

Illawarra District Rugby Union Inc.

Competition

Rules 2016



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Part 1 Definitions and interpretation

- 1.1 In these rules, unless the contrary intention appears:
- 1.1.1 *ARU* means the Australian Rugby Union Ltd;
 - 1.1.2 *board* means the board of directors of the *IDRU*;
 - 1.1.3 *business day* means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in New South Wales;
 - 1.1.4 *club* means each rugby body that is a participant in the *competition*;
 - 1.1.5 *code of conduct* means the *IDRU* Code of Conduct;
 - 1.1.6 *combined team* means a *U19 Colts* team comprising members of 2 or more *clubs*;
 - 1.1.7 *competition* means the rugby competition conducted by the *IDRU* between teams having no age limit and *U19 Colts*;
 - 1.1.8 *finals series* means the *competition* matches described in rule 6.1;
 - 1.1.9 *first aid officer* means a person with basic first aid certification or higher qualification;
 - 1.1.10 *home club* means the *club* at whose home ground a *competition* match is played;
 - 1.1.11 *IDRU* means the Illawarra District Rugby Union Incorporated;
 - 1.1.12 *IDRURA* means the Illawarra District Rugby Union Referees Association Incorporated;
 - 1.1.13 *IRB* means the International Rugby Board;
 - 1.1.14 *judiciary* means the judicial committee appointed by the *IDRU*;
 - 1.1.15 *Laws of the Game* means the Laws of the Game of Rugby Union as framed by the IRB;
 - 1.1.16 *match day controllers* means the persons appointed as such by the *home club* and the *visiting club* for the purpose of these rules;
 - 1.1.17 *match result sheet* means the match result sheet referred to in rule 5.15;
 - 1.1.18 *minor premiers competition* means the *competition* matches described in rule 5.1.2;
 - 1.1.19 *playing enclosure* means the area so defined in the *Laws of the Game*;
 - 1.1.20 *registrar* means the registrar of the *IDRU*;
 - 1.1.21 *replacement* means a player who replaces an injured team-mate;
 - 1.1.22 *rolling substitution* means the replacement of a player by a *substitute* and the subsequent return to the field of play by the player on unlimited occasions during a match;
 - 1.1.23 *rugby chairman* means the chairman of the *rugby committee*;
 - 1.1.24 *rugby committee* means the committee appointed by the *IDRU* to oversee the management of the *competition*;
 - 1.1.25 *Rugby Link* means *ARU* online player registration and competition management system;
 - 1.1.26 *substitute* means a player who replaces a teammate for tactical reasons;
 - 1.1.27 *team* means the 15 players of a *club* who start a match plus any authorized *replacements* and/or *substitutes*;
 - 1.1.28 *U19 Colts* means teams of players who are less than 19 years old at 1 January in the year of the *competition*;
 - 1.1.29 *visiting club* means the *club* against which a *home club* plays a *competition match*.
- 1.2 In these rules:
- 1.2.1 words indicating the singular number include the plural number and vice versa;
 - 1.2.2 words indicating a gender include each other gender;
 - 1.2.3 where an expression is defined, another part of speech or grammatical form of that expression has a corresponding meaning.

Part 2 Laws of the game

- 2.1 Matches must be played in accordance with the *Laws of the Game* and the rulings on those laws, as published by the *IRB*, and the Australian Rugby Pathway, the *code of conduct* and all rules, by-laws, policies and directions of both the *ARU* and *IDRU*.

Part 3 Team Nominations

- 3.1 *Clubs* wishing to participate in the *competition* must submit to the *rugby chairman*, by the date specified by the *IDRU Board*, details of their teams, coaches and all other information required by the *IDRU Board* for the purpose of placing those teams in the most appropriate *competition* and grades.
- 3.2 A team will be considered accepted into the *competition* on approval of its nomination by the *IDRU Board*.
- 3.3 First grade and *club* coaches must be level 2 accredited by the ARU.
- 3.4 All coaches of lower grades and *U19 Colts* must be level 1 accredited by the ARU as a minimum.
- 3.5 All coaches and assistant coaches must have current accreditation by the ARU and be Smart Rugby compliant.
- 3.6 In exceptional cases, exemption from the above coaching requirements may be granted by the *IDRU Board* following application in writing.
- 3.7 Where a team or *club* cannot demonstrate compliance of the above coaching requirements, financial and/or competition point penalties may be imposed.
- 3.8 Each team nomination must list the coach for that team and the coach's *Rugby Link* registration number so that the mandatory Smart Rugby compliance and other qualification compliances can be assessed.

