



**NORTHERN TERRITORY RUGBY UNION INC**  
**Senior Darwin Competition Rules 2018**

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## **RULES GOVERNING THE 2018 SENIOR DARWIN RUGBY COMPETITION**

### **RULE 1 MEANING AND DEFINITIONS OF TERMS.**

In these rules:-

“**Appointments Board**” means the Referees Appointments as appointed by the NT Referees’ Selection Panel.

“**Board/Executive**” means the NTRU Executive Committee or any Committee to which it has delegated its authority.

“**Club**” means one of the clubs approved by the Board to participate in the Darwin Club Rugby Competition,

“**Under 18**” an under 18 player, means a player that turns the age of (18) of the year of the competition.

“**Under 17**” an under 17 player, means a player that turns the age of (17) of the year of the competition.

“**Competition Committee**” means the Darwin Competition Committee, which comprises of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Manager Pathway & Participation (MPP), an independent member appointed by the Board.

“**Competition Manager**” means the Manager of the Competition as appointed by the Chief Executive Officer.

“**Competition**” means the Rugby Competitions conducted by the Union.

“**Chief Executive Officer**” means the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Northern Territory Rugby Union Inc or his nominee.

“**WR**” means the World Rugby.

“**Judicial Committee**” means the Judicial Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the Northern Territory Rugby Union.

“**Match Day Delegate**” means the person appointed by the NTRU for matches at Land Rover Rugby Park, or the club official notified by each Club to the Union for matches at venues other than Land Rover Rugby Park pursuant to the “Operations Manual”.

“**Minor Premiership Series**” means the rounds of the Competition to in Rule 8.

“**Competition Manual**” means the Premiership Competition Manual that is provided for all competing clubs of the Darwin competition. This manual is available to all clubs and on the NTRU website in the resource library at [www.ntrugby.com.au](http://www.ntrugby.com.au).



**"Indebted"** as legally defined and supported by appropriate documentation.

**"Premiership Committee"** means the NTRU Competition Committee.

**"NTRRA"** means the Northern Territory Rugby Referees Association.

**"The Union"** means the Northern Territory Rugby Union Inc.

**"Major Premiership Series"** means the Semi Final, Preliminary Final or Grand Final rounds of the Darwin Club Rugby Competitions;

**"Representative Match"** means any match involving those teams listed in Annexure B, played between the date of the first round of the Darwin Club Rugby Competition and the date of the Darwin Club Rugby Competition Grand Final.

**"First Grade"** means Hahn Super Dry First Grade competition

**"Reserve Grade"** means Reserve Grade competition

**"Womens Grade"** means Womens competition

**"President"** means the President of Clubs or his nominee (as listed in Annexure A)

## **RULE 2 LAWS OF THE GAME**

- 2.1** Darwin First Grade matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game of Rugby Football and the rulings there on as recognised by World Rugby (WR) Rugby Australia Ltd (Rugby Au).
- 2.2** All other senior matches will played in accordance with the Laws of the Game of Rugby Football and the rulings there on as recognised by World Rugby (WR) and by laws of the NTRU competition.

## **RULE 3 THE COMPETITION AND ADMISSION**

- 3.1** The Board in its absolute discretion may invite Clubs to apply for admission and in its absolute discretion may admit Clubs to Competition. Any application for admission must be lodged with the Union by such date and in the form and supported by such information as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board.
- 3.2** A Club entering teams in the Competition conducted by the Union in one Season shall not be entitled as of right to enter teams in this Competition in the following Season and the Board is entitled in its absolute discretion to refuse the application of any Club to enter teams in any competition conducted by the Union without assigning any reason.
- 3.3** The Board is entitled to approve the application of a Club and admit the Club to the Competition on specified terms and conditions as determined by the Board in its absolute discretion and may by resolution cancel the right of a Club to participate in the Competition if in the opinion of the Board a Club has not complied with any of such terms and conditions. Provided always that the President of the relevant Club must be given at least seven days written notice of a meeting of the Board at which a resolution pursuant to this rule is proposed to be put, and such Club shall have the opportunity to give either orally or in writing, an explanation or produce such evidence as may be relevant.

