorer.

For clarification of terminology and the process to be used in Rugby Xplorer:

- a 'Player Clearance' request is for a player who wishes to move **from** one club **to** another club.
- An International Transfer request is a player leaving their current Union to play in another Union located in a different country.

STEP BY STEP PROCESS

- The procedure for transferring a player(s) is as follows:
- No player shall play for any club other than the current club to which he/she is registered as a player unless, and until, he/she is first given clearance.
- A player who is registered with a club in the RugbyWA competition in that year of competition, may only transfer clubs if the following procedure is followed:
- Completion of a junior player '**Clearance**', via Rugby Xplorer, an official from the club in which the player wishes to leave has approved the transfer; and
- Approval has been granted by the Competition Coordinator via Rugby Xplorer, as well as the original club.

Note: Until such time as this approval is received, the player is **not** eligible to play for another club.

Payment of Fees:

Member Union/Competition fees: No player will be charged for Member Union or Competition fees that have already been paid. The Rugby Xplorer system will treat subsequent registrations at subsequent clubs as a 'Secondary Registration' and will only charge any 'difference' in fees being charged by the subsequent club.

Club fees: Refund/payment of fees etc. is a matter for the player and the two clubs concerned.

Cut-Off Date:

The cut-off date for transfers between clubs in the RugbyWA competition is **10am on the Friday preceding Round 9** of the competition. This cut-off date is set to allow transferring players the opportunity to play five (5) games for the new club and thereby be eligible for finals consideration. A player may transfer to another club after the round 10 cut off under exceptional circumstances and only with exemption from Competition Coordinator.

Any player transferring after the cut-off date will need to obtain dispensation from the Competition Coordinator to be eligible to play in finals.

International Transfer:

A player transferring from another union outside of Australia must follow the clearance requirements as advised by rugby Australia and the rugby Xplorer process, prior to registering and playing with a new club in western Australia. See rugby Australia policy [competition management – international player transfer](#).

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Junior 2024 Competition Rules
- [Competition Management – International Player Transfer.](#)

RWA 6 Competitions

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Competitions Policy
Procedure Reference No:	RWA6 A
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	13 th December 2023

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY:

This policy documents the procedures involved in conducting competitions under the control of RugbyWA.

For ease of access, documenting, future editing etc., the various sections of this policy have been divided up into the following sub-procedures:

RWA:

- **A** - Draw/Grading/Timings
- **B** - Scoring
- **C** - Conduct of Matches
- **D** - Age Group, Laws and Number of Players
- **E** - Replacements/Reserves
- **F** - Playing Enclosure
- **G** - Team sheets and match results
- **H** - Home Carnivals
- **J** - Forfeiture of Matches
- **K** - Player Uniforms

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Junior 2024 Competition Rules

RWA 6A Draw, Gradings, Timings

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Competitions: Draw/Grading/Timings
Procedure Reference No:	RWA6 A
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	18 th January 2024

The Competition will be conducted in accordance with a schedule of matches/competition rounds, as appropriate to the number of team nominations received, and drawn up by the Junior Competition Coordinator prior to the start of the season and varied as necessary from time to time.

The divisional (Gold and Swan) split will be determined by the Competition Coordinator. For age groups with 14 or less teams, there will be no divisional split, the competition will be conducted in a single division.

For age groups U12 and above with 14 or more teams, teams will be allocated into Gold and Swan teams prior to season commencement based on both the previous years' results and requests/recommendations by the teams' club. A review of divisional allocations (Gold and Swan) will be made between rounds 5 and 6, based on team numbers for each division.

Fixtures will be redrawn, if necessary, after the regarding process to ensure fair and equitable competition.

The divisional placements decided by the Junior Competition Coordinator will be final.

Competition points will be re-distributed for teams changing divisions across all competitions in the following manner:

- Any team moving to a new division shall receive competition points equal to that of the team at the median of the applicable division they are transferring to. This team will be given for and against points of zero (0) point for and zero (0) points against.
- If there are an even number of teams in a division (meaning there are two (2) median scores), then the entering team will be given the lower score of the division they are transferring to.
- The Competition Coordinator will be required to place the finalists from the prior year Swan competition into the gold competition for the following year.

e.g., an Under 13 Swan grand finalist team in the prior year will be placed in the Under 14 Gold division for the subsequent year.

The Competition Coordinator will be required to place the two bottom sides from the prior year gold competition into the Swan competition for the following year.

e.g., an Under 13 Gold, bottom place side in the prior year, will be placed in the Under 14 Swan division for the subsequent year.

Where a club makes a written request to be promoted or demoted from gold/ swan in any league, the junior competition coordinator can refuse that request, can allow that request without condition, or can allow that request with condition(s). Specifically, and without limiting the applicable conditions, the following conditions may be imposed:

A team may be moved, but on condition there is a team in the other division wanting to swap.

A team may be moved, but on condition they be ruled ineligible to compete in the relevant swan finals.

A team may be moved, but on condition they lose additional premiership points; and/or

A team may be moved, but on condition they receive no further premiership points.

A team may be moved, but on condition that there is a bye that they will slot into, so that there will be no need to redraw the seasons fixture.

The competition coordinator will advise the club in writing of the outcome of the request. Conditions will not be imposed where the competition coordinator demotes a team without request.

Timings:

Matches will be played at the times and ground indicated in the fixture list or as set by the Competition Coordinator.

Clubs wishing to alter playing venues and timings must seek approval by the Comp Coordinator NO LATER THAN Friday 12:00pm the week before the fixtured game. This request must be made by a club official. If that game is being changed, this may affect medical coverage and referees provided.

With the agreement of the participating clubs, WARURA and the competition coordinator, games may be scheduled to be played at night, under lights, if the standard of lighting conforms with the approved [Sports Lighting - Australian Standard](#)

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Juniors 2024 Competition Rules

RWA 6B Scoring

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Competitions: Scoring
Procedure Reference No:	RWA6 B
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	13 th December 2023

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Competition points: the record of a team in the competition is compiled by the aggregated competition points obtained, namely:

- Under 12 – under 18:
- Four (4) points for a win
- Two (2) points for a draw
- Five (5) points for win on forfeit
- Up to two (2) scoring bonus points (sbp).

Bye points: a team with a 'bye' fixture (except in the case of a general competition bye) shall be awarded four (4) competition points.

Scoring bonus points (sbp):

Up to a maximum of two (2) per match, are awarded in reference to what a team's scoring margin was in their game.

- 1 sbp for 4 tries scored.
- 1 sbp for 3 try difference (winning team)
- 1 sbp for 7 or less points difference (losing team)

These points will automatically be added to your overall competition points for the related game when the score is 'submitted' on rugby Xplorer.

Teams in the under 12-18 competitions can have their competition points subtracted for the following reasons:

- One (1) competition point subtracted for every yellow card issued in a match
- Two (2) competition points subtracted for every red card issued during a match

Additional 1 competition point subtracted for every instance a breach of code of conduct has been reported to the General Manager by a match official. E.G., Referee abuse from coach, manager, and/or assistant referee.

At the conclusion of each round of scheduled fixtures, teams will be ranked in order of the following:

- Greater competition points; if two or more teams are equal, then
- Greater number of wins; if two or more teams are equal, then
- Greater points difference; if two or more teams are equal, then
- Greater field points; if two or more teams are equal, then
- Greater number of sbps; if two or more teams are equal, then
- Fewer number of losses.

Club championship points: points are the total points amassed by all a club's teams – competition points and bonus points, in the case of teams playing in competitive grades (u12 – u18) and attendance points for teams in non-competitive grades (u6 – u11), divided by the number of teams the club has nominated into all junior competitions. The club with the most championship points is deemed the club champion.

Under 6 – under 11:

Two (2) 'attendance' points per match played/bye where a team list is submitted on rugby Xplorer.
Clubs must be financial to qualify for the championship award.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Juniors 2024 Competition Rules

RWA 6C Conduct of Matches

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Competitions: Conduct Of Matches
Procedure Reference No:	RWA6 C
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	13 th December 2023

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

CONDUCT OF MATCHES:

Matches will be conducted according to the Laws appropriate to the age grade.

[Rugby Australia Game Management Guidelines for Community Level Rugby](#) are to be used in conjunction with the current World Rugby Laws of the Game.