Part 4 Registration of players

- 4.1 A player can play for the *club* of the player's choice.
- 4.2 Subject to rule 4.3, no person can play for a *club* unless that player has signed a registration form and is registered by the *club* via *Rugby Link*, with the ARU. A player under the age of 18 years must have the player's registration form signed by the player's parent or legal guardian and be accompanied by appropriate proof of the player's age.
- 4.3 Each player's registration must be entered on *Rugby Link* by the *club* prior to the player taking part in any trial or *competition* match for the club.
- 4.4 All players must have photo ID (taken not more than 3 years previously) entered on *Rugby Link* by their *club*.

Note: Proper registration of players will ensure that the *club* has fulfilled its responsibilities under duty of care to the players as prescribed by Smart Rugby.

- 4.5 Each registration form must be retained by the player's *club* for 10 years and must be produced for inspection on request by the *rugby chairman*. The *rugby chairman* must produce for inspection any registration form held by the *IDRU* within 7 days after request by a *club*.
- 4.6 All players in the *competition* must be at least 18 years of age to be eligible to play unless an exception has been granted under the ARU Senior Rugby Policy. Application for an exception should be made to the *rugby chairman* as Competition Manager. No exception will be granted unless the applicant is at least 17 years of age.

Note: Reference should be made to the *ARU Senior Rugby Policy* on the 2 Year Window.

4.7 *Clubs* must be able to prove to the *rugby chairman's* reasonable satisfaction the eligibility of players to participate in the *competition* and the correctness of all information in the registration forms. Failure to do so will make the *club* and the player concerned liable to suspension or other penalty.

4.8 A player currently registered with a *club* can only change to another *club* with the permission of the *rugby chairman*. An application for that permission must be made as follows:

4.8.1 A clearance application must be submitted to the *rugby chairman* via *Rugby Link*.

4.8.2 The player's current *club* must respond to notice of the application within 5 days.

4.8.3 The application will not be granted if the player is:

4.8.3.1 indebted to that *club* (i.e. if any sum of money remains unpaid by the player for 30 days after the date by which payment was due to be made to the *club*); or

4.8.3.2 a member of a *U19 Colts* team applying to change during the current season from a *club* having players in that team to another *club* having members of a *U19 Colts* team.

4.8.5 The player must not play with the *club* to which the player wishes to change until the application has been approved.

4.9 A player registered with a rugby body other than the *IDRU* must obtain all relevant clearances from that body via *Rugby Link* and to the satisfaction of the *rugby chairman* prior to registration with a *club*.

4.10 All players registered to play in the *competition* must be available for selection in *IDRU* representative teams. If a player is given not less 48 hours notice of selection in such a team but is unable or unwilling to play for any reason, the player will be ineligible to play for the player's *club* on the same weekend of the relevant representative match.

4.11 The *board* can grant a player exemption from rule 4.9 if it considers that there is good reason for doing so.

4.12 Any application for exemption must be made in writing stating the reason for applying not later the first *competition* match in which the player participates.

5 Minor premiers Competition

5.1 Draw

5.1.1 The *competition* will be conducted in accordance with a schedule of matches, including venues, drawn up before the start of the playing season and varied as necessary from time to time.

5.1.2 As far as practicable, the draw must provide for each *club* to play each other *club* once at one *club's* home ground and once at the other *club's* home ground. Where the team is part of a *combined team*, the home ground must be decided by *clubs* having members in that team.

5.2 Competition points

5.2.1 Positions on the *competition* table at the conclusion of the *minor premierships series* will be determined by competition points awarded as follows:

- Win – 4
- Bonus point for win or loss including 4 tries or more – 1
- Draw – 2
- Loss by 7 or less – 1
- Loss by more than 7 points - 0
- Bye – 0

5.2.2 If 2 or more teams are equal on *competition* points for any position, the higher placed team will be determined:

- by the most number of wins during the *minor premierships series*, but
- if still equal, by the higher ratio of points scored for and against the team in all *competition* matches, but
- if still equal, by the higher ratio of points scored for and against the team in matches played against teams on equal *competition* points.