## **RULE 4 PLAYERS ELIGIBLE FOR THE COMPETITION**

- 4.1** A player registered with a Union other than The Union is not permitted to play in the Competition unless he produces the written consent of the union with whom he is registered to the Competition Committee.
- 4.2** Any player over the age of eighteen (18) who is not serving a current suspension from another Union or Code.
- 4.3** Any player with a current suspension from The Union, another Union, another Code or any player that has an outstanding Red Card disciplinary hearing outstanding is ineligible to play senior rugby until all matters are resolved and any suspension is served.
- 4.4** Any Club that plays such a player under **Rule 4.3** will be subject to a disciplinary penalty of having the match in which the player played, forfeited, with loss of four (4) competition

points for that match, including a monetary fine at the discretion of the Competition Committee.

- 4.5 Notwithstanding **Rules 4.1 to 4.4**, only players who are registered online through the RugbyLink portal (see Rule 7) are eligible to play in the competition.
- 4.6 Any Club that allows a player(s) who are not registered through the RugbyLink Portal to play will be subject to the penalty of the match in which the player, forfeited including loss of four (4) competition points for that match.
- 4.7 Any player, being under the age of eighteen (18) years, shall only be permitted to play senior rugby in accordance with Rugby Au, Senior Rugby Policy  
[http://www.ntrugby.com.au/uploads/files/14/australian\\_rugby\\_senior\\_rugby\\_dispensation\\_procedure\\_package.pdf](http://www.ntrugby.com.au/uploads/files/14/australian_rugby_senior_rugby_dispensation_procedure_package.pdf)
- 4.8 Clubs entering players in the grades listed in 4.2 must prove to their satisfaction the eligibility of the players to participate to the Competition Committee. Failure to confirm the eligibility will make the club and/or player subject to suspension and/or penalty.
- 4.9 Players who are registered to play who are Under 18 years of age, can play senior grade matches provided all Rugby Au policy is adhered too, as outlined by the Rugby Au.
- 4.10 Players being under the age of eighteen (18) years shall be ineligible to play first or second grade, unless dispensation has been granted as per the policy regulations set by the Rugby Au.
- 4.12 Players being under the age of seventeen (17) years in the year of the competition shall be ineligible to play senior rugby.

## **RULE 5 OVERSEAS PLAYERS**

- 5.1 Clubs may play up to and including four (4) overseas players (as defined in 5.2) in their First Grade at any given time. Each Club shall conform to the restrictions on Overseas Players as laid down from time to time by the Board.
- 5.2 The definition of an overseas player is “Any non-Australian citizen or any New Zealand citizen who has not been a resident in Australia for the two (2) previous consecutive years.” The Board **may** grant dispensation if a player has played rugby in any affiliated competition for the previous two (2) consecutive years.
- 5.3 Clubs are required to register all overseas players on the form prescribed by the Union from time to time. The form must be returned to the Chief Executive Officer prior to the player taking part in his first match for the Club. Failure to register the player may leave the Club subject to penalty as determined by the Board.
- 5.4 The Rule relating to overseas players shall not apply to a player who has represented at either a senior Australian Provincial or Australian National level in Rugby Union.

## **5.5 Exemptions from Overseas Player Rule**

- 5.5.1** An Overseas Player or Club aggrieved by the operation of Rule 5 may apply to the Union for an exemption.
- 5.5.2** A written statement giving the grounds on which the application for exemption is made shall be furnished to the Chief Executive Officer and/or Competition Manager.
- 5.5.3** In exercising its power to grant an exemption from Rule 5 the Union shall have regard to?
- (a) whether it is reasonable that the rule apply having regard to the interests of the player, including:
- the personal circumstances of the player, including his age, experience and family commitments;
  - any genuine change in the player's employment and/or educational circumstances or residence.
- (b) whether the application of the rule is reasonable and necessary having regard to:
- the best interests of the game of rugby and of the NTRU;
  - the maintenance of a well balanced competition;
  - the special needs of the individual clubs;
  - the public interest.
- 5.6** Every decision of the Union under this Rule shall be final unless there is an appeal to the Appeals Tribunal within seven (7) days of the decision appealed against.