Each competition match shall be played in two halves with an interval not exceeding five (5) minutes between each half. **Playing Times are below:**

- Under 18's: 2 x 30 Min Halves
- Under 12's - 16's: 2 x 25 Min Halves
- Under 9's - 11's - 2x 20 Min Halves
- U8's & U7's - 2 x 15 Min Halves
- U6's - 2 x 10 Min Halves

Match Balls:

All age groups MUST use an appropriate size match quality ball for all competition matches.

- Under 13 – 18s: Size 5
- Under 10 – 12s: Size 4
- Under 8 – 9s: Size 3
- Under 6 – 7s: Size 2

As per the Rugby Australia U19 Law variations for players in the RugbyWA Junior competition, playing time is restricted to.

- *'90 minutes in accordance with the Laws of the Game, in any one day no matter what the games are called (trial, knockout, carnival or tournaments). The number of games in the day is not an issue; the playing time is the issue. It is expected that due care is taken by coaches with regards substitution or replacement of players and that the time issue is always the over-riding consideration.'*

Any breach of the maximum playing time may incur as a minimum the loss of competition points received by the offending player's team. Coaches and Managers are responsible to ensure the Health and Safety of players is paramount.

Teams are required to be on the appointed field at least 10 minutes prior to the kick-off time to allow for referee boot/mouth guard checks etc. This will also ensure that games start on time.

MERCY RULE:

1. The referee will call half-time if the score reaches a difference of **35 points** before the normal half time.
2. The referee will call full-time if the score reaches a difference of **50 points** before the normal full-time.

When the referee has called full-time after a points difference of 50 points has been reached before the normal full-time, the opposing coaches, in consultation with the referee will decide

if the game will continue in the same format, in a modified format or if the game is ceased altogether.

Matches **must** finish a minimum of five (5) minutes prior to the next scheduled kick-off time, notwithstanding delays in starting or during the match; the duration of the halves will be adjusted accordingly by the referee.

EXTRA TIME: There is NO Extra Time for competition matches.

Modified U6 to U12 Pathway Rulings

LAWS SUMMARY FOR U6 TO U12

	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
Player Numbers	7		7	10	12		15
Playing Area	1/4 field L:40m, W:25m		1/2 field L:60m, W:35m		Full field less 10m L:100m, W:60m		Full field L:100m, W:70m
Playing Time	2 x small-sided games, then 2 x 10min halves	2 x 15mins	2 x 15mins	2 x 20mins	2 x 20mins		2 x 25mins
Ball size	Size 2		Size 3		Size 4		Size 4
Conversions	No		Optional In front, 10m back		Yes Not past 15m-line		Yes Not past 15m-line
Kick-off	Punt 5m Exclusion zone		Punt or drop 5m Exclusion zone		Drop		Drop
Restart after score	Tap on half way by non-scoring team		Tap on half way by non-scoring team		Kick-off by non-scoring team		Kick-off by non-scoring team
Kicking	No		No		Yes		Yes
Tackle	2 handed tag on shorts No offside line for defence		Yes		Yes		Yes
Lineout	Tap restart	2 players No contest	2 players No contest	4 players No contest	5 players Contested No lifting		7 players Contested No lifting
Lineout receiver		Must pass	Must pass		All options		All options
Scrum	Tap restart	3 players No contest	3 players No contest	5 players No contest	6 players Contested 1m push		8 players Contested 1m push
Scrum half		Must pass	Must pass		All options #8 moves illegal		All options
When is Lineout and Scrum over?	Played by fly-half or bounces		Played by fly-half or bounces		Ball out		Ball out
Penalty Kicks and Free Kicks	Tap only Opp 5m back		Tap only Opp 5m back		All options Opp 10m back		All options Opp 10m back

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Junior 2024 Competition Rules

RWA 6D Age Group, Laws, and Number of Players

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Competitions: Age Group, Laws & Number Of Players
Procedure Reference No:	RWA 6 D
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	24 th January 2023

Competitions: age group, laws & number of players

Age Group	Law	Number of Players	Scrum
Under 6	Pathway	7	Tap Restart
Under 7 & 8	Pathway	7	2 players no contest
Under 9	Pathway	10	4 players no contest
Under 10 & 11	Pathway	12 (minimum 10)	6 players contested
Under 12	Pathway	15 (minimum 12)	8 players contested
Under 13 to 17	Under 19	15 (minimum 12)	8 players contested

If an Under 6 to Under 12 team is unable to field a full team, then there must be an equal number of players on the field for each team and teams may share players to reach the maximum number of equal players on the field, with unlimited rolling substitutions.

If a team is sharing players, then the number of players being shared will be adjusted if a player is injured, replaced due to an open or bleeding wound, Sin Binned or Sent Off.

If a team in the Under 13 to Under 18 age groups is unable to field a full team of 15 players prior to the start of a scheduled fixture, that team may take the field with a minimum of 12 players. The team(s) which does not have the minimum numbers to commence a match, as per ARU Laws including Under 19 variations, will in such cases be deemed to have forfeited, and after a forfeit has been declared, then player numbers may be balanced, and a friendly match may proceed. If the opposition does have the required minimum number of players to commence the game, they are not required to match the number of players on the field, however it is strongly encouraged by RugbyWA.

If a team(s) has less than twelve (12) players in Under 10 & 11 and less than fifteen (15) players in Under 12 to Under 18s, then the team with the least number of suitably trained players for its' scrum determines the number of players in the scrum. For Regular Season matches and Finals Series matches, the maximum number of players that may be signed-on in a match is 18 for a 12-a-side competition, and 23 for a 15-a-side competition.

Minimum numbers – after the match has commenced.

For under 11 upwards, if numbers fall below the minimum numbers to player after the match has commenced, the match may proceed, however if disparity is so great that safety of players is a concern, the coach of the team with the lesser numbers should do the following:

- Have the referee stop the match, and
- Forfeit to the opposition, and

In conjunction with the other coach, even up the numbers and a friendly match may proceed/continue. The score will be recorded as at the time of the forfeit or as per the forfeit ruling, whichever is the greater.

RWA 6E Replacements & Reserves

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Competitions: Replacements & Reserves
Procedure Reference No:	RWA 6 E
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	24 th January 2024

Under 6 – Under 18:

In keeping with the philosophy of the Junior Player Pathway (JPP), and in accordance with the current World Rugby Laws, for maximizing skill development, enjoyment and safety, teams should adhere to JPP rules regarding replacements namely 'to give all players a game' and **any** number of replacements made, according to the conditions below:

- 'Unlimited rolling substitutions will be implemented for all rugby aged U18s and below. Substitutions are only to be made once the referee has signaled approval'.
- Rationale: 'This legalizes common practice and allows for maximum participation of as many players as possible at young age groups.'
- When a player incurs a yellow card, they are to sit out for a period in temporary suspension.
- In age groups U13 and above, they are not to be replaced.
- U16 and below incur a 5-minute period of temporary suspension.
- U18 and above incur a 10-minute period of temporary suspension.
- Any number of players may be replaced due to injury at any time during a match as per the laws of the game and may not return to the field of play for that fixture.

Substitutions may only be made **when the ball is dead and with the permission of the referee.**

Under 15 and Under 18:

When 23 players are nominated in a team there must be sufficient front row players to play at hooker, tight-head prop and loose-head prop who are suitably trained and experienced to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement in each front row position is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.

Should a team not be able to meet this obligation for any reason during a game, or should a team not have three suitably trained front row players to commence a game with contested scrums, then the team concerned must play with one player fewer than would otherwise be allowed.

If, subsequently, a qualified front rower becomes available so that scrums can be contested then that player will be allowed onto the field and the team may return to the appropriate complement of players.

If neither team has suitably trained front row players to start a game with contested scrums the above arrangements do not apply to the game, even if qualified front rowers subsequently become available.

If a team is unable to provide a suitably trained front row or front replacements for any reason, and/or at any point in the game, the referee will order a non-contested scrum, with the following to apply:

- It is the responsibility of the referee to record on the team sheet the elapsed match time, the score at the time of, and the reasons for, awarding uncontested scrums.
- Coaches or teams are not to call for uncontested scrums when they have available, either on the field, or as reserves, suitably trained players who can play in those positions. This would be viewed as gaining an undue advantage over the opposing team.

Number of Players:

15 or less	Three players who can play front row
16,17 or 18	Four players who can play front row
19,20,21 or 22	Five players who can play front row
22 or 23 (Union Specific Variations Law 3.14)	Six players who can play front row

A. If a front row player becomes injured and there is no suitably trained replacement to take the field in their place, then the Referee will call for uncontested scrums. If that team has met the requirements as per the World Rugby Laws, then the game will proceed with uncontested scrums.