5.2.3 The club championship will be awarded to the *club* gaining the highest aggregate of *competition* points awarded to all its teams in the *minor premierships series* and adjusted as follows:

- 1st grade - competition points x 5
- 2nd grade - competition points x 3
- 3rd grade - competition points x 1

5.2.4 If 2 or more *clubs* gain the same number of points, they will be declared joint club champions.

5.3 Change of venue

5.3.1 If the venue of a match is unplayable or otherwise unavailable for any reason, the *home club* must, using the *IDRU* change of venue notification form, advise the *rugby chairman*, the *visiting club* and the *IDRURA* as soon as practicable after the venue is considered unplayable or otherwise unavailable.

5.3.2 The *rugby chairman*, after consultation with the *clubs* involved, must direct that the match be played at a suitable alternative venue using the following procedure:

5.3.2.1 If the change in venue occurs in the first round:

- the *home club* should identify an acceptable alternative venue for the match to be played, on the originally allocated date and time, but if this is not possible
- the *home club* and the *visiting club* will swap rounds, but if this is not possible due to conflicting events
- the match will be transferred to the first available spare round, but if this is not possible
- the match will be played at a time and venue as directed by the *rugby chairman*.

5.3.2.2 If the change in venue occurs in the second round:

- the match will be played at the *visiting club*'s home ground on the originally allocated date and time, but if this is not possible
- the *home club* should identify an acceptable alternative venue for the match to be played, on the originally allocated date and time, but if this is not possible
- the match will be played at a time and venue as directed by the *rugby chairman*.

5.3.3 If the match is played on a ground which is not the home ground of either *club*, the *club* originally drawn to be the *home club* is taken to be the *home club* for the purpose of these rules.

5.4 Abandoned matches

5.4.1 If a match has to be abandoned for any reason beyond the control of the referee:

5.4.1.1 where a match has been abandoned during the first half, the result will be declared as a draw and no points for or against will be awarded; and

5.4.1.2 where a match has been abandoned after the completion of the first half, the score at the time of abandonment will be the result.

5.4.2 If a match has to be abandoned for any reason involving unacceptable behavior on the part of players or any other persons, or for any other similar reason, the *board* must determine if any points will be awarded to, and if any penalties will be imposed on, the competing teams.

Note: Action under this rule will not affect any other action which may be taken under these rules.

5.4.3 If a serious injury prevents the completion of a match, the result of that match at the time when it is terminated will stand if 50% or more of actual playing time has been played. The *clubs* involved may, by mutual agreement and with the approval of the *IDRU*, replay the match even where 50% of actual playing time has been completed.

5.5 Forfeits

5.5.1 If a *club* is forced to forfeit a match in the *grade competition*, it must forfeit the lowest grade or grades representing that *club* on the day of that match.

5.5.2 If a *club* forfeits a grade higher than a grade already played on that day, that *club* will be taken to have forfeited all grades previously played on that day. However, any point differential greater than 28 - 0 in favor of the non- forfeiting *club* will be preserved.

5.5.3 Each match forfeited by a *club* will be taken to have been won 28 – 0, including 4 tries, by the opposing *club* on the day on which the match, but for the forfeit, would have

been played if the opposing *club* furnishes a match result sheet to the *registrar* under rule 5.15.

5.5.4 A *club* proposing to forfeit a match must inform the *rugby chairman*, the *IDRURA* and the opposing *club* of that proposal as soon as practicable and not later than 12 noon on the Friday preceding the match.

5.5.5 A team which forfeits 2 consecutive matches or a total of 4 matches will be taken to have withdrawn from the *competition*. Match points (for and against) scored in matches played by that team, and *competition* points awarded for those matches, will not be counted.

5.5.6 A team which forfeits a 1st grade match will also lose 4 competition points.

5.6 Times and duration of matches

5.6.1 *Competition* matches will be conducted in 2 equal periods with an interval of 5 minutes. The duration of *competition* matches and commencement times will be:

Grade	Each half	Commencement
1st	40 mins	3.00 pm #
2nd	35 mins	1.30 pm #
3rd	30 mins	12.20 pm #
<i>U19 Colts</i>	35 mins	7.00pm Friday

5.6.2 Any team with less than 10 players on the field:

5.6.2.1 properly dressed and ready to play 10 minutes after the appointed time for commencement of the match; or

5.6.2.2 During the course of the match as a result of injury or temporary suspension or ordering off by the referee, will be taken to have forfeited that match. The referee must note that occurrence on the match result sheet.

