



RUGBYWA
JUNIORS

**COMPETITION RULES
AND REGULATIONS**

2019

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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This document is the Competition Rules for all Competitions conducted by the West Australian Junior Rugby Union.

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A. CITATION / STATEMENT OF INTENT

These rules shall be cited as the 2019 RugbyWA Juniors Competition Rules and Regulations. It is intended that these rules shall apply to all Clubs participating in any competition organised under the auspices of the RugbyWA Juniors, and shall be read in conjunction with, and in the order of, the Constitution of the RugbyWA Juniors, Rugby Australia Safety Directives & Pathway Laws, Laws of the Game and the Rugby Australia Rugby Code of Conduct.

The Junior Competition Co-ordinator is responsible for the day - to - day running of the competition and ensuring that these Rules and Regulations are adhered to. The Junior Competition Co-ordinator is authorised to impose penalty/s / sanctions on the member club/s for all breaches of these rules. Any breach of these rules may also result in penalties being imposed at the discretion of the Junior Competition Co-ordinator and the RugbyWA Juniors Executive Committee also have the right to amend/dismiss any penalty imposed by the Junior Competition Co-ordinator.

The advice of any RugbyWA Juniors Executive Member does not in any way supersede anything contained in these Rules.

From time to time it may be necessary for the RugbyWA Juniors Executive Committee to issue directives to the member Clubs. If a directive is passed by the majority of the Executive Committee, it is to have the force of a Rule.

RULE 1. MATCH LAW

Rule 1.1 Under 13 and Above:

All matches in these age groups shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game and Regulations, as published by the World Rugby Under 19 and 7-a-side variations, together with all by-laws and directives of the Rugby Australia, RugbyWA and RugbyWA Juniors.

Rule 1.2 Under 12 and Below:

All matches in these age groups shall be played in accordance with the current Rugby Australia Junior Player Pathway Laws, with the exceptions of:

- RugbyWA Juniors Law Amendment for (U9-U10): Restart – Scoring team to restart (kick off after scoring of a try).
- Where an U11 team has less than 12 players, but has 9 or more players available and ready to play, the match shall still be considered a competition match. Where a team has less than 9 players in the U11 age group, the match shall be deemed a forfeit and a friendly match shall ensue.
- Where an U12 team has less than 15 players, but has 12 or more players available and ready to play, the match shall still be considered a competition match. Where a team has less than 12 players in the U12 age group, the match shall be deemed a forfeit and a friendly match shall ensue.
- At all times player numbers MUST be matched on the field of play in U6-U12 age groups, for both competition and forfeited matches.

Rule 1.3 Variations to Girls (7's) Rugby Matches

Full details of the RWA Juniors Variations to Girls (7s) Rugby Matches can be found in policy RWAJ 16

RULE 2. CODE OF CONDUCT

RWAJ-A Breach of Code of Conduct & Member Protection Policy (RWAJ - A)

Rule 2.1 The Rugby Australia Code of Conduct defines the expected behaviour of Club Affiliates.

Rule 2.2 The RugbyWA Juniors Code of Ethics provides the Values that RugbyWA Juniors expects of its Clubs, Affiliates and volunteers.

Rule 2.3 Each Club is responsible for the distribution to, and education of Club Affiliates, to the Code of Conduct and must take all reasonable steps to ensure that Club Affiliates adhere to the Code.

Rule 2.4 Club Affiliates must comply with the Code of Conduct and at no time act in a manner detrimental towards the game or the spirit of Rugby Union.

Rule 2.5 Club Affiliates must endorse the Code of Conduct at registration and do so by signing a 2019 registration form in which they are accepting the conditions illustrated in the Rugby Australia Code of Conduct and the RugbyWA Juniors Code of Ethics.

Rule 2.6 Club Affiliates shall not, during the course of, before, or any time after, a match under the jurisdiction of the Union, abuse or address a Referee or Assistant Referee in insulting terms, or act in an intimidating manner towards a Referee or Assistant Referee.

Rule 2.7 The Code of Conduct is also available on the RugbyWA Website.

Rule 2.8 Any breach of this rule, by any Club Affiliate or any other person associated with a Club of the Union, may result in penalties including financial, being imposed on the Club Affiliate or any other person associated with a Club of the Union or the Club itself at the discretion of the Junior Competition Co-ordinator / RugbyWA Juniors Executive Committee. *(RWAJ-A Breach of Code of Conduct & Member Protection Policy)*.