B. If a team tactically substitutes a Front Row player, the replacement must be able to play in the front row to ensure contested scrums can be completed. If the replacement is not suitably trained then that team must drop an additional player from the team until the tactically substituted player returns to the field, at which time the dropped player may return as well.

ANY BREACH OF THESE RULES, BY ANY CLUB, OFFICIAL, TEAM OR PLAYER, MAY RESULT IN PENALTIES, INCLUDING LOSS OF COMPETITION POINTS, OR A FINANCIAL PENALTY BEING IMPOSED BY THE RWA GENERAL MANAGER.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE:

- RWA Junior 2024 Competition Rules

RWA 6F Playing Enclosures

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Competitions: Playing Enclosure
Procedure Reference No:	RWA6 F
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	17 January 2024

PLAYING ENCLOSURE:

Under 6 – Under 9 age groups: A team coach is always allowed onto the field of play during matches. Team manager and Sports Trainer must remain on the sideline.

Coaches are not allowed on the field beyond Round 7 of the seasons in the Under 9 age group.

Under 10 – Under 18 age groups: A team coach is only permitted to enter the playing field upon the invitation of the referee, except at half-time when the team officials may enter.

Sports Trainer/Medical Officer: A sports trainer is permitted to enter the playing field at any stage whilst the game is in progress, to attend to an injured player, if they do not impede the conduct of the game. The sports trainer must always be visible wearing a high vi vest/coat.

Team Officials and Reserves:

Both team officials and reserves must be co-located on the same side of the field whilst the match is in progress. Team managers are to be close enough that they can, without delay, consult each other when necessary. All other team personnel must remain within the roped-off tech zones, or behind the ropes, always.

Authorized Persons on Playing Enclosure:

The only persons authorized to enter the playing enclosure whilst all age group matches are in progress, are:

- RugbyWA Officials.
- Venue managers.
- Sports trainers/medical personnel/Talis ambulance staff.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Junior 2024 Competition Rules

RWA 6G Team Sheets & Match Results

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Competitions: Team Sheets & Match Results
Procedure Reference No:	RWA 6 G
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	24th January 2024

Team Lists: must be updated each week on Rugby Xplorer by each team for all matches **including Forfeits**. Prior to the match the **team manager** will confirm the records on Rugby Xplorer App for each of the following:

- For each player: Name (last name, first name); Jersey number
- Remove any players listed on the team list that are not playing
- Ensure that the details of managers, coaches, TSM (Ground Marshal) and Assistant Referees are correct and are on the team list

During the match, the team manager will record on Rugby Xplorer:

- Any tries, conversions, penalty goals and field goals.
- Any temporary suspensions and send-offs, including club, player name and jersey number.

On completion of the match, the manager should confirm:

- Total the number of points scored by each team.
- Meet with the opposition manager **and** Match Official to agree on score, and view team list if required.

At the end of every match, each team shall show the referee team list, recorded score and any cards entered for the referee to verify the score, temporary suspensions & send-offs, and once satisfied that all details are correct, submit the result via Rugby Xplorer. If even after verification by the referee, the team sheets record different scores, then the Referee's score card will be the nominated result. If there is no Referee card, then the home team's team sheet will be the recorded result. This will include all yellow and red card recordings.

Any team that neglects to correctly, and legibly, fill out a team records on Rugby Xplorer each week, will receive a caution on the first occasion, and for repeated neglect thereafter will incur a penalty of the loss of one (1) or more competition points as determined by the Junior Competition Coordinator.

U6-U9 Junior Carnivals

Team sheets are to be lodged on Rugby Xplorer on the day of the match unless otherwise directed by the Competition Coordinator. Failing this, a copy of the team sheet must be scanned and sent to RugbyWA, to arrive no later than midday on the Monday following the match.

In the event of any team sheet not being received by the RugbyWA Competition department within 21 days of the match being played, that team sheet shall NOT be used when determining Player Eligibility for finals.

ALL AGE GROUPS

- Each club **must** put their completed team list online via rugby Xplorer by Monday midday (12pm) following the match.
- Team managers, coaches, assistant referees and tsm's (ground marshals) must be added to team list for u8's and above.
- For each competition match, teams must enter match results into rugby Xplorer by 6.00pm on the day of the match. Where night matches are played the results of any

games, played after 6.00pm. Should be entered within an hour of the last game being completed.

- If a club contravenes any of the provisions of this rule, the club may be fined under the conditions of the competition rules.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Junior 2024 Competition Rules

RWA 6H Home Carnivals

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Competitions: Home Carnivals
Procedure Reference No:	RWA 6 H
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	24th January 2024

HOME CARNIVALS:

All Home Carnivals (U6-U9 game hosting shared in a North, Central and South club venue) must comply with the following criteria:

Nominations for Home Carnivals must be received no later than the deadline set by the Competition Coordinator, on the Home Carnival Nomination form (*JRWA Form3*).

Hosting Clubs will be responsible for booking all First Aid services for their home carnival. These bookings must be scheduled for half an hour before the first game and half an hour after the last game has finished. Ambulance booking confirmation must be confirmed by a committee member or 'Ground Manager' the week prior to their appointed hosting date. Failure to do so will result in the Home Carnival being moved to another location.

Clubs are to provide a draft fixtures list showing their club's team(s) along with schedule times for consideration by the Competition Coordinator, when forwarding the Carnival nominations.

Clubs are to provide details as to who will be appointed 'Ground Manager' for their Home Carnivals, and a detailed description of their field layout when forwarding their Carnival Nominations.

Clubs are to undertake and run the Carnival in accordance with the 'Home Carnival Guidelines' set out by the Competition Coordinator.

Each club will be required to provide referees with relevant accreditation to officiate ALL games in the instance that a referee has not been appointed.

THE COMPETITION COORDINATOR AND RUGBYWA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND THE CONDUCT OF THE CARNIVALS, OR MAY NOT SANCTION THE EVENT IF THE CARNIVAL DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE COMPETITION RULES AND/OR DIRECTIVES OF RUGBYWA.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Junior 2024 Competition Rules

RWA 6J Match Forfeits

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Competitions: Match Forfeits
Procedure Reference No:	RWA 6 J
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	24th January 2024

A match may be forfeited for the following reasons:

- **Time** – a team not in position to commence a match at the allocated venue within five (5) minutes of the prescribed **Kick Off** time as advised by the Competition Coordinator.
- **Minimum Numbers Before Match** – a team which does not have the minimum numbers to commence a match as per the Competition Rules. In such cases the match will be deemed a forfeit, and after player numbers are balanced a friendly match can proceed without recording the score.
- **Minimum Numbers During Match** – for U12 and older, a team in which the numbers fall below the minimum numbers of 12 after the match has commenced, the match may proceed, however if disparity is so great that safety of players is a concern, the coach of the team with the lesser numbers should have the Referee stop the match and forfeit to the opposition. After balancing the numbers, a friendly game can continue afterwards, if agreed.

Club Officials are required to contact the Junior Competition Coordinator by 10am on Friday before a scheduled match is to take place if they are unable to field a particular team in a particular grade and a forfeit shall be recorded. Clubs who do not contact the Competition Coordinator within this time frame may be penalized by way of a financial penalty, or loss of competition points. Where a club or team forfeits a match, for whatever reason, the match is deemed to have been won by the opposing team against which the match would, but for the forfeiture, have been played. The opposing team will be awarded five (5) competition points for the win, twenty-five (25) field points for and zero (0) field points against. If the match is played but regarded as a forfeit due to a breach of competition regulations, and the actual field score is greater than twenty-five (25) points, then the higher margin shall be awarded (not exceeding fifty (50) points).

THE JUNIOR COMPETITION COORDINATOR MAY DISQUALIFY A CLUB OR TEAM THAT FORFEITS THREE (3) OR MORE MATCHES IN ANY ONE SEASON, AND, UPON ITS' DISQUALIFICATION, THE SUCCEEDING MATCHES SCHEDULED TO BE PLAYED BY THAT CLUB OR TEAM DURING THE BALANCE OF THE SEASON ARE DEEMED TO BE FORFEITED, AND FORFEIT POINTS AWARDED ACCORDINGLY.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Junior 2024 Competition Rules

RWA 6K Player Uniforms

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Competitions: Player Uniforms
Procedure Reference No:	RWA 6 K
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	24th January 2024

Every player taking part in a competition match shall wear the approved club jersey, shorts and socks, as authorized by RWA. Players taking part in a competition match shall wear on the back of their jersey a distinguishing number. Such numbers shall be a **minimum length of 150mm** and of such color as to be easily discernible within a reasonable distance.