5.6.3 Any time lost in commencing a match for whatever reason must be taken off that match if that is necessary to ensure that the following matches can commence at the scheduled time.

5.6.4 Subject to rule 5.3, the time, day and venue must not be altered less than 10 days prior to the match unless under exceptional circumstances. Any alteration must be with the approval of the opposing *club* and the *rugby chairman*.

5.6.5 Subject to the above rules, all matches are to be played in accordance with Law 5 of the *Laws of the Game*.

5.7 Player uniform

5.7.1 Each player taking part in a match must wear a jersey with sleeves, shorts and long socks in the colours of the player's *club* approved by the *IDRU*. The back of each jersey must have a distinguishing number. Numbers must be of a minimum height of 150 mm and be of a colour that is easily discernible at a reasonable

distance from the match.

Playing apparel must display the logo of the IDRU principle sponsor "The Builders Club" as per logo distributed to all *clubs* and of standard size 9.5cm x 6.5cm.

5.7.2 No 2 players can wear the same number jersey.

5.7.3 The distinguishing number must correspond with the information supplied by the *club* on the *match result sheet* for that match and for any program for the match.

5.7.4 Players must wear only boots or shoes that conform to *IRB* Regulation 12.

5.7.5 A player who is not correctly attired as per Clause 5.7.1 through 5.7.4 will not be permitted to participate in a match.

5.7.6 Players in *combined teams* must wear the jersey of one of the *clubs* of which the players are members. The decision on which jersey must be agreed on between the relevant *clubs*. This may change on a match to match basis. Those players must wear the shorts and socks of the *club* with which they are registered.

5.8 Footballs

5.7.7 The *home club* must provide 3 serviceable *ARU* approved footballs for every match.

5.7.8 The footballs not in play must be kept on each touch line for the duration of the match to avoid time loss when the match ball goes out of play.

5.7.9 The *IDRU* must provide footballs for all *finals series* matches

5.7.10 The *IDRU* can issue sponsored footballs for use in any match as directed by the *IDRU*.

5.9 Venue facilities and personnel

Playing enclosure

5.9.1 Where a fully enclosed *playing enclosure* is being used for a match, the *home club* must ensure that the spectators remain outside the *playing enclosure*.

5.9.2 Where the *playing enclosure* is not fully enclosed, the *home club* must provide ropes supported by stakes or other barriers for the control of spectators. Those ropes or other barriers must be erected a minimum distance of 5 metres from each touch line, or where that is not possible, as far from each touch line as practicable and generally in accordance with the attached plan.

5.9.3 The only persons authorized to enter the *playing enclosure* during a match are:

- the 2 competing teams
- the referee
- 2 assistant referees/touch judges
- 2 ball boys
- reserve players
- a medical practitioner, physiotherapist or *first aid officer*
- 3 water runners for each team
- the manager of each team
- the *match day controllers*.

The *home club* must ensure that all other persons, including coaches, remain outside the

playing enclosure bounded by the ropes or other barriers.

- 5.9.4 The reserve players, medical practitioner, physiotherapist or *first aid officer*, water runners and team managers must retire to the seats to be provided for them by the *home club* when their services on the *playing enclosure* are not immediately required. Water runners may only enter the field of play with the referee's consent and must not do so at kick off or when a penalty kick is being taken.
- 5.9.5 Medical practitioners, physiotherapists, *first aid officers* and water runners must wear the colored vests that indicate their role.

Ground conditions

- 5.9.6 The *home club* must ensure that the ground is marked out in accordance with the *Laws of the Game*, including all flag posts. All 4 goal post uprights must be fitted with protective pads.
- 5.9.7 The *home club* must ensure that objects such as cricket pitches or in ground watering systems are properly covered for the safety of players.
- 5.9.8 Any objection by either team about the ground or the way in which it is marked out and protected must be made to the referee before the match starts. If teams cannot agree as to the safety of the ground the referee must decide whether the game can begin. If there is any doubt as to the safety of the ground the referee must not allow the game to begin until the ground has been made safe.

First aid

- 5.9.9 In accordance with *ARU* safety directives, the *home club* must supply:
- 5.9.9.1 a stretcher, preferably a scoop stretcher and cervical collar;
 - 5.9.9.2 a medical room equipped with adequate lighting, running water, first aid equipment and a telephone;
 - 5.9.8.3 a fully equipped first aid kit;
 - 5.9.8.4 a person with a current Neck Safe qualification.
- 5.9.10 at each match each *club* must supply a *first aid officer*.