RULE 3. TEAM NOMINATION

RWAJ1 – Team Nomination Rules

Rule 3.1 Participation, and or Competitions, shall be initiated by the calling for nominations from each age group, as shown in the RugbyWA Juniors calendar for that year, or as otherwise directed by the RugbyWA Juniors Executive Committee.

Rule 3.2 Each club who nominates a team in any of the Under 11 – Under 17 competitions must also provide the name and details of a **new referee**, 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.

Rule 3.3 It is a Condition of Entry into the Under 8 – Under 17 competitions that each team accept the obligation to provide one (1) x **Accredited Assistant Referee**. This person needs to be available and is the Assistant Referee for matches played by that team.

Rule 3.4 The Team Nomination Summary (*RWAJ Form 1*) will record acceptance of this Condition of Entry.

Rule 3.5 A Team Nomination form (*RWAJ Form 2*) must list all registered Club players nominated for that team, as well as contact information for the coaches, manager and TSM, and nominated Assistant Referee details.

Rule 3.6 Any club wishing to nominate a second team in the Under 11s upwards must have a minimum of 35 eligible, registered players. Any club wishing to nominate a third team in the U11s upwards must have a minimum of 50 eligible, registered players. 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.

Rule 3.7 Any breach of these Rules (3) 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 *RWAJ1 – Team Nomination Policy*.

RULE 4. AGE ELIGIBILITY and determining Age Group *RWAJ2 – Age Eligibility Policy*

Rule 4.1 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**.

Rule 4.2 The RugbyWA Juniors Executive has adopted the Rugby Australia 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.'

Rule 4.3 The minimum age to play rugby is five (5) years of age. A junior age rugby player must be younger than the age group in which he/she is playing as of the 1st January of the playing year. For example: A player in the Under 15's must be under 15 years of age as of the 1st January, in the playing season.

Rule 4.4 The player **MUST BE 4 years of age** before being **registered** with a Club, however this registered player **MUST be born in 2013** to play in any match under the control of the Union during the current calendar year.

Rule 4.5 The RugbyWA Juniors has adopted the Rugby Australia Two Year Window Policy for its Competition. Details of this policy, exceptions and applications to U18 players wishing to play U20 Senior rugby can be found in procedure *RWAJ2 – Age Eligibility*.

Rule 4.6 **Age and Disability Dispensations** - Dispensation may be granted by the Junior Competition Coordinator to a Registered Player to play in a Competition that is below that Registered Player's age group for as determined in accordance with this Competition Rule for players between the U6 and U17 age group or below.

Rule 4.7 **Gender Dispensation** - Females can participate in mixed gender rugby as per the Rugby Australia Mixed Gender Dispensation Procedure, up to and including the age of 12 in that calendar year.

Full details of the Proof of Age, Two Year Window, Age, Disability and Gender Dispensation requirements, and Girls Rugby Policy, are provided in RWAJ2 – Age Eligibility & RWAJ6L – Age Grade

Dispensation Procedure, RWAJ6L i Size for age Guidelines, RWAJ6 M Disability Dispensation Procedure as well as a Dispensation Consent form found at RWAJ6 L ii.

RULE 5. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS, COACHES AND MANAGERS *RWAJ3 – Eligibility of Players, Coaches and Managers*

Rule 5.1 All participants must be registered in Rugby Xplorer if they wish to participate in the RugbyWA Juniors Competition.

Rules 5.2 Player Eligibility: a player is eligible to participate in a given Competition match(es) if:

- He/she is listed on a Team's Nomination form; or
- He/she is listed with an older age team provided that the Two-Year Window Policy is adhered to.

Rule 5.3 Clubs can nominate a Gold and Swan Division team in the same age group and must supply a list of their nominated 20 Gold Division players. All other players are considered Swan Division players. Further provisions to this rule, including Swan/Gold divisional limitations, playing time limits and exceptions can be found in *RWAJ3 – Eligibility of Players, Coaches and Managers*.

Rule 5.4 Coach Eligibility – coaching qualifications are required at all levels of rugby. In order to participate in the role of coach in the competitions, coaches must hold the coaching accreditations as detailed in *RWAJ3 – Eligibility of Players, Coaches and Managers*.

Rule 5.5 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, RugbyWA Juniors, RugbyWA and Australian Rugby Policies and Procedures. Further details as to the requirements of the club TSM are found in *RWAJ3 – Eligibility of Players, Coaches and Managers and RWAJ-B Team Spectator Management*.