- No two players in a team shall wear the same numbered jersey on the playing field at any time.
- The distinguishing number shall correspond with the information supplied by the club on the team sheet submitted to the competition department for that match.

Any breach of this rule may result in the loss of one (1) or more competition points by the offending team at the discretion of the Competition Coordinator.

A player does not commit an offence against this rule by reason only of replacing a jersey damaged during the course of play, with a jersey bearing an alternative number, provided that the alternative number is not worn by any other player on his or her side.

Further information relating to the permitted specifications for additional items of clothing may be found in the current World Rugby Laws – Law 4, or Regulation 12.

Note: these regulations may be different for both boys' and girls' rugby.

Mouthguards:

It is compulsory that a mouthguard be always worn whilst playing and is recommended during warm-ups and training. Referees will check all players have a mouthguard prior to kick-off. If the referee notes that a player is not wearing his/her mouthguard during play, then the Referee may award a penalty at the point of infringement. The player is to be warned that it is a requirement and as such must wear the mouthguard during play. If he/she does not have a mouthguard in their possession, then the player is to be removed from the field of play until such time as they satisfy the rule.

The wearing of **long nails and jewelry** such as rings, earrings, piercings, hair beads and any similar items of adornment, are strictly prohibited whilst playing and any player not conforming to this rule is not to take part, or any further part, in the match, until the situation is rectified.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Junior 2024 Competition Rules

RWA 6L Player Dispensation Policy

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Player Dispensation Policy
Procedure Reference No:	RWA 6 L
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	24 th February 2024

PROOF OF AGE: it is the responsibility of the club registrar to ensure that a player provides authentic documentary evidence of their birth date. This evidence must consist of an original of either:

- A birth certificate or an extract of entry of birth; or
- A current passport; or
- Official documentary proof from their country or state of birth; or
- A current driver's license or permit; or any other evidence supported by a statutory declaration signed by the player's parent/guardian.

AGE GROUP ELIGIBILITY: is determined as per the Rugby Australia recommendation: 'A junior age rugby player must be younger than the age group in which he/she is playing as of the 1st of January of the playing year e.g. A player in the U15s must be younger than 15 years of age as of the 1st of January, in the playing season.'

DISPENSATION ELIGIBILITY: The Rugby Australia Participation Policy provides for dispensation outside the eligible age grades as follows:

"A player's physical development in conjunction with their ability and/or experience may be such that he or she may be allowed to participate in an age grade competition that is one year above or one year below their eligible age grades".

- **FOR EXAMPLE:**
- A player turning 13 in the relevant calendar year (1 January – 31 December) is already eligible to play in the Under 13 age group and the Under 14 age group, may apply for a dispensation to be able to participate in the Under 12 age group or Under 15 age group.
- A player turning 18 in the relevant calendar year, may apply for a dispensation to play in the U18 competition.

MIXED GENDER ELIGIBILITY: As per Rugby Australia's Mixed Gender Policy, boys and girls may participate in mixed gender rugby up to and including the calendar year in which they turn 12. A girl over the age of 12 may, subject to meeting the requirements of the dispensation procedure, play in a mixed gender team in the Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 age groups where no other opportunity to play regular rugby exists.

MANDATORY ASSESSMENT: Rugby Australia has published its 'Size for Age' Guidelines that contain mandatory assessment guidelines for male and female age grade players in Under 10 to Under 18 age groups (*RWA6 L(i) Size for Age Guidelines*). Those players that fall either above or below height or weight parameters **must** undertake assessment.

Prior to the commencement of the season, the Competition Coordinator will check the junior registration database for any player that has entered height and weight data that falls in the national metrics guidelines of their age grade and send to the Dispensation Officer, The Dispensation Officer will then contact the relevant clubs, requiring those players that fall in this bracket to attend one of the dispensation assessment days set to complete the test.

COMPLETE AGE DISPENSATION CONSENT FORM: An Age Dispensation Consent Form must be completed on Rugby Xplorer. The Dispensation Officer will then provide this form to the Independent Qualified Assessing Coaches for their initial assessment session(s). Clubs are to let the Dispensation Officer know which dates their club will be attending for assessments.

BOOK IN A TESTING DATE: Prior to the commencement of the season, there will be a ‘Dispensation Day’ held at four separate locations – North, Central, South and RugbyWA HQ.

Any player required for an assessment, must be present at one of these locations on the scheduled day.

In the instance that a player fails to attend assessment, an alternative assessment time must be scheduled at the discretion of RugbyWA.

Failure to do so will have the player barred from playing in any further games until assessment has been done.

COMPLETE TEST: Assessment is undertaken with the player’s physical development, physical fitness (if required), skill development, mental capacity and player safety considered and recorded as prescribed in the Assessing Coach Report.

REPORT COMPLETION & REVIEW: once the assessing coach form is completed it will include a recommendation of the appropriate age grade for the participant.

The assessing coaches will review the assessment and either accept or decline the Age Dispensation application. The club is then notified of the outcome in writing.

RUGBYWA RULINGS

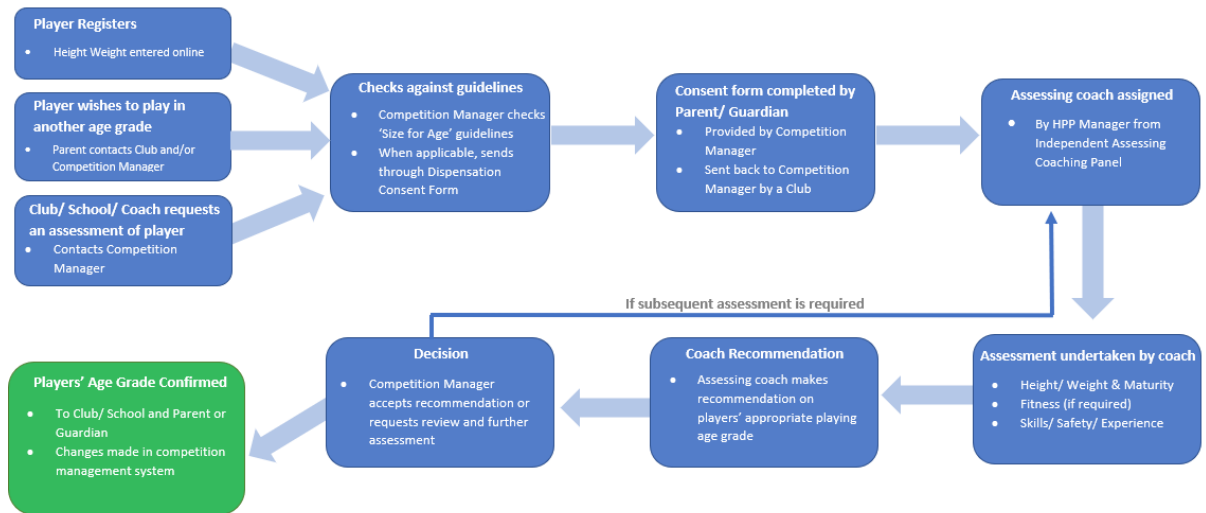
1. Any registered player that has requested an age grade dispensation must play in their chronological age group until the age dispensation request is granted by the Dispensation Officer, and this is only valid for the year of the application.
2. RugbyWA reserves the right to monitor the progress of a registered player granted age dispensation throughout the season and reconsider its recommendation and decision accordingly.
3. In the instance that a player turning 17 in the relevant calendar year, wishes to play in the Senior competitions. They will be required to apply for a dispensation.
4. A player turning 16 in the relevant calendar year, will only be eligible for a dispensation to play in Senior competitions if they are in the RWA Academy Program and it has been recommended/ requested by an Academy coach.
5. Any team that plays a registered player in contravention of this competition rule shall be required to show cause to the Competition Coordinator as to why all matches of that team involving the registered players should not be deemed to have forfeited by the team.
6. A Representative player cannot apply for Age Dispensation down an age grade. If a registered player has received Age Dispensation and subsequently becomes a Representative player, the age dispensation shall immediately lapse.
7. Dispensations will not be granted for players to move age grades to ‘make up team numbers.
8. Under no circumstances will Age Grade dispensations for players to move down 2 years be granted.
9. Players that fall in the upper ‘Red’ category for their age will not be granted a dispensation to play down an age grade.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RugbyWA Junior 2023 Competition Rules
 - Rugby Australia Age Dispensation Consent Form
 - Rugby Australia Mixed Gender Dispensation
- Procedure
- Rugby Australia Disability Dispensation Procedure
 - RugbyWA Flowchart for Age Grade Dispensation
- Procedure (Figure 1)
- RugbyWA Size for Age Guidelines for Age Grade
- Rugby (Figure 2)

