



## RULES OF COMPETITION - RUGBY

### 1. APPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL RULES

- 1.1 Except as provided in the GPS Rules of Competition, Australian Rugby Union (A.R.U) Under 19 Rules of Rugby shall apply to the conduct of GPS Rugby.

### 2. AGES/CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

- 2.1 The LOWEST age division in which any student may compete in a school year of competition will be determined by his age on the 1st November of the previous school year.
- 2.2 A student may not compete in the competition at any stage of the calendar year during which he turns nineteen (19) years of age.
- 2.3 Students in Years 8 to 12 only, enrolled in a GPS School, may participate in the competition.

### 3. TEAMS/AGE DIVISIONS/ GRADES

- 3.1 The competition shall be conducted in the following age groups/divisions/ grades:
- 3.1.1 Open,
  - 3.1.2 Under 16,
  - 3.1.3 Under 15,
  - 3.1.4 Under 14, and
  - 3.1.5 Under 13.
- 3.2 No boy shall play in more than one grade in one age group on the one day, unless he replaces an injured player in a higher grade.
- 3.3 **Selection of Teams.** Schools shall select fully the players of all higher grade teams before selecting those of lower grades, whether higher grades are engaged or not.

### 4. VENUES/TIMES

- 4.1 Matches will commence at 8:30am or as mutually agreed between competing schools.
- 4.2 Competing schools shall mutually agree the starting time for all matches.
- 4.3 All teams will play at the venue listed first in the GPS Fixtures Card issued by the Executive Officer of the Association (Executive Officer).
- 4.4 **Grounds.** Each host school shall provide, or arrange for, a ground/s of even surface and such adequate dimensions and markings that would guarantee safety of players.



4.5 The Marking of grounds shall conform to I.R.B. regulations.

## **5. MEDICAL CARE**

5.1 It is the responsibility of the host School to organise appropriate First Aid / Medical facilities i.e. Doctor or Sports Medicine<sup>1</sup> etc.

5.2 If an ambulance is in attendance, coaches in all grades shall not enter the field of play unless directly summoned by the referee or ambulance bearer.

## **6. COMPETITION RULES – GENERAL (APPLICABLE TO ALL TEAMS)**

### **6.1 Referees**

6.1.1 Referees shall, if possible, be secured from the Queensland Rugby Referees' Association Q.R.R.A., but in any case shall be an accredited referee / competent person. It is recognised, however, that the Referee is the guest of the host school for the day and cannot assume the responsibility of the Headmaster for any boy.

6.1.2 In all grades the referee shall be an accredited referee / competent person other than the coach of either team. Qualified student referees may be appointed to referee a fixture, with due notification being given and consideration given to the age of the referee.

6.1.3 The Home school shall be responsible for organising referees for all grades outside those appointed by Q.R.R.A. By mutual agreement the visiting school may be invited to supply referees according to the formula agreed upon.

6.1.4 Adult badged linesmen will be provided by the Q.R.R.A. for all 1st XV matches.

6.1.5 <sup>2</sup>If the appointed officials fail to arrive for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV fixture, the MC from both schools should meet to discuss alternatives. Should a suitable alternative be arranged and agreed by both schools, the match shall proceed. If a suitable arrangement cannot be agreed, the matter is to be referred to the Director of Sport of both schools to discuss with the GPS Executive Officer to postpone the match to a mutually agreed time.

### **6.2 Touch Judges**

6.2.1 Each school shall supply one (1) Touch Judge for each grade except 1st XV. These Touch Judges shall be trained in their duties, shall be suitably dressed, and shall carry one flag.

6.2.2 In addition, each school shall supply one (1) sand boy and one (1) ball boy for each grade.

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<sup>1</sup> Amended 19 March 2007 following GPS Rugby Sub-Committee Meeting

<sup>2</sup> GPS Sport and Activities Committee – 13 October 2008



### 6.3 Keeping of Time

- 6.3.1 In all grades, the referee is the sole judge of time, however the match must finish on the hour (no injury time)<sup>3</sup>.