RULE 6. REGISTRATION *RWAJ4 – Registration Policy*

Rule 6.1 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 to not 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 interests 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 deemed appropriate.

Rule 6.2 Each club shall ensure that all its players, coaches and officials are properly registered for the current season on Rugby Xplorer, as prescribed by Rugby Australia.

Rule 6.3 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.

Rule 6.4 In the event a club breaches any of the above rules, disciplinary action may be taken at the sole discretion of the RugbyWA Juniors Executive

Further details on the registration process, and requirements thereof can be found in *RWAJ4 – Registration Policy*.

RULE 7. TRANSFERS

RWAJ5 – Transfer Policy

Rule 7.1 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 granted a player clearance.

Rule 7.2 The cut-off date for clearances between clubs in the RugbyWA Juniors Competition is 10am on the Friday preceding Round 10 of the competition.

This cut-off date is set to allow transferring players the opportunity to play 5 games for the new club and thereby be eligible for Finals consideration.

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

Further details on the requirements of the transfer process for both domestic and international clearances can be found in *RWAJ5 – Transfer Policy*.

RULE 8. COMPETITIONS

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

RWAJ6:

- **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

Rule 8.1 Draw/Grading

RWAJ6 A – Draw/Grading/Timings

- 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 (JCC) 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 JCC and RugbyWA Juniors Executive. Where it is believed that there are not enough teams to warrant a divisional split, the competition will be conducted in a single division.
- A review of divisional allocations (Gold and Swan) will be made after the first four (4) rounds and prior to commencement of the round six (6) fixtures to ensure a fair and equitable competition. Changes will only be made after approval by the RugbyWA Juniors Executive and only after a thorough review has been completed.
- The divisional placements decided by the RugbyWA Juniors Executive will be final.

Further details can be found in *RWAJ6 A – Draw/Grading/Timings on:*

- ❖ management of the Gold and Swan divisions;
- ❖ movement of teams between the two;
- ❖ handling of subsequent competition points

Rule 8.2 Timings *RWAJ6 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.

Further details can be found in *RWAJ6 A – Draw/Grading/Timings on:*

- ❖ *Changes to timings sought by clubs*

Rule 8.3 Scoring *RWAJ6 B – Scoring*

- The record of a team in the Competition is compiled by the aggregated competition points obtained.
- Referee Bonus Points (RBP), up to a maximum of two (2) per match, are awarded by referees, via the Referee Bonus Point card, for team, coach/manager and spectator behaviour.
- At the conclusion of each round of scheduled fixtures, teams will be ranked in order according to a pre-determined set of criteria.
- **Club Championship** points are the total points amassed by all of a club's teams – competition points and bonus points, in the case of teams playing in competitive grades (U10 – U17), and attendance points for teams in non-competitive grades (U6- U9), 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. Clubs must be financial in order to qualify for the Championship award.

Further details can be found in *RWAJ6 B – Scoring on:*

- ❖ Competition points;
- ❖ Referee Bonus Points;
- ❖ ranking criteria; and
- ❖ Club Championship points.

Rule 8.4 – Conduct of Matches *RWAJ6 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.
- Each competition match shall be played in two halves with an interval not exceeding five (5) minutes between each half.

Further details can be found in *RWAJ6 C – Conduct of Matches on:*

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

Rule 8.5 – Age Groups, Laws & Number of Players RWAJ6 D – Age Groups, Laws & Numbers of Players

The table below shows the minimum number of players required to participate in an Under 11 – Under 17 competition match.

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 *RWAJ6 D – Age Groups, Laws and Numbers of Players*.

AGE GROUP	LAW	NO. OF PLAYERS	SCRUMS
Under 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

Rule 8.6 – Replacements / Reserves RWAJ6 E – Replacements and Reserves

- **Under 6 – Under 17:** In keeping with the philosophy of the Junior Player Pathway (JPP), and in accordance with the current World Rugby Laws, for maximising 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 may be made, according to conditions below.
 - ‘Unlimited rolling substitutions will be implemented for all rugby aged u14s and below. Substitutions are only to be made once referee has signalled approval’.
 - Rationale: ‘This legalises common practice and allows for maximum participation of as many players as possible at young age groups.’

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.**

Further details can be found in *RWAJ6 E – Replacements and Reserves* on:

- ❖ specific replacements/reserves requirements for the U15-U18 age groups.