## **RULE 6 TRANSFER PLAYERS**

- 6.1** A player may only change clubs prior to Round 10 of the competition provided the Union receives notification in writing from the players current Club, no later than 5 working days prior to the designated playing date, stating that they have no objection to that player joining another club (objection must be specified).
- 6.2** After Round 10 players will not be granted a transfer unless exception circumstances allow and must have the approval of the Chief Executive Officer and/or Competition Manager. Applications for permission to change clubs must be in writing stating the reasons for requesting a transfer, and must be accompanied by a written advice from his present club stating that they have no objection.
- 6.3** A player will not be granted a transfer should that player be financially indebted to his current club, to The Union or to any Union or Club.
- 6.4** All Transfer Players shall be registered with The Union. It shall be the sole responsibility of the Club that the Transfer Player has joined to register that player as such.

- 6.5** The Club that initially signs up a Transfer Player is solely responsible for that players financial obligation to both the Member Union (NTRU) and Gow Gates (Insurance) and is not transferable to that players new Club.
- 6.6** Only, when the Competition Committee has approved a transfer and the Clubs involved have been notified by the Competition Committee, can that player play for his/her new Club.
- 6.7** In any Darwin Club Rugby Competition Round, the penalty will be the **loss of four (4) competition points** of the grade(s) participated in by any Transfer Player whose transfer has not been approved under **Rule 6.6** irrespective of the result of the match or matches.
- 6.8** In the Major Premiership Series the penalty shall be automatic forfeiture of the match participated in by any Transfer Player who has not been registered under **Rule 6.6**, irrespective of the result of the match or matches.
- 6.7 Exemptions from Player Transfer Rule**
- 6.7.1** A Transfer Player or Club aggrieved by the operation of Rule 6 may apply to the Union for an exemption.
- 6.7.2** A written statement giving the grounds on which the application for exemption is made shall be furnished to the Chief Executive Officer.
- 6.7.3** In exercising its power to grant an exemption from Rule 6 the Union shall have regard to?
- (a) whether it is reasonable that the rule apply having regard to the interests of the player, including:
    - the personal circumstances of the player, including his age, experience and family commitments;
    - any genuine change in the player's employment circumstances or residence;
    - the player's ability to display and develop his skills and talents in either club;
  - (b) whether the application of the rule is reasonable and necessary having regard to:
    - the best interests of the game of rugby and of the NTRU;
    - the maintenance of a well balanced competition;
    - the special needs of the individual clubs;
    - the public interest.
- 6.7.4** Every decision of The Union under this Rule shall be final.

## RULE 7 REGISTRATION OF PLAYER

- 7.1 Each Club shall ensure that all its players are correctly registered through the online registration portal, "RugbyLink", as prescribed by the Rugby Au, and that a responsible club official ensures all players are fully and financially registered.
- 7.2 For a player to be recognised as registered the player must complete the online registration and be financial to the Member Union (NTRU) and have paid their Insurance component with Gow Gates. (Club fees are not included in being financial to the Member Union)
- 7.3 Under no circumstances shall a player(s) take to the field of play if that player(s) has not registered via the on the online portal, RugbyLink.
- 7.4 Any Club deemed to be playing an unregistered player(s) by the Competition Committee will result in the grade in which the unregistered player played to lose four (4) competition points irrespective of the result of the match or matches.
- 7.5 Each Club is responsible to the Board/Executive to ensure that all particulars stated in the RugbyLink registration shall be true and correct. It if can be proved to the satisfaction of the Board/Executive that any material statement is incorrect, the player and/or Club concerned shall be liable to suspension and/or penalty at the Board's discretion.
- 7.6 The registration files shall be available for inspection for approved purposes at the offices of The Union during regular office hours.