*Figure 1

Rugby WA Juniors Dispensation Procedure Flow Chart



*Figure 2

- Players falling in this range for height/weight by age group will require assesment
- Players falling in this range for height/weight by age group may require assesment

Male Height for Age Guidelines						
Year of Birth	Age Group	-2	-1.5	Average Height (cm)	1.5	2
2014	U7	116.40	119.16	127.63	136.41	139.41
2013	U8	121.33	124.26	133.29	142.70	145.92
2012	U9	125.58	128.73	138.41	148.45	151.87
2011	U10	129.66	133.01	143.31	154.00	157.65
2010	U11	134.38	137.90	148.79	160.17	164.07
2009	U12	140.27	144.11	155.76	167.63	171.64
2008	U13	146.95	151.20	163.54	175.34	179.17
2007	U14	153.11	157.46	169.74	181.04	184.63
2006	U15	157.57	161.70	173.40	184.27	187.73
2005	U16	160.20	164.06	175.24	185.91	189.36
2004	U17	161.54	165.24	176.13	186.75	190.23
2003	U18	162.18	165.81	176.59	187.22	190.73

Male Weight for Age Guidelines						
Year of Birth	Age Group	-2	-1.5	Average Weight (kg)	1.5	2
2014	U7	19.62	20.76	25.41	33.57	37.92
2013	U8	21.61	22.94	28.42	38.46	44.07
2012	U9	23.65	25.23	31.78	43.90	50.69
2011	U10	25.95	27.85	35.72	49.99	57.64
2010	U11	28.70	30.96	40.27	56.51	64.93
2009	U12	32.05	34.70	45.37	63.19	71.98
2008	U13	36.04	39.00	50.78	69.72	78.74
2007	U14	40.43	43.60	56.07	75.83	85.12
2006	U15	44.72	47.96	60.75	81.23	91.02
2005	U16	48.30	51.54	64.44	85.67	96.14
2004	U17	50.79	54.05	67.11	88.92	99.88
2003	U18	52.35	55.71	69.05	91.02	101.89

Female Weight for Age Guidelines						
Year of Birth	Age Group	-2	-1.5	Average Weight (kg)	1.5	2
2014	U7	19.10	20.36	25.50	34.54	39.34
2013	U8	21.06	22.59	28.84	39.81	45.56
2012	U9	23.36	25.19	32.72	45.83	52.62
2011	U10	26.08	28.22	37.02	52.31	60.17
2010	U11	29.20	31.60	41.46	58.73	67.67
2009	U12	32.55	35.10	45.66	64.51	74.52
2008	U13	35.86	38.44	49.23	69.17	80.27
2007	U14	38.80	41.32	51.95	72.50	84.71
2006	U15	41.13	43.54	53.82	74.61	87.90
2005	U16	42.71	45.05	55.09	75.99	90.05
2004	U17	43.66	46.02	56.14	77.20	91.39
2003	U18	44.20	46.69	57.26	78.55	92.16

Female Height for Age Guidelines						
Year of Birth	Age Group	-2	-1.5	Average Height (cm)	1.5	2
2014	U7	116.22	118.90	127.35	136.46	139.66
2013	U8	120.82	123.70	132.71	142.33	145.68
2012	U9	124.87	128.01	137.77	148.07	151.62
2011	U10	129.42	132.95	143.69	154.70	158.42
2010	U11	135.91	139.70	150.89	161.86	165.48
2009	U12	142.91	146.46	156.96	167.28	170.69
2008	U13	147.12	150.41	160.30	170.21	173.51
2007	U14	148.89	152.11	161.82	171.59	174.86
2006	U15	149.61	152.84	162.53	172.26	175.51
2005	U16	149.96	153.19	162.90	172.61	175.85
2004	U17	150.15	153.39	163.12	172.82	176.04
2003	U18	150.26	153.51	163.25	172.94	176.16

RWA 6Li Size for Age Guidelines

Lead Area:

RugbyWA

Lead Procedure Title:	Size For Age Dispensation Guidelines
Procedure Reference No:	RWA 6 – L I
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	24th January 2024

- This RugbyWA Junior policy aligns with the National Rugby Australia ‘Size for Age’ procedure. It aims to assist players to participate in a safe and inclusive environment.
- RugbyWA has adopted the below dispensation procedure, for players wanting to play two years up, or one year down due to their ability and size.
- This Rugby WA policy strictly applies to all Rugby WA sanctioned events.
- All Junior players must prove their eligibility, in respect of age and gender, to play in an age group certified by the Club Registrar of the club submitting the Team Nomination Forms.

STARTING POLICY POSITION: The starting policy position is that a player may play in the age group he/she is turning in in the relevant calendar year **and** in the age group one year above. For example, a player turning 14 in the relevant calendar year (1 January – 31 December) is eligible to play in the Under 14 age group and the Under 15 age group.

IS DISPENSATION REQUIRED TO MOVE WITHIN ELIGIBLE AGE GRADES? No. Using the above example in point 2, no dispensation would be required for the player turning 15 to play in the Under 16 age group.

WITH DISPENSATION, WHERE CAN A PLAYER PLAY? The Rugby Australia Participation Policy provides for dispensation outside the eligible age grades as follows:

“A player’s physical development in conjunction with their ability and/or experience may be such that he or she may be allowed to participate in an age grade competition that is one year above or one year below their eligible age grades”.

For example, a player turning 13 in the relevant calendar year (1 January – 31 December) who is already eligible to play in the Under 13 age group and the Under 14 age group, may receive dispensation to be able to participate in the Under 12 age group or Under 15 age group.

- A player turning 18 in the relevant calendar year (1 January – 31 December) may receive dispensation to play in an Under 17 competition.
- In the instance that a player turning 17 wishes to play in Senior competitions, they will be required to apply for a dispensation.
- A player turning 16 in the relevant calendar year will only be eligible for a dispensation to play in the Senior competitions if they are in the RWA academy program and it has been recommended/requested by an academy coach.

WHEN IS ASSESSMENT MANDATORY? Rugby Australia has published its ‘Size for Age’ Guidelines that contain mandatory assessment guidelines for male and female age grade players. These guidelines require that players who fall either above or below height and weight parameters for each age group must undertake an assessment by an **Independent Qualified Assessing Coach** selected from Rugby WA’s Coaching Panel to determine the child’s appropriate age grade under this procedure.

The primary focus of the Coaching Panel staff is to deliver coach and player mentoring to engage and promote the on-going development of the High Performance Emerging and Pathway programs. The RugbyWA Coaching Panel consists of all State Team Head Coaches and Speciality Coaches. The Panel

works within the High-Performance player review process and the use of the Performance v Potential Model to understand the level and ability of individual athletes. All Panel Members are a minimum Level 2 Coach.

Prior to the commencement of the season, there will be a 'Dispensation Day' held at three separate locations – North, Central and South. Any player required for an assessment must be present at one of these locations on the scheduled day. In the instance that a player fails to attend assessment, an alternative assessment time must be scheduled prior to round 3 of fixtured competitions. Failure to do so will have the player barred from playing in any further games until assessment has been done.

WILL PLAYERS BE REQUIRED TO MOVE AGE GRADES? Where a player falls outside the 'Size for Age' guidelines having undergone an assessment that has taken into consideration the maturity, physical fitness, skill and/or experience of the player and the independent assessing coach recommends a specific age grade, the Competition Coordinator and the Dispensation Officer would need compelling justification to disagree with the recommendation. Furthermore, a player may be required to move age grades under the Age Dispensation Procedure if, in exceptional circumstances, the assessing coach deems a player a significant safety risk to themselves or others if they remain in their actual age grade.

The Dispensation Officer may, based on the results of the assessment process and after consultation with the player and their parent/guardian, require that a player must move either:

- within their eligible age grades i.e., move an Under 14 player to the Under 15 age grade: OR
- outside their eligible age grades i.e., move an Under 15 player to the Under 17 age grade or Under 14 age grades.