Rule 8.7 – Playing Enclosure RWAJ6 F – Playing Enclosure

- The only persons authorised to enter the playing enclosure whilst all age group matches are in progress are:
 - RugbyWA Juniors Officials;
 - Venue managers;
 - Sports trainers/Medical personnel/St.Johns’ & Talis Ambulance staff;
 - Teams (x2)
 - Referee
 - Assistant referees (x2)
 - 4th / 5th officially appointed referees.
 - Team coaches (as per age group conditions)

Further details can be found in *RWAJ6 F – Playing Enclosure* on:

- ❖ Criteria for all other personnel permitted to enter the playing enclosure.

Rule 8.8 – Team Lists and Match Results RWAJ6 G – Team Sheets and Match Results

- Team Lists will be completed by each team, for all matches, including Forfeits.
- At the end of every match, each team shall show the referee their team lists, already approved by a representative of that team, for the referee to verify the score, temporary suspensions and send-offs. Once satisfied that all details are correct, the match official is approve the submission of the match details into Rugby Xplorer.
- In the event that even after verification by the referee, teams match details reflect different scores, then the referee’s score card will be the nominated result. If there is no referee card, then the Home team’s match details will be the recorded result. This will include all Yellow and Red card recordings.
- Any team that neglects to correctly, and legibly, submit a team list, 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 (JCC).
- For U6-U9 age groups: Teams have the option to either lodge at the venue on the day via hard copy team sheet OR submit team list via Rugby Xplorer of the match unless otherwise indicated by the JCC.
- For U10 – U17 age groups: **ALL** teams will be required to input their completed team lists online via Rugby Xplorer by Monday midday (12pm) following the match.

Further details can be found in *RWAJ6 G – Team Sheets and Match Results* on:

- ❖ Requirements for correct completion and handling of team sheets prior, during and post-match, for the various age groups
- ❖ Team sheet for U6-U9 age groups can be found in *RWAJ Form 3*.

Rule 8.9 – Home Carnivals RWAJ6 H – Home Carnivals

- Clubs can apply to host a Home Carnival during the season.
- All Home Carnivals must comply with the criteria detailed in *RWAJ6 H – Home Carnivals*.
- Clubs must nominate for a Home Carnival on the Home Carnival Nomination Form (*RWAJ Form 5*).
- The Junior Competition Coordinator (JCC) and RugbyWA Juniors Executive 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 the RugbyWA Juniors Executive.

Rule 8.10 – Forfeiture of Matches RWAJ6 J – Match Forfeits

- A match may be forfeited for a variety of reasons, the most common regarding late team arrival to commence the match and minimum player numbers pre-or during the match.
- Clubs are required to contact the Junior Competition Coordinator by 10am on the 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 JCC within this time frame may be penalised by way of a financial penalty, or loss of competition points.
- The JCC 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 points awarded accordingly.

Further details can be found in *RWAJ6 J – Match Forfeits* on:

- ❖ criteria for forfeiting a match; and
- ❖ points awarded subsequent to a forfeit being called.

Rule 8.11 – Players Uniform

RWAJ6 K – Player Uniforms

- Every player taking part in a competition match shall wear the approved club jersey, shorts and socks, as authorised at the Council of Clubs meeting.
- Players taking part in a competition match shall wear on the back of their jersey, a distinguishing number.
- It is compulsory that a mouthguard be worn at all times whilst playing and is recommended during warm-ups and training. Referees will check all players have a mouthguard prior to kick-off.
- The wearing of long nails and jewellery 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.
- 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 JCC.

Further details can be found in *RWAJ6 K – Player Uniforms* on:

- ❖ Specific numbering requirements of player uniform;
- ❖ Mouthguards; and
- ❖ permitted specifications for additional items of clothing.

RULE 9. VENUE SET-UP AND CONTROL

RWAJ7 – Venue Set-Up & Control Policy.

Rule 9.1 The set-up and control of playing fields and a venue are critical to the safety and enjoyment of all participants, including spectators.

Rule 9.2 The Playing Enclosure is to be marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game and Junior Pathway Laws.

Rule 9.3 For Home/Joey Carnivals, clubs are reminded that the above principles should also be applied.

Rule 9.4 The only persons authorised to enter the playing enclosure for all age groups are: Union officials; Venue managers, Sports trainers/Medical personnel/St. Johns' & Talis Ambulance staff; Teams x 2; Referee; Assistant referees x 2; 4th and 5th referees if appointed.