Referees

- 5.9.11 A referee must be appointed for each match by the *IDRURA*. All referees appointed by the *IDRURA* must be Smart Rugby compliant.
- 5.9.12 If the referee appointed does not attend within 5 minutes before the time appointed for commencement of the match, a suitably qualified referee must be appointed by agreement between the teams. If they cannot agree, the *home club* must appoint a referee.
- 5.9.13 If the appointed referee cannot continue to officiate through illness or injury, a suitably qualified substitute for the remainder of the match must be appointed by that referee unless the referee's illness or injury is of such nature to disable the referee from doing so. In that case a substitute must be appointed by agreement between the teams. If they cannot agree, the *home club* must appoint a referee.
- 5.9.14 Each *club* must have as registered members one referee for every team. At least one of these referees must be available to substitute for the referee appointed to officiate at each match. For the purpose of this rule a referee is a

person who has completed the Foundation Course conducted by the New South Wales Rugby Union.

5.9.15 If the *home club* is unable to appoint a referee when necessary under rule 5.9.13 or rule 5.9.14, it will be taken to have forfeited the match.

5.9.16 Prior to the commencement of any match, referees must inform players that they are required to comply with the *code of conduct*.

5.9.17 Referees must act immediately upon any report received from an assistant referee involving a breach of the *code of conduct*.

Assistant referees/touch judges and ball boys

5.9.18 In all matches except *finals series* matches each *club* must provide an assistant referee and a ball boy.

5.9.19 Assistant referees must wear a jersey or shirt of a colour distinguishable from those of the competing teams, shorts, long socks, boots or shoes and must carry a flag.

5.9.20 Assistant referees must carry out their duties as defined in the *Laws of the Game* and each *club* is responsible for the competence and proper uniforming of those assistant referees.

5.9.21 Upon receipt of a report from a *match day controller* involving a breach of the *code of conduct* an assistant referee must request the referee to halt play until such time that the incident leading to the report has been resolved.

5.9.22 In *finals series* matches assistant referees must be appointed by the *IDRURA* and the competing *clubs* must provide ball boys.

Match day controllers

5.9.23 The *home club* must appoint a *match day controller* to be responsible for the proper conduct of matches at that *club's* home ground and specifically to be responsible for compliance, during and after matches, with the *code of conduct* and the *competition* rules.

5.9.24 The *home club match day controller* must ensure that:

5.9.24.1 the ground is properly prepared in accordance with these rules;

5.9.24.2 the first aid equipment and facilities required by these rules have been provided;

5.9.24.3 each *club* has provided a competent assistant referee/touch judge in uniform complying with these rules;

5.9.24.4 players take the field for each match on time;

5.9.24.5 players' jerseys are correctly numbered and correspond with any match program and that any ground announcer is notified of any changes;

5.9.24.6 the score is accurately and legibly displayed throughout each match;

5.9.24.7 only persons authorized to enter the *playing enclosure* do so in accordance with these rules;

5.9.24.8 each player temporarily suspended retires from the *playing enclosure* and that the referee is notified when 10 minutes has elapsed following that suspension;

5.9.24.9 each player ordered to have bleeding controlled and/or have an open wound

covered retires from the *playing enclosure*;

5.9.24.10 players temporarily suspended or ordered to have bleeding controlled and/or have an open wound covered return to the *playing enclosure* only when permitted by the referee;

5.9.24.11 in conjunction with the *visiting club's match day controller* ensure that all spectators, including *club* officials and reserve players, abide by the *code of conduct* and, if necessary, take such action as provided by the code and the *competition* rules to ensure compliance.

5.9.25 The *visiting club* must appoint a *match day controller* who must:

5.9.25.1 identify himself or herself to the *home club's match day controller* before the commencement of play;

5.9.25.2 be responsible for his or her *club's* compliance with the *competition* rules;

5.9.25.3 comply with all reasonable requests of the *home club's match day controller*, and

5.9.25.4 in conjunction with the *home club's match day controller* ensure that all spectators, including *club* officials and reserve players, abide by the *code of conduct* and, if necessary, take such action as provided by the code and the *competition* rules to ensure compliance

5.9.26 *Match day controllers* must wear coloured vests bearing the title "Match Day Controller" and *club* name represented.