RESPONSIBILITIES: This procedure applies to all registered players participating or wishing to participate in age grade competitions between Under 8 and Under 18 except for non-contact Rugby or Touch7s. Please note that it is the responsibility of all Coaches, Club Officials, Unions, Affiliates and Parents / Guardians to ensure that Rugby is as safe, fair and inclusive as possible.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- All coaches, Club/School officials and Unions have a duty of care and are required to follow this procedure and the Rugby Australia Safety Policy to ensure that players are, always, playing in the appropriate age grade competition based on their physical development, ability, and experience.
- **Please note that intentional or reckless disregard for the policies and procedures may result in disciplinary action pursuant to the Rugby Australia Code of Conduct or the Rugby Australia Member Protection Policy.**
- Any complaints made by players (or their parents/guardians) regarding any decision made under these procedures must be dealt with pursuant to the grievance procedures of the relevant Union with jurisdiction over the competition.
- Rugby AU has the discretion to review any decision made in accordance with this Age Dispensation Procedure and/or conduct any necessary investigation as appropriate.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RugbyWA Junior 2023 Competition Rules
- RWA 6 L Player Dispensation Policy
- Rugby Australia Age Dispensation Consent Form
(RWA 6 L iii)
- RWA Flowchart for Age Grade Dispensation Procedure (Figure 1)

▪ Rugby WA Size for Age Guidelines for Age Grade Rugby (Figure 2)

A Player is identified to undertake the Age Grade Dispensation Procedure

A Player enters the Age Grade Dispensation Procedure via one of a number of ways, listed in the notes section, but in summary:

- Registering online and self-reporting height and weight, which is deemed to be above or below the 'Size for Age' Guidelines;
- A player (or their Parent/Guardian) requests that they play in another age grade; or
- A Club or an Independent Qualified Assessing Coach or the Comp Coordinator believes that a player may require assessment to determine the appropriate age grade for the child to play in.

The starting point for activating the Age Dispensation Procedure will be the physical development of the player, relative to their eligible age grades.

The process may be instigated via any of the following:

- A request for assessment from a player who is seeking dispensation (or their parent / guardian), **OR**
- A player falling outside the 'Size for Age' Guidelines for Australian Age Grade Rugby as measured at a Club or reported via the registration system (Rugby Xplorer), **OR**
- Observations of an Independent Qualified Assessing Coach; **OR**
- A request made to the Comp Coordinator for an assessment of a player by a Club / School Official, **OR**
- At the discretion of the Comp Coordinator (or another designated Rugby WA representative e.g. Operations Manager)

RWA 6M Disability Dispensation Procedure

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Disability Dispensation Procedure
Procedure Reference No:	RWA 6 M
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	7th February 2024

All Junior players must prove their eligibility, in respect of age and gender, to play in an age group certified by the Club Registrar of the club submitting the Team Nomination Forms.

RugbyWA has adopted the [Australia Rugby Disability Dispensation Policy](#) which states that players with a physical and/or intellectual disability that meet the requirements of the disability dispensation procedure can play down either one or two age groups.

RugbyWA has adopted the [Australia Rugby Mixed Gender Policy](#) which states: 'Males and Females can participate in mixed gender rugby up to and including the calendar year (1 January – 31 December) in which they turn 12 years of age.'

The procedure for determining age eligibility and age group rules is as follows:

PROOF OF AGE: It is the responsibility of the Club Registrar to ensure that a player provides authentic documentary evidence of their birth date. This evidence must consist of an original of either:

- A Birth Certificate or an Extract of Entry of Birth; or
- A current Passport; or
- Official documentary proof from their Country or State of Birth; or
- A current Driver's License or Permit; or any other evidence supported by a Statutory Declaration signed by the player's parent/guardian.

AGE GROUP ELIGIBILITY: is determined as per the Rugby Australia recommendation: 'A junior age rugby player must be younger than the age group in which he/she is playing as of the 1st of January of the playing year e.g. A player in the U15s must be younger than 15 years of age as of the 1st of January, in the playing season.'

Dispensation may be granted by the Competition Coordinator to a registered player to play in a competition that is below that registered player's age group, as determined in accordance with this competition rule, for players between the U6 and U18 age groups or below.

DISABILITY DISPENSATIONS:

- The outcome of any application for dispensation will be advised in writing to the RugbyWA Junior Competition Coordinator.
- A Representative player cannot apply for Age Dispensation down an age grade. If a registered player has received Age Dispensation and subsequently becomes a Representative player, the age dispensation shall immediately lapse.
- Any registered player that has requested an age or disability dispensation must play in their chronological age group until the age dispensation request is granted by the Competition Coordinator and the Dispensation Officer, and this is only valid for the year of application.
- RugbyWA reserves the right to monitor the progress of a registered player granted age dispensation throughout the season and reconsider its decision accordingly.

- Any registered player granted an age dispensation who subsequently participates in their chronological age group will have their age dispensation revoked.
- The age dispensation is valid only for the season during which it is granted.

Any team that plays a registered player in contravention of this competition rule shall be required to show cause to the Competition Coordinator as to why all matches of that team involving the registered players should not be deemed to have forfeited by the team.

REQUEST FOR DISABILITY DISPENSATION:

A registered player requesting dispensation to play below that registered player's chronological age group must complete an Age Dispensation Form (obtained from the Junior Resource Library), and then organize an appointment with a medical authority to obtain a medical report. The medical report together with the Age Dispensation Form must be forwarded to the Administrator for consideration and then sent for approval by the Dispensation Officer. The Dispensation Officer will adopt the following criteria when assessing a registered player's request for age dispensation:

- a. Male registered players that are assessed and found to be in the bottom 15th percentile for weight for their age group shall be granted dispensation, and female registered players that are assessed and found to be in the bottom 30th percentile for weight for their age group shall be granted dispensation.
- b. Age dispensation is limited to two (2) players per team; however, the Dispensation Officer reserves the right to increase the number of age dispensations granted per team.
- c. In relation to all other applications for age dispensation, the Dispensation Officer will make the decision considering the approved medical authority's recommendations.

RugbyWA's decision may override any medical report.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Junior 2024 Competition Rules
- RWA Dispensation Policy
- [Rugby Australia Dispensation Procedure](#)
- [Rugby Australia Disability Dispensation Procedure](#)

RWA 7 Venue Setup and Control

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Venue Set-Up & Control Policy
Procedure Reference No:	RWA 7
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	19 th January 2024

Playing Enclosure is to be marked in accordance with the [Laws of the Game and Junior Player Pathway Laws](#).

- **Ropes** - should be placed a minimum of five (5) meters from the sideline and the dead ball line, unless dispensation is granted by the Competition Coordinator.
- **Goal Post Pads** - all goal posts within the playing enclosure, being used for match or training purposes, must be fitted with goal post pads. Goal post pads and ropes must be in place prior to the commencement of any game.

Home Carnivals: all clubs are reminded that the above principles should also be applied. Club officials should refer to the [Junior Player Pathway Law book](#) for further information, available on both the Rugby Australia and RugbyWA websites.

Pack-Up: the last two teams participating in a match on a given field must pack-down / undress the field and collect all equipment together to allow the venue staff conducting Pack-Up duty to exercise their duty effectively. Repeated failure by a club to pack down their field as required will be advised to RugbyWA and appropriate action taken against that team as determined by RugbyWA.

Central Venue: For any central Venue where several clubs/age groups are participating, one or more clubs will be rostered to assist Rugby WA staff with the setup of the venue.

Authorized Persons in Playing Enclosure: - refer to *RWA Junior Policy RWA6F Playing Enclosure* for a list of who is authorized to enter the playing enclosure.

CLEAN-UP: TEAMS ARE TO ENSURE THEY CLEAN UP THEIR RESPECTED TECHNICAL ZONE AREAS AFTER EACH MATCH.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Junior 2024 Competition Rules

RWA 8 Match Officials

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Match Officials' Policy
Procedure Reference No:	RWA8
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	19th January 2024

There should be a **Referee** for every match.

Under 11s and higher age groups:

The WARURA Junior Coaching and Appointments Board (JCAB) will strive to appoint referees for all fixtures at U11 and higher age groups where applicable.