Rule 9.5 For any Central Venue, 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 venue.

Further details can be found in *RWAJ7 – Venue Set-Up & Control Policy* on:

- ❖ Setting up the Playing Enclosure;
- ❖ Central Venue assistance from clubs; and
- ❖ Field pack down.

RULE 10. MATCH OFFICIALS

RWAJ8 – Match Officials Policy

Rule 10.1 There should be a Referee for every match.

Rule 10.2 All fixtures at U11 level and higher at the Central Venue, will be appointed to by the WARURA Junior Coaching and Appointments Board (JCAB).

Rule 10.3 If the referee is unable to officiate for the whole match, through illness or injury, a replacement shall be appointed, as directed by the Junior CAB, or if not so directed, by the referee, or if unable to do so, by the home team.

Rule 10.4 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 Foundation Course certification.

Rule 10.5 Clubs are required to appoint an Accredited Assistant Referee for every match a team plays in, in the U8-U17 age groups, except Finals Series matches. Teams that do not provide a suitably trained Assistant Referee may be penalised in the form of a financial penalty.

Rule 10.6 Assistant Referees in the U8 - U17 age groups must be at least twelve (12) years old.

Further details can be found in *RWAJ8 – Match Officials Policy on:*

- ❖ Appropriate accreditation and qualification for referees;
- ❖ requirements of Assistant Referees; and
- ❖ equipment requirements for match officials.

RULE 11. FINALS

RWAJ9 – Finals Policy

Rule 11.a 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 points on any team sheets subsequently received will be applied to the competition table *at the discretion* of the Junior Competition Coordinator.

Rule 11.b Premierships will be awarded as follows:

- **Under 6 – Under 9:**
There will be no premiership competitions in these age groups, therefore no points tables.
- **Under 10:**
Minor Premierships will be awarded on the competition standings at the conclusion of the scheduled rounds. Major Premierships will be awarded after a Finals Series between the top two finishing teams. Pennants will be awarded for both Minor and Major Premiers
- **Under 11 – Under 17**
Minor Premierships will be awarded on the competition standings at the conclusion of the scheduled rounds.
Major Premierships will be awarded after a Finals Series between the top four finishing teams. Pennants will be awarded for both Minor and Major Premiers

Rule 11.c The Finals Series to determining the competition major Premiership for U11-U17 will be decided by the playing of Semi-final, Preliminary final and Grand final matches:

- 1st Semi-final: 1st placed team will play 2nd placed team
- 2nd Semi-final: 3rd placed team will play 4th placed team
- Preliminary final: Winner of 2nd Semi-final will play loser of 1st Semi-final
- Grand Final: Winner of 1st Semi-final will play winner of Preliminary final.

Rule 11.1 TIMES & VENUES

Rule 11.1.a All finals matches will be played at venues, and commence at such times, as determined by the Junior Competition Coordinator.

Rule 11.1.b Teams competing in the Finals Series may nominate 23 players in a team where there must be six (6) players to play in the front row, either at hooker, tight head prop or 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.

Rule 11.1.c A Finals Directive and Bench Management Protocol will be issued by the Junior Competition Coordinator 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 Junior Competition Coordinator considers appropriate.

Further details can be found in *RWAJ9 – Finals Policy on:*

- ❖ consequences for a team not being able to meet the front row player numbers obligation; or
- ❖ consequences for a team which nominates less than 23 players;
- ❖ process to be followed if the scores are equal at end of 'normal time' in a Finals Series match;
- ❖ final winner determination.

Rule 11.2 FINALS ELIGIBILITY

Rule 11.2.a A player is not eligible to play for any club in Finals matches in any grade, unless:

- He is registered with a club competing in the RugbyWA Juniors Competition; and
- The club has fulfilled its' obligations under Rule 6. Registrations; and
- The player has taken the field in a minimum of five (5) games for his nominated team and has played the majority of his games in that team or a team in a lower division or a younger age group, for the club.

Rule 11.2.b Playing an unregistered or ineligible player in the Finals matches will disqualify the offending team from all finals matches.

Rule 11.2.c 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; or
- Was on Representative duties (RugbyWA Juniors, RugbyWA or Rugby Australia)

Rule 11.2.d Players can only play in one (1) finals 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 JCC.