### 6.4 Match Balls

- 6.4.1 The host school shall supply match balls.
- 6.4.2 **Under 13 Grade.** A Size 4<sup>4</sup> junior ball may be used in the Under 13 Grade.
- 6.4.3 **First XV.** Two (2) A.R.U./Q.R.U. officially approved footballs (Gilbert Barbarian or Summit)

### 6.5 Misconduct

- 6.5.1 **Sin Bin.** If a player is sin-binned, that player must remain with the team coach for the duration of the sin-bin and shall not enter the playing area until permitted to do so by the referee. The maximum period of a temporary suspension shall not exceed 10 minutes. (Refer to the A.R.U Law Book)<sup>5</sup>.
- 6.5.2 **Red Card Offences (Dismissal from the Field).** The referee shall report in writing on the Results Sheet to the school concerned and ultimately to the Executive Officer of the Association<sup>6</sup> any instance of misconduct - send-off offence - by a player.

In the case of dismissal from the field where a red card has been issued the player serves an automatic one match suspension. That game must be the next scheduled GPS fixture. Further suspension may be imposed at the discretion of each school.

- 6.5.3 **Spectators near/ on the Field of Play.** Sufficient provision shall be made to keep spectators from the touch line or outside enclosed grounds (rope off where possible)<sup>7</sup> and Headmasters or his representative shall be responsible for enforcing the observance of this rule by the boys of their schools. The referee shall be asked prior to the match, that if the above rule is broken during the progress of a match, he shall stop play until it is observed. This shall be adhered to in all grades.

### 6.6 Weather

- 6.6.1 In the event of inclement weather, the Sport and Activities representative of the home team is to notify the visiting school if grounds are unplayable, as soon as possible. The match shall be drawn unless, by mutual consent, it is agreed to be played on the ground of the visiting school.

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<sup>3</sup> Amended 19 March 2007 following GPS Rugby Sub-Committee Meeting

<sup>4</sup> Amended 19 March 2007 following GPS Rugby Sub-Committee Meeting

<sup>5</sup> Amended 27 April 2009 following GPS Rugby Sub-Committee Meeting

<sup>6</sup> Current reporting practice 2007, referred to Headmasters by school staff as required for serious offence or if recommending longer penalty period.

<sup>7</sup> Amended 19 March 2007 following GPS Rugby Sub-Committee Meeting



The Executive Officer of the Association must be notified if there are any changes in arrangements.<sup>8</sup>

6.6.1 In the event of inclement weather, the Sport and Activities representative of the home team is to notify the visiting school if grounds are playable, as soon as possible. Regardless, early notification is essential. The Executive Officer of the Association must be notified if there are any changes in arrangements.

6.6.2 If both teams are on the ground at the time of start of play and if the Referee considers weather conditions make play impossible the match shall be drawn.

6.6.3 Once the game has commenced, and if the Referee considers weather conditions make further play impossible, then the match shall be drawn.

## 6.7 Change of Fixture

6.7.1<sup>9</sup>The fixture is to be played on the date and at the host school as per the GPS Calendar and Fixture Draw unless transferred to the visiting school under Rule 6.6.1.

6.7.1 Should a rugby match be cancelled on the day prior to the allotted date, the Sport and Activities representative responsible shall notify the Executive Officer of the Association.

## 6.8 Results

6.8.1 The home team must phone/ fax or email a copy of the results to the GPS Executive Officer [Nicole L'Efevre - Phone: 3358 1556 / Fax: 3358 2553 email: [nicolel@gpsqld.org.au](mailto:nicolel@gpsqld.org.au) ] before 6pm on the Saturday following the game, for a summary of round results and the Points Tables to be updated and then circulated to schools.

6.9 **Player Uniform/ Attire.** The attire (jersey, shorts, socks) of each player in all grades shall conform to the registered colours of his school.

## 7. COMPETITION RULES – FIRST XV

7.1 **Starting Time.** Times for the start of First XV matches shall be 3.05 p.m. or by mutual arrangement.<sup>10</sup>

7.2 **Duration of Play.** Two periods each of thirty-five (35) minutes, excluding injury time, shall be played, with a five (5) minute interval.

7.3 **Match Balls.** Two A.R.U./Q.R.U. officially approved footballs (Gilbert Barbarian or Summit) shall be provided by the home team for any First XV match.

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<sup>8</sup> GPS Sport and Activities Committee Meeting, 13 October 2008.