## RULE 8 METHOD OF CONDUCTING COMPETITION

- 8.1 In First, Reserve and Women Grades (as listed in Annexure A and if applicable). Up to Fifteen (15) minor competition rounds shall be played.
- 8.2 The position in the competition table shall be determined by competition points, allocated as follows:

<b>Win</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Loss by more than seven</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Draw</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Bonus point - 4 tries or more</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Loss by seven or less</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Forfeit (28 For - 0 Against)</b>	<b>4+1</b>
<b>Bye</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Double Forfeit</b>	<b>2</b>

- 8.3 In the event of two or more Clubs being equal on competition points for any position in the respective competition table, final position shall be initially determined on the basis of the team that has registered the highest number of wins throughout the minor premierships will be considered to be the leading team.

Should the competition points and number of wins be equal, position will then be on the basis of the ratio of points scored for and against (i.e. points for divided by points against) the team with the highest ratio of points scored for and against being considered the leading team in the respective position.



- 8.4** Club Championship will be in place for the 2018 Senior Darwin Club Rugby Competition;
- 8.5** Club Championship shall consist of up to First, Reserve & Womens Grades, Under 17 through Under 9. (where clubs do not compete in these grades they accrue 0 points). The Club Championship shall be determined by multiplying the total competition points (as per 8.2 above) secured by each team by the following number of Club Championship points:

	<b>Win</b>	<b>Draw</b>	<b>Close loss</b>	<b>4 tries</b>
First Grade by	100 pts	50 pts	25 pts	25 pts
Reserve Grade by	80 pts	40 pts	20 pts	20 pts
Womens Grade by	80 pts	40 pts	20 pts	20 pts
Under 17 by	60 pts	30 pts	15 pts	15 pts
Under 15 by	40 pts	20 pts	10 pts	10 pts
Under 13 by	20 pts	10 pts	5 pts	5 pts
Under 11 by	20 pts	10 pts	5 pts	5 pts
Under 9 by	8 pts	4 pts	2 pts	2 pts

In the event of two or more Clubs being equal in points, they shall be declared Joint Club Champions.

## **RULE 9 ALLOTMENT OF GROUNDS**

- 9.1** Matches, with the exception of Semi Final, Preliminary Finals and Grand Finals which shall be determined by the Competition Committee, shall be played on such grounds as approved by the Executive. In the event of an emergency, and failing such direction by the Executive, the Chief Executive Officer or Competition Manager will determine where matches will be played.
- 9.2** Each Club will be allocated three (3) home matches in the 2018 season, provided that they meet expectations of Rule 9 (above)

## **RULE 10 GROUND ARRANGEMENTS FOR MATCHES**

- 10.1** The Arrangements are to be in compliance with those in the NTRU Competition Manual as approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

## **RULE 11 PLAYERS UNIFORM**

- 11.1** All players must appear and play in their Clubs proper football uniform as approved by the Executive which will consist of jersey and knee length socks of the Club's registered colours, football shorts, boots or shoes and any NTRU approved sponsor's logos.
- 11.2** For full details on WR Regulations for Players Dress refer to <http://laws.worldrugby.org>
- 11.3** Each jersey shall be numbered clearly in accordance with the program relative to that match.
- 11.4** Where The Union identifies a clash of playing strip, those clubs will be required to purchase an alternate strip for their First Grade only.

- 11.5** No player must appear in anklet socks during competition matches and socks must be that of the Clubs and not of any other team.
- 11.6** Shorts must be of current Club requirements and colour and must not be anything other than rugby playing shorts approved by the Union.
- 11.7** Skins or similar garments that go past the knee are not permitted to be worn whilst participating in Rugby
- 11.8** Failure to comply with Rule 11.1 may result in disciplinary action from the Competition Committee.