Rule 11.2.e Player dispensations can be achieved; however, they must comply with *the RWAJ10 Player Dispensation Policy*. The Junior Competition Coordinator will determine if players will be dispensated to allow them to play in the final's competition.

Rule 11.2.f All teams competing in a finals 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 Wednesday prior to the match**.

Further details can be found in *RWA9 – Finals Policy* on:

- ❖ Finals allocation of a player who is eligible for registration in more than one team;
- ❖ Submitting of finals team lists and detailed requirements thereof;
- ❖ Eligibility criteria;
- ❖ Finals qualification for Under 17/Under 20 players can be found in the 'RWAJ11 Transition Procedures for Junior U17 to Senior Competition' Policy document.

RULE 12. PROTESTS, DISPUTES AND APPEALS

RWAJ12 – Protests, Disputes & Appeals Policy

Rule 12.1 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 Xplorer ID, Team and Club of player submitting 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 outline above, must supply said details at the time.
- The dispute will be dealt with by the Junior Competition Coordinator, who shall determine the matter, and if there is a breach of the rules, shall direct the matter to the Judiciary and/Or the RugbyWA Juniors Executive.

Rule 12.2 Player Transfer:

If a players' transfer is not granted, the new club can then apply to the RugbyWA Juniors Executive committee 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.

Rule 12.3 Appeals against JCC

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

RULE 13. GENERAL

Rule 13.1 BREACH OF RULES

RWAJ-A Breach of Code of Conduct & Member Protection Policy

A club or person contravening these rules is liable, where no other penalty is expressly provided, to a minimum penalty of \$50. The RugbyWA Juniors 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 13.2 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, the RugbyWA Juniors Executive 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 the RugbyWA Juniors Executive (in its absolute discretion), sees fit.

Rule 13.3 SCHEDULE OF FINES

As directed by the RugbyWA Juniors Executive, can be found in *RWA13 – Fees, Insurance & Fines Policy.*

Rule 13.4 SAFETY DIRECTIVES

Clubs must adhere fully to current Rugby Australia Safety Directives

Rule 13.5 SERIOUS INJURY PROTOCOL

Clubs must comply fully with the requirements laid out in the Rugby Australia Serious Injury Protocol.

Rule 13.6 PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOING POLICY

RugbyWA Juniors policy on photography or videoing is that it is the club/venues right to make policy on such matters, with a common-sense approach being applied.

Inclusions in this policy can be found in *RWAJ14 – Photography and Videoing Policy.*

Rule 13.7 CLUB ORGANISED GAMES, TOURS AND VISITS

RugbyWA Juniors 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. *RWAJ15 – Games, Tours & Visits Policy.*

Further details can be found *RWAJ14 – Games, Tours & Visits Policy on:*

- ❖ procedures to be applied to any club organised game, tour or visit.

Rule 13.8 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 the RugbyWA Juniors Executive committee for amendments, alterations or interpretations of these competition rules from time to time, as is necessary.
- The RugbyWA Juniors Executive committee may at any time, amend, appeal or add to these competition rules throughout the season.

RULE 14. CODE OF CONDUCT

RWAJ-A – Breach of Code of Conduct & Member Protection Policy

- Good sportsmanship is to be encouraged in all clubs and club affiliates, who must ensure that they do not commit an act, or acts, of misconduct as set down in the Rugby Australia Code of Conduct and the Laws of the Game.
- The Rugby Australia Code of Conduct By-Laws apply to the Competition, clubs and participants.
- Breach of Code of Conduct and Member Protection Policy must follow the procedures found in *RWAJ-A – Breach of Code of Conduct & Member Protection Policy.*

The RugbyWA Juniors Executive will release a fee schedule per club and participant, in any competition/age group, on an annual basis, which will include:

- Club Affiliation fees
- Team fees
- Individual participant fees
- Insurance fees
- Fines

Persons and/or clubs, with financial indebtedness, either to the Union, or their club, will be ineligible to take part in any match, in any competition, including any finals series conducted by the Union.

Further details can be found in *RWA13 – Fees, Insurance & Fines Policy* on:

- ❖ various fees applicable in a season across all age groups, casual players and girls' rugby.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

In the Competition Rules, except in so far as the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires:

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.

RugbyAU means Rugby Australia Limited (Rugby AU) and its affiliates.

RugbyAU POLICIES means the policies published by Rugby AU from time to time and included on the Rugby AU website.