Referee Injury or Illness:

If a referee is unable to officiate for the whole match through illness or injury, a replacement shall be appointed, as directed by the JCAB, or if not so directed, by the referee, or if unable to do so, by the home team. In all circumstances, the referee must be qualified.

Home Carnival: the team named first in the fixture list is to supply a qualified referee to officiate All games at Under 10 level or below.

NEW REFEREES – These **new** referees are to undertake training to become an active and accredited referee registering for a Smart Rugby Course held by RugbyWA. Upon becoming accredited this person or persons must be available for the WARURA during the season to assist with ensuring there are sufficient referees available to officiate at all required junior fixtures held in metropolitan WA.

Replacement Referee: in the case where the WARURA appointed referee is unable to officiate (either through non-attendance or injury), the replacement referee is required to hold a minimum of a Smart Rugby Certification. It will be the responsibility of both teams to discuss and appoint a referee for the game.

Assistant Referee (AR): Clubs are required to appoint an accredited Assistant Referee **for every match a team plays in, in the Under 8 – Under 18 age groups**, except finals series matches. Teams that do not provide suitably trained Assistant Referees may be penalized in the form of a financial penalty.

All Assistant Referees shall report to the Referee at least 5 minutes prior to the start of the match, to confirm their accreditation, or not, and ask the referee if he/she has any special requirements of them.

Every accredited Assistant Referee supplied by a club must be distinguishable as an Assistant Referee and to be recognizable as an official. They must be equipped with a flag and are to be appropriately dressed, including suitable footwear. Both clubs and referees are to ensure ARs are suitably ready to perform their duties.

All accredited Assistant Referees officiating in a competition match must include their name on each team's team list on Rugby Xplorer in the section provided.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Junior 2024 Competition Rules

RWA 9 Finals Policy

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Finals Policy
Procedure Reference No:	RWA9
Adapted By:	RW
Date Last Modified:	19 th January 2024

Finals Qualification: For the purposes of determining teams that have qualified to play in the Finals Series, the competition table, as at 5pm on the Tuesday following the last competition fixture, will be used.

The point on any team lists subsequently received will be applied to the competition table at the discretion of the Junior Competition Coordinator.

Awarding of Premierships: Premierships will be awarded as follows:

- **Under 6 – Under 11:** there will be no premiership competitions in these age groups, therefore no Points Tables.
- **Under 12 – Under 18:** Minor Premierships will be awarded on the competition standings at the conclusion of the scheduled rounds. Major Premierships will be awarded after a final series between the top four finishing teams. Pennants will be awarded to both Major and Minor Premiers.

Finals Series Format:

The Finals Series to determine the competition Major Premiership for Under 12 – Under 18, will be decided by the playing of Preliminary final, Semi-final, and Grand final matches:

- **Semi Final** – 1st placed team will play 4th placed team; and
- – 2nd placed team will play 3rd placed team; and
- **Grand Final** – winner of both Semi-Finals will play in Grand Final.

Finals Times & Venues:

All finals matches will be played at venues, and commence at such times, as determined by the Junior Competition Coordinator.

For any finals series matches, if a team is not ready to take the field by the scheduled start time as notified by the Junior Competition Coordinator, that team shall forfeit the match. Where, at the end of a final's series match, the scores of the teams are equal, extra time is determined as follows: Semi-finals – **NO** extra time allowed. The team which entered the match with the higher competition place on the points table shall be declared the winner.

Grand finals – and extra **five (5)** minutes each way shall be played to determine the winner. One minute shall be allowed to change ends at full time and after the first period of extra time.

Method of restart for each period will be a kick-off at halfway that will be decided by the toss of a coin.

If points scored by teams are equal after playing extra time, no further extra time shall be played and both teams shall be declared joint winners.

In the case of Joint Premiers, the highest placed team will be presented with the Trophy (Cup), and their pennant and medals will be issued once the subsequent order has been received. The other team shall receive the Premier pennant and medals upon the day.

Player Numbers:

Teams competing in the Finals Series may nominate 23 players in a team where there must be six (6) players to play in either the front row or at hooker, tight-head prop, and loose-head prop, who are suitably trained and experienced to ensure that on the first occasion that a

replacement in each front row position is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.

Should a team not be able to meet this obligation for any reason during a game, or should a team not have three suitably trained front row players to commence a game with contested scrums, then the team concerned must play with one player fewer than would otherwise be allowed.

If, subsequently, a qualified front rower becomes available so that scrums can be contested, then that player will be allowed onto the field and the team may return to the appropriate complement of players. If a team is to nominate less than 23 players, they must abide by the [World Rugby Law 3.5](#).

Finals Directive and Bench Management Protocol: will be issued by the Junior Competition Manager for each Finals Series and will set out actions and conditions to be met by a team. Failure by a team, or its' Management, to conform to the Finals Directive may result in the team forfeiting the match and any other penalties on the club, team, or team management, that the Competition Coordinator considers appropriate.

Finals Eligibility:

A player is not eligible to play for any club in Finals matches in any grade, unless:

- They are registered with a club competing in the RugbyWA Juniors competition; and
- The club has fulfilled its' obligations under Policies RWA6E and 13(Fees); and
- The player has taken the field in a minimum of five (5) games for his nominated team and has played most of his/her games in that team or a team in a lower division or a younger age group, for the club.

Players can only play in one (1) final playing team and the club must decide in which team this player is to play. If the player is required to play in a different final team and provided that to all other intents and purposes, they are eligible, the club must seek dispensation from the Comp Coordinator.

For Under 18 / Colt's finals qualification, refer to *JRWA11 Policy*.

Finals Team Lists:

All teams competing in a final series match must lodge an official RugbyWA team list, for the purpose of determining Player Eligibility, with the Junior Competition Coordinator, by 10am on the Tuesday prior to the match. Teams that fail to submit team nomination sheets may be penalized by a financial penalty. The team list should include:

List of all eligible players in 'Playing Order (1-23)' including jersey number, last name, first name and MyRugby ID.

Clubs should specify on the team's finals list all trained front row players and their trained positions.

A player's eligibility to play in a Finals Series match is determined by their availability to play in competition round matches by either:

- Name on a team sheet; or
- Name on a team sheet in the case of a forfeit as available to play; or
- Played in the State Championships for their respective regions; and
- on Representative duties (RugbyWA or ARU).

Note: Suspension or Disqualification does NOT count towards eligibility.

Playing an unregistered or ineligible player in the Finals series matches will disqualify the offending team from all finals matches.

Player dispensations: can be achieved, however they must comply with RugbyWA Junior Player Dispensation Guidelines (*RWA6 L & RWA10*). The Junior Competition Coordinator will determine if players will be dispensated to allow them to play in the Finals competition.

FINALS HANDBOOK: ALL INFORMATION RELATING TO FINALS MATCH CONDUCT CAN BE FOUND IN THE FINALS HANDBOOK, DISTRIBUTED PRIOR TO THE FINAL SERIES.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Junior 2024 Competition Rules

RWA13 Registration Refund Policy

Lead Area:	RugbyWA
Lead Procedure Title:	Registration Refund Policy
Procedure Reference No:	RWA22 & RWA13
Adapted by:	RW
Date last modified:	13 th December 2024

This document outlines the process RugbyWA will undertake in assessing and processing Senior and Junior player refund requests from registered players who have paid RugbyWA the Member Union (state) portion of their registration payment. RugbyWA will review each refund request on its own merits and the decision to approve or deny will ultimately be at the discretion of RugbyWA.

Refund Responsibility

When requesting a refund, the money paid through Xplorer will have been split and sent to multiple entities. The liability and discretion for providing a refund lies with each relevant body to each fee or levy. For example, Rugby Australia is responsible for refunds regarding the Insurance Levy (NPIL), the Member Union (Rugby WA) is responsible for refunds regarding the State fee, and the relevant Association or Club is responsible for refunds regarding the club fee.

Refund Process

1. A registered player seeking a refund of participant fees or levies must lodge a "Refund Request" by logging in to their Rugby Xplorer account and accessing, completing, and submitting the online form located next to their registration history.
2. After a Refund Form is completed and submitted on Rugby Xplorer, each of the Rugby Bodies that were paid the Participant fees or levies subject of the refund request will receive a notification generated by Rugby Xplorer setting out the details of the Refund Request.
3. Each relevant body will then review each Refund Request it receives and will either approve (whether in full or in part) or reject each request.
4. Each relevant body will need to approve or decline the refund request before a refund is fully processed and monies returned to the player requesting the refund.