## **RULE 12 MATCH FOOTBALLS**

- 12.1** The match ball for all grades will be as per the “laws of the game”. (Size 5 for senior rugby)
- 12.2** The NTRU reserves the right to issue sponsored footballs for use in any match as directed by The Union.

## **RULE 13 CHANGE OF VENUE – HOME GAMES**

- 13.1** In the event that the venue of a match or matches is unavailable due to adverse ground conditions or for any other reason, it shall be the responsibility of the “home” Club to advise the Chief Executive Officer, Competition Manager, the visiting Club and the Referee(s), by Noon on the day prior to the match.
- 13.2** The Chief Executive Officer and/or Competition Manager, in consultation with Clubs involved, shall direct as follows in order of priority:
- a) The lower grade matches be played at a suitable alternative venue.
  - b) The match or matches are postponed to the following day in the case of a Saturday match or Holiday weekend.
  - c) The match or matches be played at an alternative venue of similar standard to the Clubs usual home ground.
  - d) Postpone the match or matches.

## **RULE 14 APPOINTMENT OF REFEREES**

- 14.1** In the event of the Referee appointed not attending within fifteen minutes before the time set down for the match to commence, an alternate referee shall be appointed by the appointments board.
- 14.2** Provided that, in the case of any Referee appointed under Rule 14.1, upon the Captains of the opposing teams so agreeing, another Referee may be substituted at any time during the progress of the game.

- 14.3** In the event of the Referee appointed being unable to continue through illness or injury a substitute **SHALL** be appointed for the remainder of the game by such Referee, if his injury or illness is of a nature as will enable him to do so.
- 14.4** In the event of the Referee not being appointed for a match due to available numbers, a referee will need to be appointed by the home team and in consultation with the opposing team, so the match may commence.
- 14.5** The Union has the power to annul a match and order it to be replayed on the grounds of misconduct of the Referee.

#### **RULE 15 APPOINTMENT OF TOUCH JUDGES**

- 15.1** In all First Grade matches, Touch Judges should be qualified. If due to a shortage of qualified Touch Judges, then clubs will need to provide a Touch Judge(s) for the match to proceed.
- 15.2** Where the Appointments Board has not been able to appoint Touch Judges, each Club will be required to provide a touch judge for all official grades. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule will forfeit the fixture or competition points for that grade.
- 15.2.1** For all matches, Touch Judges shall appear in the official uniform as supplied by the NTRU. The Touch Judge must wear boots or shoes.
- 15.2.2** Clubs providing Touch Judges shall appear in a uniform that does not conflict the teams playing. Touch Judges must wear boots or shoes.
- 15.2.2** Clubs providing Touch Judges shall ensure that no alcohol has or is consumed prior or during the match being officiated.
- 15.3** For all Major Premiership matches, the Appointments Board shall carry out the appointment of Touch Judges.

#### **RULE 16 DURATION OF COMPETITION MATCHES**

- 16.1** All First Grade matches shall be played 40 minutes each half. The interval between halves shall be between five (5) and ten (10) minutes unless otherwise advised by the board.
- 16.2** All Reserve Grade matches shall be played 35 minutes each half. The interval between halves shall be five (5) minutes unless otherwise advised by the board.
- 16.3** All Womens Grade matches of 15 a side shall be played 30 minutes each half. The interval between halves shall be five (5) minutes unless otherwise advised by the board
- 16.4** All Womens Grade Matches of less than 15 a side shall be played 20 minutes each half. The interval between halves shall be three (3) minutes unless otherwise advised by the board.