Rugby AU REGISTRATION FORM means the form produced by the Online Administration System for registration of players and coaches.

ASSISTANT REFEREE means a person who:

- a) Holds a current Rugby AU Referee accreditation; or
- b) Holds a current Rugby AU Assistant Referee accreditation; or
- c) 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 organisation 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 Juniors Executive committee or a subcommittee thereof.

COMPETITION means all Competitions (including the Friday Night Competition, the Saturday Competition and the Sunday Competition) organised, 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 the Rugby WA Juniors 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 the Rugby WA Juniors Executive and convened to investigate and adjudicate on Send-Offs, Code of Conduct violations and breaches or disputes of the Competition Rules.

JUNIOR CAB is the Junior Committee Advisory Board that is responsible for the allocation of appropriate referees to match(es) in the RugbyWA Juniors Competition.

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 Juniors 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:

- a) 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

- b) Under 13 – Under16 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, the RugbyWA Juniors 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 TryRugby 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 metres 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 Juniors Regionals and matches involving the RugbyWA Juniors 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:

- a) 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;

- b) 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;
- c) 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.
- d) 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.

RugbyWA JUNIORS means the trading name of the RugbyWA Juniors Inc.

RugbyWA JUNIORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE means the elected members that form the Executive Committee as derived from the RugbyWA Juniors 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 temporarily 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 organised 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 recognises 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 *Sign-On Sheet*.

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.

WAJRU and or **UNION** means the West Australian Junior Rugby League Inc. (old name), now replaced by RugbyWA Juniors Inc. (on 16 March 2016).

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.*

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.

APPENDICES

1. RWAJ A - Breach of Code of Conduct and Member Protection Policy
2. RWAJ1 - Team Nomination Rules
3. RWAJ Form1 - Team Nomination Summary Form
4. RWAJ Form2 - Team Nomination (Individual team) Form
5. RWAJ2 - Age Eligibility Rules
6. RWAJ3 - Eligibility of Players, Coaches & Managers
7. RWAJ4 - Registration Policy
8. RWAJ5 - Transfers Policy
9. RWAJ6A - Draw/Grading/Timings
10. RWAJ6B - Scoring
11. RWAJ6C - Conduct of Matches
12. RWAJ6D - Age Group, Laws and Number of Players
13. RWAJ6E - Replacements/Reserves
14. RWAJ6F - Playing Enclosure
15. RWAJ6G - Team Sheets and Match Results
16. RWAJ Form3 - Team Sheet for U6 – U10
17. RWAJ Form4 - Team Sheet for U11 – U18
18. RWAJ6H - Home Carnivals
19. RWAJ Form5 - Home Carnival Nomination Form
20. RWAJ6J - Match Forfeits
21. RWAJ6K - Player Uniforms
22. RWAJ7 - Venue Set-Up & Control Policy
23. RWAJ8 - Match Officials Policy
24. RWAJ9 - Finals Policy
25. RWAJ FD - Finals Directive & Bench Management Protocol
26. RWAJ10 - Finals Dispensation Policy
27. RWAJ11 - Transition Procedure for Junior U18 to Senior Competition
28. RWAJ12 - Protests, Disputes & Appeals Policy
29. RWAJ13 - Fees, Insurance & Fines Policy
30. Rugby AU - Safety Directives
31. Rugby AU - Serious Injury Protocol
32. RWAJ14 - Photography & Videoing Policy
33. RWAJ15 - Games, Tours & Visits Policy
34. Rugby AU - U6 Pathway Game Modifications 2018
35. Rugby AU - U7 Pathway Game Modifications 2018
36. Rugby AU - U8/9 Pathway Game Modifications 2018
37. Rugby AU - U10/11 Pathway Game Modifications 2018
38. Rugby AU - U12 Pathway Game Modifications 2018
39. RWAJ B - Team Spectator Management (TSM)

ANNEXURES

1. Rugby Australia Code of Conduct
2. RugbyWA Juniors Code of Ethics
3. Rugby Australia Participation Policy
4. Rugby Australia Registration Regulations 2018
5. Rugby Australia Player Transfer Guidelines

6. Rugby Australia Game Management Guidelines 2018

FORMS

1. Team Nomination Summary
2. Team Nomination (Individual Team)
3. Team Sheet (U6 – U10)
4. Team Sheet (U11 – U18)
5. Home Carnival Nomination
6. Home Carnival Ground Manager
7. Home Carnival Hosting Guide