5.10 Replacement and substitution of players

Law 3 of the *Laws of the Game* relating to the *replacement* and *substitution* of players in *competition* matches will apply subject to the following variations:

5.10.1 a *club* may nominate up to 12 *replacements/substitutes* in 3rd grade *teams* and up to 8 *replacements/substitutes* in other *teams*. Teams can only use nominated players as *replacements* or *substitutes*;

5.10.2 a *team* can *substitute* up to 3 front row players and up to 9 other players in 3rd grade *teams* and up to 5 other players in other *teams*;

5.10.3 *rolling substitutions* are permitted in matches other than 1st grade matches; and

5.10.4 any *substitute* who takes the field of play immediately following the awarding of a penalty kick or after a try has been scored cannot take the ensuing kick at goal.

5.11 Uncontested scrums

5.11.1 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 any front row position is required, the team can continue to play

safely with contested scrums

- 5.11.2 Should a team not be able to meet this obligation for any reason during a game, or should a team not have 3 suitably trained front row players to commence a game with contested scrums, then this team must play with one player fewer than would otherwise be allowed.
- 5.11.3 If, subsequently, a qualified front rower becomes available so that scrums can be contested, then that player will be allowed onto the field of play and the team may return to the appropriate complement of players.
- 5.11.4 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.
- 5.11.5 All matches are permitted to commence with uncontested scrums. However a team electing to do so in 3 matches must obtain the approval of the *board* to remain in the *competition*.

5.12 Temporary suspension – management

- 5.12.1 The temporary suspension of a player must be recorded on the *match result sheet* prior to the signing by the referee.
- 5.12.2 If a player incurs 3 or more temporary suspensions in any matches during the calendar year of the *competition*, the following additional penalties will apply:
- 3 temporary suspensions – 1 match suspension
 - 5 temporary suspensions – 2 match suspension
 - more than 5 temporary suspensions – suspension until appearing before the *judiciary* which will determine an appropriate penalty.

Note: These suspensions are automatic and cannot be appealed.

5.12.3 The *registrar* must:

- 5.12.3.1 keep a record of players who have been temporarily suspended during the *competition*;
- 5.12.3.2 notify the relevant *club* of:
- any suspension applying to a player under rule 5.12.2; and
 - if applicable, the requirement that the player appear before the *judiciary* for the determination of an additional penalty;
- and
- 5.12.3.3 notify the *judiciary* chairman of any player required to appear for that purpose.

A suspension under rule 5.12.2 applies whether or not notification is given under this rule.

5.13 Players ordered off for misconduct

- 5.13.1 Each *match result sheet* must record the name of each player ordered off the field of play.
- 5.13.2 A player ordered off the field of play will be suspended from playing until the player's case has been decided by the *judiciary*.
- 5.13.3 The *judiciary* must meet as directed by the *board* or when necessary throughout the season to hear cases. Unless otherwise directed by the *board*, the *judiciary* will meet at The Builders Club, Church Street, Wollongong at 5.00pm on each Wednesday after a *competition* match in which a player is ordered off the field of play. The player must

attend that meeting.

5.13.4 Despite rule 5.13.3, if the player sent off is unable to attend a regular meeting of the *judiciary*, the player can give written and signed permission to be represented by an official of the player's *club*.

5.13.5 If the relevant *match result sheet* has not been received by the *judiciary* when a player appears before the *judiciary*, the player can continue to play until the case has been determined. Consequently the chairman of the *judiciary* must notify the player to appear before the next meeting of the *judiciary* after the relevant *match result sheet* has been received.

5.13.6 The case must be conducted in accordance with the judiciary procedures adopted by the *board*.

5.13.7 There is a right of appeal against decisions of the *judiciary* to the *board*.

5.14 Suspended players

5.14.1 A player who is suspended for a number of matches for misconduct during a *competition* match cannot play in:

5.14.1.1 that number of matches subsequently played by the team in which the player was playing when the misconduct occurred: or

5.14.1.2 any other matches in the meantime.

5.14.2 This rule applies to players suspended under rules 5.12 or 5.13 or otherwise.

5.14.3 Each *club* must ensure that no unregistered, disqualified or suspended person or team takes part in any match for that *club*.