- 16.5 First Grade matches shall have time off recorded during the regular competition.
- 16.6 Reserve Grade matches shall have no time off recorded during the regular competition.
- 16.7 Womens Grade matches shall have no time off recorded during the regular competition.
- 16.7 Any team not prepared to commence a match at the designated kick-off shall be given five (5) minutes to do so by the referee. Should the five minutes elapse without the game commencing, then that team will have a forfeit recorded against them. (28-0)
- 16.8 Any time lost in commencing a game for whatever reason shall be taken off that match in order that the ensuing matches may commence at the scheduled time.
- 16.9 Commencement times of Matches will be set by the Competition Manager at the commencement of each season (Game time are available on RugbyLink). Times may vary however must be endorsed by Competition Manager and the participating clubs.
- 16.10 In the instance of a match being cancelled for unforeseen circumstances the result of that match can stand if it is after the half time whistle has sounded. The clubs retain the right, upon mutual agreement and approval by NTRU, to replay the game within three (3) days even where 50% of match time has been completed.

## **RULE 17 TEAM SIZES**

- 17.1 Minimum team size for any First Grade match is 15 players to commence the match
- 17.2 Minimum team size for any Reserve Grade match is 10 players to commence the match
- 17.3 Minimum team size for any Womens Grade match is 10 players to commence the match

## **RULE 18 FORFEITS**

- 18.1 Each match which is forfeited by a Club shall be regarded as having been won by the opposing Club on the day on which the match would have been played, except in the case of ruling 18.7
- 18.2 In the case of a Club withdrawing a team or teams from the Competition, all match points ("For and Against") in all matches played by such team or teams shall not be counted, and competition points shall be invalid.
- 18.3 Any Club that fails to carry out fixtures shall be held liable for the ground costs incurred for the match or matches unless the NTRU Board deems the explanation satisfactory.
- 18.4 Teams will need to show cause as to why they shouldn't be withdrawn from the competition after three (3) successive forfeits or four (4) forfeits in total during any one (1) season.

- 18.5** A club withdrawing a team or teams from the Competition can be subject to action by the Board as per Rule 3.3
- 18.6** Any team that is not able to support the minimum requirements for a team (see Rule 17) shall forfeit that match.
- 18.7** Should both teams not be able to support the minimum requirements for a team (see Rule 17) then a forfeit shall be declared to both teams for that match, in which neither team will gain an advantage of a forfeit, however both teams will lose two (2) competition points each for that grade.

#### **RULE 19 REPLACEMENT OF PLAYERS / RESERVES**

**A REPLACEMENT/SUBSTITUTE PLAYER OR A PLAYER RETURNING FROM THE BLOOD BIN, MAY NOT TAKE THE FIELD UNTIL THE BALL IS DEAD AND THE REFEREE SIGNALS HIS PERMISSION. SUCH A PLAYER MUST REPORT TO THE TOUCH JUDGE BEFORE TAKING THE PLAYING FIELD.**

- 19.1** As per the Laws of the game, all teams (starting XV plus reserves) should include suitably trained / experienced players as follows:
- (a) If a team nominates 23 players it must have a minimum of six (6) players who can play in the front row. Each position in the front row must have replacement cover - i.e. loose head prop, hooker and tight head prop must have suitably trained replacements.
  - (b) If a team nominates between 19 and 22 players, it must have a minimum of five (5) players who can competently play in the front row.
  - (c) If a team nominates between 16 and 18 players it must have a minimum of four (4) players who can play in the front row.
  - (d) If a team nominates 15 players or less it must have a minimum of three (3) players who can play in the front row.

Squad size	Minimum number of front row players in the squad	Must be able to replace at the first time of asking
15 or less	3	–
16, 17 or 18	4	Either prop or hooker
19, 20, 21 or 22	5	Either prop or hooker
23	6	Loose-head prop, tight-head prop and hooker

(e) It is the team’s responsibility to ensure that all front row players and potential front row replacements are suitably trained. It is not for the referee to determine whether any player is suitably trained to play in the front row.

(f) The Union may, having taken player welfare into account, amend the minimum number of front row players in the squad and the minimum replacement obligations at defined levels of the Game within its jurisdiction.

(g) If a Club is only able to nominate two front row replacements, then that team may only nominate only 22 players in their squad and not 23.