<sup>9</sup> GPS Sport and Activities Committee meeting, 13 October 2008

<sup>10</sup> The change of commencement time of First XV matches to 3.05pm followed the GPS Headmasters General meeting decision to change the duration of 2<sup>nd</sup> XV matches (See Rule 1.2)



7.4 **Injury Replacement.** When a player leaves the field because of injury he is no longer allowed to return (the exception being in the case of the "blood bin" law). If a player is substituted he may replace only an injured player. Replacements for First XV teams must have played in a previous match on that day ie. no fresh reserves<sup>11</sup>.

7.5 **Premiership Points.** A premiership for the Champion School will apply to First XV competition only. Competition points to determine the Champion School shall be awarded as follows:

- Two (2) points for a win.
- Zero (0) points for a loss.
- One (1) point each for a draw or weather cancellation.
- No points for a bye.

7.6 **Forfeit.** In the case of a forfeit, the non-defaulting team shall receive the maximum points.

## 8. COMPETITION RULES – OTHER GRADES – Open and UNDER AGE DIVISIONS

8.1 **Duration of Play.** Two periods of twenty-five (25) minutes each shall be played with a five (5) minute interval. **NO** injury time is allowed in any other game other than the First XV.<sup>12</sup>

Under 13	-	25 minutes
Under 14	-	25 minutes
Under 15	-	25 minutes
Under 16	-	25 minutes
Open 2 <sup>nd</sup> XV- 6thXV	-	25 minutes
First XV	-	35 minutes

8.2 **Replacements.** In all grades, injured players may be replaced at any time during the match. Such injured players shall not return to the field in any grade on that day (the exception being in the case of the "blood bin" law).

## 9. AMENDMENT TO RULES OF COMPETITION

9.1 No amendment to these Rules of Competition is authorised unless such amendment is issued by the Executive Officer of the Association.

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<sup>11</sup> Amended 19 March 2007 following GPS Rugby Sub-Committee Meeting

<sup>12</sup> Headmasters General Meeting of 19 May 2003 – Rules amended to change 2<sup>nd</sup> XV playing time from 30 minutes per half (with no injury time) to 25 minutes per half with no injury time.



## APPENDIX A to RUGBY RULES OF COMPETITION<sup>13</sup>

### PROTEST PROCEDURE – 1<sup>st</sup> XV

1. The following procedure will apply with respect to any Protest concerning the result of a 1<sup>st</sup> XV game:

As soon as possible but by no later than 12.00pm on the Monday immediately following the fixture, The Director of Sport from the school that is protesting the result is to inform the GPS Executive Officer of the Association, the Chairman of the GPS Sport and Activities Committee and the Chairman of the GPS Rugby Sub-Committee of the possibility of a formal protest being made and of the circumstances.

As soon as possible but by no later than 4.00pm on the Monday immediately following the fixture, any Official Protest is to be sent by the Director of Sport of the school protesting the result, to the GPS Executive Officer by email and facsimile. The GPS Executive Officer is to acknowledge receipt of the Protest. The Director of Sport is also to contact the GPS Executive Officer by telephone advising of the Official Protest.

Any Official Protest is to be made on the Form attached and is to clearly outline the reason for the Protest and the appropriate details.

On receipt of the Protest, the GPS Executive Officer will inform the Chairman of the GPS Sport and Activities Committee and the Directors of Sport of the schools concerned.

The GPS Executive Officer will then forward the Protest to the Chairman and members of the GPS Management Committee of the Association.

The GPS Management Committee will consider the Protest and if the Protest is upheld, determine any penalty.

Following determination of the Protest by the GPS Management Committee, the GPS Executive Officer will inform the Headmasters and Directors of Sport of all schools of the results of the protest.

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<sup>13</sup> Update with standard GPS protest procedure, November 2008



**PROTEST FORM – RUGBY**

**Fixture Game and Date:** .....

**School Protesting:** .....

**Reasons for Protest:**

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**Details:** .....

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**Signed :** .....  
**Sport & Activities Director**

**Date:** .....

Time Received: _____
Decision: Upheld <input type="checkbox"/> Overturned <input type="checkbox"/>



**RATIONALE FOR DECISION:**

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**SIGNED:**

..... CHAIR of PROTEST PANEL	..... Signature
..... SPORT & ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR	..... Signature
..... SPORT & ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR	..... Signature