

# Competition By-Laws:

These Competition By-Laws are to be read in conjunction with the World Rugby Laws of the game and the NZRU Domestic Safety Law Variations (DSLVs).

## 1. Competition Formats

Competitions formats are set by the Manawatu Secondary School Rugby Board (MSSRB) and Manawatu Rugby Union (MRU). MSSRB reserve the right to amend formats throughout the course of the season in the best interests of the competitions where necessary.

In competition grades points are allocated as follows: Win=4, Draw=2, Loss=0, Loss by 7 or less points=1.

## 2. Classification of players

Players must play in the correct grade for their team which corresponds to their age on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. Youth Grades will be considered Under 15 and Premier Grades will be considered Under 18.

Players who are 15 as at the 1<sup>st</sup> January may apply to the MRU for dispensation to play in the youth grades. As can players who are 18 as at the 1<sup>st</sup> January to play Premier grade.

During the course of the season players may move between grades (Premier and Youth) as long as they meet the age grade criteria.

Inter-changeability shall not be permitted when;

- The lower grade is playing a game for grading purposes
- Where a school has two teams within one grade players are not permitted to change teams.
- Players of a higher grade have completed their competition
- Players of a higher grade have a BYE

During play-offs, a player may only play for the lower graded team if he or she has played and is named on at least 50% of the scorecards the MRU has in its possession from competition games.

## 3. Player Eligibility

All teams competing in the Premier 1 competition must comply with NZSSSC Eligibility Rules and Regulations. Teams must submit the following documents pre season to the MRU, 5 days prior to the commencement of grading.

- **NZSSSC Eligibility Roster including a wider squad of players signed by the Principal/Rector**
- **Student Management System prints out including class schedule and photo of each individual**

#### 4. Registration of Coaches and Players

Each Secondary School Player must be registered prior to taking the field in a game. This entails filling out a 'Junior Player Registration Form' via [www.sporty.co.nz](http://www.sporty.co.nz), this registration must be approved by the school administrator prior to the player taking the field for the player to be deemed as registered.

Any Coach that fulfils an active coaching role with a team during practice or on game day must have attended a RugbySmart course which includes the Teenage Coaching Module in the current season. That Coach must have completed an online 'Coach Registration Form' prior to attending the course. A team cannot play on game day without a registered coach present.

#### 5. Scorecards

2018 will continue the new method to record match scores and who played in each fixture. The MRU will provide each club team with the scorecard format and Team Managers will provide team sheets and game results as follows:

- The Home Team will be responsible for completing the match team scorecard (ie they fill out their playing squad and get the visiting team to do the same pre-game). The Home Team retains the scorecard until the conclusion of the match.
- The referee will have their own scorecard for recording the score during the match.
- At the end of the match, the following will take place:
- Both teams' representatives sign the scorecard, confirming the players' names (ie people who sign are responsible for its accuracy)
- The referee signs the scorecard, confirming the score and indicating any Red and/or Yellow cards issued
- The WINNING team is responsible for submitting the scorecard to the MRU. Competition points will not be officially awarded until the MRU has the match scorecard.
- The scorecard can be submitted to the MRU by one of the following mean:

**MRU Email:** [info@manawaturugby.co.nz](mailto:info@manawaturugby.co.nz)

**MRU Fax:** (06) 354 1670

**MRU Ops Phone photo message:** 021 024 06335

**MRU Post:** P O Box 1729, Palmerston North

The deadline for scorecards to be submitted to the MRU is Monday 5pm following the Saturday fixture.

#### 6. Substitutions

All teams competing in MSSRB competition grades will be expected to comply with the NZR Teenage Rugby Policy "Minimum playing time". All players in a named squad each playing day at all levels below Premier 2 grade(s) or grades stipulated by MRU are required to play half of a game each match. All substitutions must take the field at half time. No Rolling Substitutions are permitted. Any team found to be in breach of this shall be subject to the penalties outlined in Point 15. All reserves should be situated along with the coach of the team. These should stand behind the dead-ball line, behind their own attacking line and switch ends during the half time break.

## **7. Referees**

Where a Referee is appointed by the Manawatu Rugby Referees' Association, this will be indicated on the weekly draw on the Manawatu Rugby Website.

Where a referee is not appointed, teams should consult pre-game and appoint the most appropriate person available to take control of the game. If the appointed person is not an associate or fully qualified referee, the game must take place with uncontested scrums. All schools are required to have at least one Associate Referee available on a Saturday to cover instances where a referee does not show up or one is not appointed. A qualified associate referee may apply contested scrums provided the referee and both teams agree to this. In the event one party does not agree to this, the match shall be played with uncontested scrums.

## **8. Serious Injuries & Concussion**

Where a player requires hospital treatment as the result of an injury sustained in practice or in a game, the Coach is required to submit a 'NZR Serious Injury Form' to the MRU within 48hrs of the game or practice.

Any player suspected of suffering from concussion is advised to go to hospital or a doctor immediately, and cannot resume contact training or playing rugby until cleared to do so by a doctor. The MRU Concussion Policy should be applied to any player who has sustained a suspected concussion and the "Graduated Return to Play Guidelines" adhered to.