(h) Prior to the match, each team must advise the referee of their front row players and potential front row replacements and only these players may play in the front row when the scrum is contested.

**19.2** All teams may nominate up to eight (8) players as replacements/substitutes, and all eight (8) players may be used as replacements/substitutes.

**19.3** The procedure to be adopted in the matter of Replacements and Substitutions will be in accordance with mandatory Laws for all domestic rugby play in Australia including a **maximum of twelve (12) movements**.

**19.4** All player movements onto the playing field will be via a card system. Each team will have 12 cards to use for 12 movements, (provided that team is eligible to use 23 players). These cards will be controlled by either the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Assistant Referee, the Touch Judge or the Referee. Players cannot take to the field without using the card movement process.

- 19.5** Substitutions under Law 3.14 shall include any time one player substitutes another player from the same team, including for injury. There is no restriction on the number of times an individual player can be substituted or return to the field.
- 19.6 Exceptions-**  
 Substitution – Blood
- (i) If a player has a blood injury and is temporarily replaced by another player that does NOT count as a substitution.
  - (ii) If the blood player returns to the field of play within fifteen (15) minutes actual time and the temporary replacement leaves the field that does NOT count as a substitution.
  - (iii) If the blood player does not return to the field of play within the permitted time, the replacement becomes permanent and that **IS** a substitution. The blood player is considered injured.
  - (iv) Should a team use up its maximum number of movements while one of their players has been temporarily replaced for blood, and the blood player cannot return to the field within the permitted time, the temporary replacement will be required to leave the field at the conclusion of the permitted time i.e. the team plays one player short.
- 19.7** Any Club failing to comply with the procedures set out above shall be subject to penalty as determined by the Competition Committee.
- 19.8** Subject to Rule 19.6 any player ordered off the field must not be replaced. Should such player refuse to comply with the order of the Referee forthwith, the match shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- 19.9** Should a player ordered off the field be a front row forward, the referee, in the interests of safety, will confer with the captain of the team to determine whether another player is suitably trained / experienced to take his position; if not the captain shall nominate one other player to leave the playing area and the referee will permit a substitute front row forward to replace him.
- 19.10** When there is no other front row forward available due to a sequence of players ordered off or injured or both, then the game will continue with uncontested scrums as per the laws of the game.
- 19.11** Failure to comply with the procedures set out in 19.6 will result in the offending club forfeiting the match or losing four (4) competition points for that grade match.
- 19.12** During playing time of any match the only people permitted into the playing enclosure are the officials, ball retrievals and the two teams of 15 players.
- 19.13** Coaches, managers, runners and medical staff must remain behind the fence at all times.
- 19.14** Reserves are only permitted inside the fence when they are doing a warm up exercise or about to enter the field as a replacement.

19.15 Replaced players must leave the playing enclosure immediately.

## RULE 20 UNCONTESTED SCRUMS

20.1 All First Grade matches must start with contested scrums

20.2 If a team starts a match with less than 15 players (minimum of 10 in lower grades) and opts for non-contested scrums as confirmed by the referee prior to the commencement of the match, then that team cannot use any replacement players until a contestable front row has been established and has taken the field of play.

**Example:**

***If a team commences the match with only 12 players with only 2 experienced front row players as uncontested, then, no other player can take the field in that team until a 3<sup>rd</sup> front row players has taken the field. Therefore if 2 more players appear but are not front trained, they cannot take to the field to bring your team numbers up to 14, until such time as a 3<sup>rd</sup> front row trained person arrives. Once your team has a 3<sup>rd</sup> trained front row player, then and only then, can the remaining players can take the field, via the referee or touch judge up to 15 players.***

20.2 Once a team has a minimum of four (4) front row players (contestable) they may only use up to two (2) additional reserves.