As each relevant body processes a refund request, each relevant body releases funds to Rugby Xplorer, which Rugby Xplorer collects and holds until all have been approved. RugbyWA will endeavor to remind all parties to action refund requests, however ultimately each body is responsible to take action on their part of a refund request.

Refund Types

When requesting a refund, registered players must be aware that there are two types of refund requests.

1. If the relevant body elected for a "Card Refund" when reviewing the refund request, the approved amount (if any) will be paid to the card used to pay the participation fees.
2. If the relevant body elected for a "Rugby Xplorer Credit" when reviewing the refund request, the approved refund (if any) will be credited to the Rugby Xplorer account of the player and can be used for future payments.

Refund Eligibility Requirements

Participant fees and levies (or parts thereof) shall be refundable where:

1. A player has registered for the season; and
 1. The player has not played a sanctioned game; or
 2. The relevant Rugby Body, in the exercise of its discretion, determines that exceptional circumstances exist to warrant a refund.
2. An error outside of the players control has occurred in Xplorer.
3. A player requests a refund prior to 31st October for the season currently in.

Participant fees and levies (or parts thereof) shall **NOT** be refundable where:

- A player has registered for training only; or
- A player has registered for a weekly or monthly registration; or
- Player has played in a RugbyWA sanctioned game.

The following exclusions and conditions will apply when reviewing a refund request:

- Refunds shall not apply to a registered player moving between clubs, rugby bodies or entity teams in the same calendar year. Xplorer should allow for a conversion of State and Insurance levies so that a player is paying for the upward difference in fees only.
- Transaction fees associated with Rugby Xplorer registration online payment gateway are non-refundable.
- Please note that the fact that a player has not trained or played a match in a season will not in itself provide grounds for exceptional circumstances.
- **The insurance levy is not refundable irrespective of the fact that a player may not have trained or played a match in a season. This is because insurance coverage has been provided.**

Refund approval for the 2024 season will be deducted a \$5 transaction fee

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA Juniors 2024 Competition Rules
- [2023 Rugby Australia Registration Terms & Conditions](#)
- RWA13 Fees, Insurance & Fines Policy

RWA B Team Spectator Manager (TSM)

LEAD AREA:	RugbyWA
LEAD PROCEDURE TITLE:	Team Spectator Management (TSM) Policy
PROCEDURE REFERENCE NO:	RWA-B
ADAPTED BY:	RW
DATE LAST MODIFIED:	19 th January 2024

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

- Team Spectator Managers (TSMs) work on the front line at sporting events dealing with crowd control and conflict situations to ensure the inappropriate actions of a few don't ruin the overall sporting experience for everyone.
- Like Administrators, Coaches and Club Officials, they are an essential part of allowing junior rugby to run smoothly and without incident.
- This policy outlines what a TSM needs to know and how to do it.

WHAT DOES A TSM DO?

- You are responsible for managing side-line (off-field) behavior for club's spectators.
- You support and uphold the principles of fair play.
- You wear a vest and represent your club.
- You are a complaints receiver, a listener and an enforcer.
- You issue warnings the first time a person breaches a code of conduct on the side-line.
- You report off-field inappropriate behavior that contravenes the codes of conduct using formal incident recording and reporting processes.
- Facilitate the removal of people where appropriate.
- With the assistance of a committee members/referees you involve the Police if the situation escalates beyond your control

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW:

You need to thoroughly understand:

- Your club/association's codes of conduct/behavior for parents, players, coaches, and officials
- The degree to which TSMs can enforce club/association rules on non-members.
- Your club/association processes for reporting incidents

TIPS FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION:

- Don't become emotionally involved.
- Acknowledge the person's anger up front.
- Listen to what the person has to say and ask questions.
- Give the person space.
- Remain calm and confident (don't yell or interrupt)
- Be aware of the tone of your voice and the type of language you use.
- Use non-aggressive body language and facial expressions (e.g. don't point your finger, don't stand with your hands on your hips)
- Be patient.
- Summarize the situation as you see it.
- Give realistic choices/work towards a solution.
- If the conflict turns physical, don't get involved – call the Police immediately.

Common scenarios:

There are various 'common' scenarios, designed to show you situations that might arise at your club:

- Spectator threatens referee.
- Parents abuse referees.
- Player taunts opposition
- Parents chastise young players.
- Verbal abuse of coach etc.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

- RWA 2024 Junior Competition Rules

Lead Policy Title:	Variations to Girls (10s) Rugby Matches
Policy Reference No:	RWA 23
Adapted by:	RW
Date last modified:	7 th February 2024

The following policy details the variations to the conduct of Junior Girls (10s) rugby matches in WA.

COMPETITION STRUCTURE:

The competition will commence with all teams playing two games per round against sides in the relevant age grade at a host venue on Friday nights.

FIXTURE TIMING: Due to the nature of the RWA Girls competition participant availability, Girls competition will be fixtured 3 to 4 weeks in advance. The reason for this flexibility is to assist the continued growth and availability of female junior players. Matches will be played at a rotating host venue on Friday evenings.

TEAM NOMINATION & PLAYING NUMBERS:

A Team Nomination Form for the RWA Girls competition must have a minimum of 10 eligible registered players listed. Any club wishing to nominate a second team into the competition must have a minimum of 20 in total eligible registered players. Additional teams must act as separate entity and players are not permitted to play for both teams. Players listed on the team sheet from round 1 must remain with that team for the entirety of the competition.

Any club wishing to nominate upwards of two teams must have an extra 11 eligible registered players from the previous minimum. E.G. – A club

Nominating a third team must have 31 eligible, registered players.

PLAYING NUMBERS:

Preferred playing numbers is 10-a-side. Each team must have no more than 15 players and no less than 7 players on the field for each game. The opportunity to play 15s is only available when both teams can facilitate. Each team can have unlimited, rolling substitutions throughout the game.

(Substitutions are to be made only at stoppages in play).

BORROWING OF PLAYERS:

If the opposition team is unable to lend players to a team who is short on players, the opposition team is required to match numbers down to 7-a- side to ensure the match still takes place.

If a team has less than 7 players or needs to borrow players from another team other than the opposition, then the match will be played, but the team will forfeit the result 28-0.

SET PIECE:

Lineout: Normal 10s lineout laws apply; players may lift and contest in the lineout.

If playing 15s: Normal 15s lineout laws apply; players may lift and contest in the lineout.

Scrum: Normal 10s scrum laws apply; scrums will not be permitted to be pushed more than 1 meter. Sanction: *free kick*.

If playing 15s: Normal 15s scrum laws apply; scrums will not be permitted to be pushed more than 1. meter. Sanction: *free kick*.

All teams will endeavor to begin each match fielding a team capable of contested scrums. It is the responsibility of the team coach to ensure players are trained and coaches properly on correct and safe scrummage technique.

If at any time either team coach or the referee deems that a team is unsafe to participate in contested scrums, then the match scrums will be called uncontested with no punishment or sanction to either team. A referee may deem scrums unsafe at any point in the match.

FINALS COMPETITION STRUCTURE:

Junior Girls Competition Finals will be played on Friday before the RugbyWA senior Grand Finals. All finals matches will be played at a host venue on one evening.

Under 15s: The top 3 teams at the conclusion of the season will play finals.

- Second Place v Third Place
- First Place v Winner of Semi

Under 17s: The top 3 teams at the conclusion of the season will play finals.

- Second Place v Third Place
- First Place v Winner of Semi

FINALS TIMINGS:

Semi/ preliminary finals

Games will be played in 10-minute halves with a two-minute half time break.

Injury time allowed up to 5 minutes.

If a draw occurs in the final, the team who finished the fixtured season in a higher position will proceed to the Grand Final.

GRAND FINAL

The game will be played in 10-minute halves with a 5-minute half time break.

Injury time allowed up to 5 minutes.

In the instance of a draw an extra 5 minutes each way shall be played to determine the winner. 1 minute shall be allowed for a break and to change ends. Method of restart for each period will be a kick-off at halfway that will be decided by the toss of a coin.

If points scored by teams are equal after playing extra time, no further extra time shall be played, and both teams will be declared joint winners.

In the case of joint premiers, the highest placed team will be presented with the trophy and their pennant and medals shall be issued once the subsequent order has been received. The other team shall receive the premier pennant and medals upon the day.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE:

- RWA 2024 Competition Rules
- Refer Laws of the Game Rugby Union (10s Variation)