Manawatu Rugby Union will implement the Blue Card concussion initiative to all Secondary School Rugby officiated by a MRRA match official who has completed the appropriate concussion assessment workshop.

Secondary School Rugby includes: Premier 1,2,3,4, Youth 1,2,3,4,5, Sec School Girls, Under 65kg.

- Any player who is identified by the referee as presenting symptoms of a concussion or a suspected concussion shall be issued with a blue card by the referee only.
- The player must then leave the field for the remainder of the match. This player can be replaced in that game. There is no opportunity for a player or club to challenge the issue of a Blue Card.
- The Coach/Manager/Referee shall record on the team sheet that the player has been issued a Blue Card
- The player is advised to seek medical assessment from a doctor within 24 hours of receiving the Blue Card.
- The Club and player will receive a letter from MRU advising of a compulsory stand down period of 21 days (if 19 years and older) or 23 days (if 18 years and younger).
- The player must complete the Graduated Return to Play Protocol.
- The player must receive written medical approval on the MRU letter provided before returning to game play after the minimum required stand down period has been observed and the player is symptom free. This medical certificate must be presented to the MRU 24 hours prior to the start of the scheduled match the player intends to play in.

**Sanction for Breach of Protocol:** 10 Competition Points

## **9. Disciplinary**

Where a player is temporarily ordered off (yellow card) or ordered off (red card), the Referee must complete the relevant 'Temporary Ordering Off Report' or 'Ordering Off Report' and submit this to the Manawatu Rugby Union within 48hrs of the game.

A citing complaint (where the Referee did not detect the foul play) may be made against a player in writing via a Secondary School Rugby Administrator and submitted to the MRU within 48hrs of the game.

The official citing form can be found on the MRU website on the 'Documents' page.

MRU has a disciplinary process for dealing with foul play or misconduct by Secondary School Players as outlined in the NZR Disciplinary Rules known as 'The Black Book'.

## **10. Complaints (regarding competition matters)**

When an individual, team or club wishes to make a complaint against another individual, team or club, this must be done in writing via a Secondary School rugby Administrator, and submitted to the MRU within 48hrs of the game.

MRU staff will preside over any complaint in the first instance and apply any appropriate sanctions in accordance with by-law 15.

Any competition decision may be appealed in writing to the MSSRB Chairman within 48 hours of receiving a written decision from the MRU. The MSSRB decision is final and is not able to be appealed in any way.

## **11. Defaults**

A team unable to commence its fixture with the minimum required playing numbers (15 players, including a competently trained front row), 10 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time then defaults the game to the opposition. Coaches should then make arrangements to play a friendly fixture with the available players.

In competition grades, a default win is 4 points to the non-offending team. A 2 point deduction for the offending team shall be applied. Where a team defaults a fixture after midday on the preceding Friday a 4 competition point deduction will apply.

Teams should make every effort to decide at their last training session of the week if they can fulfil their Saturday rugby fixture, and if not, advise the opposition and MRU no later than midday Friday.

## **12. Held Over Games**

All Manawatu Secondary School fixtures will be held as per the published competition draw. Where a team cannot fulfil a scheduled fixture due to an interschool or traditional fixture, that team must immediately contact the MRU to seek permission to hold over the fixture, the school shall then contact the opposition team to inform them and set an alternative date. If an alternative date cannot be agreed between the schools then the Wednesday following the scheduled fixture shall be the date of the match or a date determined by the MSSRB. The fixture should be played at the home venue of the opposition team. This fixture is to be completed prior to the conclusion of that competition round.

### **13. Ranking of teams**

At the conclusion of a round, the final ranking of each team will be determined by the number of points gained by that team in that round provided that:

- a. Where two teams have the same number of points, the winner of the game between those two teams shall be deemed to have the higher ranking
- b. Where two teams have the same number of points and the match between the two resulted in a draw, or there was no match between the two, or there were two matches or more between the two, and in any such case, the team with the highest points differential will be deemed to have the higher ranking.
- c. Where more than two teams finish on equal points then the teams shall be ranked on the basis of points differential.
- d. Where points differential does not separate teams, points for, then points against, then the toss of a coin will be utilized in that order to determine ranking.

### **14. Play-off games**

Should a play-off game, semi-final or final game finish normal time with the scores tied, the following process will be determined to find the winner (no extra time is to be played in Secondary School Rugby):

- a. The team that scores the most tries in the match shall be declared the winner
- b. Where the same number of tries are scored, the team that scored the first try shall be declared the winner.
- c. Where no tries were scored, the team that scored the first points of the game is declared the winner.
- d. Where no points were scored the winner shall be determined by a coin toss

### **15. Penalties for non-compliance with Competition By-Laws**

Where an individual, team or club fails to comply with the above By-Laws, and the MRU decide that a penalty is appropriate, they may elect to apply one or more of the following penalties:

- Suspension of an individual or team
- Points deduction (in competition games)
- Forfeiture of the match (in competition games)

The MSSRB are not limited to these sanctions and may apply another sanction if deemed suitable.