5.14.4 Where an opposing team or *club* believes prior to the commencement of a match that the opposing team is in breach of rule 5.14, they should bring the matter to the attention of the opposing captain.

5.14.5 Where a team or *club* believes that there has been a breach of rule 5.14, they should take appropriate action available in regard to protests after the match as detailed in rule 8.

5.14.6 If a player is found guilty of breaching rule 5.14, the player's team will be liable for loss of competition points, and/or suspension from the competition, and/or a fine.

5.14.7 A player found to be playing whilst unregistered, disqualified or suspended will be liable for a further suspension or expulsion from the *competition*.

5.14.8 A *player* found to be playing whilst suspended, disqualified, or unqualified will be liable for a further suspension or expulsion from the *competition*

5.14.9 Any disqualified or suspended person may not participate in any match as a player, coach, manager, medical person, water runner, referee, assistant referee or otherwise during the period of disqualification or suspension.

5.14.10 A participant suspended for an offence by a sport will not be permitted to participate in any *competition* match for the duration of that suspension. If a sanction other than a suspension is imposed on a participant by another sport then that sanction will be recognized and enforced by the *IDRU* to the extent practicable, in accordance with the *ARU* Policy "Suspension or Sanctions in Other Sports".

5.15 Match results sheets

5.15.1 Each *club* must furnish to the *registrar* a *match result sheet*, in the form approved by the *rugby chairman*, by 4.00pm on the next *business day* following each match. The *match result sheet* can be furnished by email. If so, the *club* must retain the original for not less than 10 years and produce it for inspection by the *registrar* on request. The match results and player statistics must be entered into *Rugby Link* by the *registrar* or *registrar's* delegate. Results and competition table will be available via the *Rugby Link* public portal and the *IDRU* website.

5.15.2 Each *match result sheet* must record:

- the *club*, grade, date, venue, time and *visiting club*
- each player's jersey number adjacent to each player's name and ARU number
- the tries, conversions, penalties and drop goals scored by each player
- the number of tries, conversions, penalties and drop goals scored by both teams.
- the final score of each team
- names of players temporarily suspended or sent off
- the signature of the captain or other *club* representative
- the signature of the referee
- best and fairest points awarded by the referee (3 points for the best player, 2 points for the next best and 1 point for the next best in 1st grade only)
- the *club's* rating of the referee's performance on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent.

5.15.3 Each *match result sheet* must be signed by the team captain or another official of the *club* and by the referee.

5.15.4 For the purpose of *final series* eligibility, the names of the first 15 players appearing on the *match result sheet* for each *minor premiership series* match will be taken to have started in the match.

5.15.5 The penalties for breach of rule 5.15 are:

5.15.5.1 each breach - \$100 fine

5.15.5.2 3 or more breaches - \$100 fine for each breach and loss of 2 competition points for each team in respect of which the breach occurs.

5.15.6 Each *club* must also send the match result, including the number of tries scored and names of the try scorers and, in the case of 1st grade matches, details of point scorers and best and fairest awards, by SMS message or phone to the Rugby Chairman on 0456 121 986, on the day of each match by 5.30pm. In the case of U19Colts matches, the responsible *club* is the *club* at whose home ground the match is played.

6 Finals series matches

Draw and venues

6.1 Following completion of the *minor premierships series*, *final series* matches will be conducted between the teams finishing in the first 4 places on the *competition* table in each grade as follows:

- Minor semi-final between 3rd and 4th teams – winner advances to the final and loser is eliminated
- Major semi-final between 1st and 2nd teams – winner advances to grand final and loser advances to final
- Final – winner advances to grand final and loser is eliminated
- Grand final – winner is premier and loser is runner-up.
- The 1st placed *U19Colts* team will qualify for the grand final. The other qualifier for that grand final will be determined by a final match between 2nd and 3rd placed *U19Colts* teams.

6.2 All *finals series* matches will be played at the venues (which should be neutral grounds if possible), and commence at the times, determined by the *board*. However, the semi-final matches must be played on the same day.

6.3 The *U19 Colts* final and grand final will be played at the home ground of the team finishing higher on the competition table. The venue may be altered by agreement between both teams and the *rugby chairman*.

Equal scores

6.4 If scores are equal at the completion of a semi-final or final match, an extra 10 minutes each way without interval must be played. If scores are then still equal, the team which occupied the higher position in the *competition* table is taken to be the winner.

6.5 If scores are equal at the completion of a grand final, an extra 10 minutes each way without interval must be played. If scores are then still equal, the teams will be joint winners.

Player eligibility

6.6 A player will be eligible to play for a club in a *finals series* match only if the player has played for the *club* in at least 5 rounds of the *minor premierships series*.

6.7 Despite rule 6.5:

6.7.1 a player will not be eligible to play in a lower grade in any *finals series* match if the player has played in a higher grade in the majority of the player's last 7 matches in the *minor premierships competition* unless the player has done so only as a replacement; and

6.7.2 a player will be eligible to play in a *final series U19 Colts* match only if the player has played in at least half of his *U19 Colts* team's *minor premierships competition* matches and whether or not the player has played in any higher grade matches.

6.8 Despite rule 6.5, a *club* can apply in writing to the *board* for permission for a player to participate in a *final series* match. Permission can be given if the *board* is satisfied that the player is ineligible under the relevant rule only because of injury, illness, representative rugby commitments, forfeits or something else which reasonably prevented the player from becoming eligible.

6.9 Despite rule 6.6, a *club* can apply in writing to the *board* for permission for a player to participate in a *finals series* match in a lower grade. Permission can be given if the *board* is satisfied that the player is ineligible to play in that lower grade only because of injury, illness or representative rugby commitments of another player or forfeits or something else which

reasonably prevented the player from becoming eligible.

6.10 Subject to the preceding rules, the eligibility of players will be determined as follows:

6.10.1 Each *club* having teams qualified to participate in *final series matches* will be supplied with a list of qualified players by the *registrar* at the completion of the *minor premierships series*.

6.10.2 Any *club* wishing to challenge any player's grading can do so by appealing to the *rugby chairman*.

6.10.3 The appeal must be received by close of business on the Monday following the last *minor premierships competition* round, and be dealt with no later than the following Thursday.

6.11 The provisions of rule 5 apply to *finals series* matches except to the extent that they are inconsistent with the provisions of this rule 6.

6.12 For the purpose of this rule 6, the order of grades, from highest to lowest is 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

7 Breach of rules

7.1 If a *club* knowingly includes an ineligible player in any team, that team will be taken to have forfeited each match in which the ineligible player participates and in addition be penalized a further 4 *competition* points each time that breach occurs.

7.2 A *club*, team, player or other person failing to comply with a provision of these rules can:

7.2.1 be expelled or suspended from the *IDRU* and its *competitions*;

7.2.2 be fined or placed on a bond or both;

7.2.3 have *competition* points deducted; or

7.2.4 incur any other penalty that the *judiciary* sees fit to impose.

8 Protests

8.1 All protests arising from *competition* matches must be investigated, determined and dealt with by the *judiciary* in accordance with the *IDRU* judiciary procedures.

8.2 If the *judiciary* considers that a protest is frivolous or groundless it can impose a fine on the *club* lodging the protest.

8.3 Nothing in these rules limits or otherwise affects the power of the *judiciary* acting at the direction of the *board* to investigate, determine and deal with breaches of these rules.

8.4 All protests must be made in writing and be given to the *rugby chairman* by no later than 5.00pm on the 2nd *business day* after the alleged breach of these rules.

8.5 All protests must specifically nominate the competition rule (by number) under which the breach is alleged to have occurred.

8.6 All witness statements must be tendered in the form of a statutory declaration.

8.7 The *rugby Chairman* must give the *club* against which the protest has been made copies of the protest and the witness statements and the *club* must be allowed 2 *business days* to respond.

9 Notice

9.1 The *rugby chairman*, *judiciary* and each *club* must each notify the *registrar* by 15 February of the address at which messages can be sent to them by email.

9.2 Any notice (including any information) able or required to be given under these rules can be given to:

- 9.2.1 the *registrar, rugby chairman or a club* by email sent to the address of the *registrar, rugby chairman or club*;
- 9.2.2 a player by email sent to the address of the player's *club*, notified under rule 9.1.
- 9.3 A player to whom a notice is given under rule 9.2.2 will be taken to have received that notice when it is received by the player's *club*. The *club* must ensure that the player concerned is given the notice.
- 9.4 Any notice or information given under rule 9.3 will be taken to have been received on the day on which it is sent. However, if it is sent after 5.00pm on a *business day*, it will be taken to have been received on the next *business day*.