## RULE 21 STOPPAGES OF PLAY & ON FIELD ATTENDANTS

21.1 The Referee shall not hold up a game for trivial cause and any player requiring to repair any part of his wearing apparel during the progress of a match shall retire to the touch line to do so and the game shall be continued during his absence.

**NOTE:** The attention of **REFEREES** is drawn to this rule which must be enforced.

### 21.2 INJURED PLAYER

This rule **should be read in conjunction with rule 19**, and applies when a player is injured. Such injured player shall, wherever possible, except if his injury prevents, be immediately taken to the touch line for attention and the game shall continue in his absence.

21.2.1 The Referee shall allow first aid attendants to enter the playing enclosure and field of play without halting play. **Such attendants may not go on the field for any other purpose.**

21.2.2 If the attendant considers that the player's condition is such that the game shall be halted, he/she should claim the attention of the Referee immediately.

21.2.3 Replacement of Players with bleeding wounds.



This rule should be read in conjunction with Rule 19.6.

“A player who has an open or bleeding wound must immediately leave the playing area until the bleeding is controlled. He may be temporarily replaced each time he leaves the field. There is no limit either to the time he spends off the field having treatment or the frequency with which he leaves the field.”

“If he is unable to resume on any occasion that replacement becomes permanent.”

“If the replacement is sent off for Foul Play, the player whom he replaced **must not return to the match**. In the case of a front rower, his temporary replacement must be a suitably trained front row player. If the replacement is injured, he too may be replaced. Should a suitably trained front row replacement not be available, the match will continue with uncontested scrummages as per the Laws of the game.”

**21.2.4 Concussion (Blue Card).** Any senior player deemed to be concussed by either the referee, medical staff or sport trainer shall not be allowed to take the field for the remainder of the match.

It is the Clubs responsibility to flag the concussion ruling with the Competition Committee and submit it in the match report on RugbyLink

Physical rest of no contact or training shall be enforced for a minimum of one (1) week (7 days) for any senior player with concussion or suspected concussion with a further five (5) days where the player can attend training with their Club before his or her next match. Therefore a senior player must not play any contact Rugby for twelve (12) days from being concussed or suspected of being concussed.

A player will remain ineligible to play any further contact rugby after the twelve (12) days if the Member Union (NTRU) has **NOT** received a signed clearance from their Doctor or a medical practitioner. Depending on the assessment this period can be extended upon medical advisement.

For further information on Concussion Management visit <http://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/concussion>

### 21.3 TEAM ATTENDANTS

Three (3) attendants per club (Runner, Water Carrier & Sports Trainer), plus the club doctor or qualified medical attendant (if applicable) will be allowed inside the playing enclosure during time off or when signalled by the referee only. Coaches and or managers of the Club are not permitted on the field or the field enclosure until the halftime break or fulltime has been signalled by the referee. All attendants must retire to the seats provided after rendering assistance to a player(s) behind the fence. They must not remain standing on the side line or dead ball line, nor follow the play.

**21.3.1** Attendants shall be permitted use electronic communication devices.

**21.3.2** An attendant may go on to the field during stoppages in play when play has been halted, to dispense drinks or sponge down players.

**21.3.3** All attendants must wear provided bibs and have closed in footwear such as runners.

## **RULE 22 TEMPORARY SUSPENSION**

**22.1** If a player is sent off as a temporary suspension he shall remain at the allocated spot provided at the centre of the field for a period of TEN (10) minutes and shall not enter the playing area until permitted to do so by the referee.

**22.1.1** The ten (10) minutes suspension period will begin once the referee signals “time on” to recommence play. The player must move swiftly to the area provided by the Union or home Club.

**22.1.2** The ten (10) minute suspension period will not include half time for the purpose of calculating the ten (10) minutes. During the half time period a temporary suspended player must not join the team at any stage.

**22.1.3** In matches where injury time is applicable, the ten minute temporary suspension period shall be ten (10) minutes of actual playing time.

**22.1.4** The Referee or Touch Judge will keep the time period.

**22.1.5** The temporary suspension of a player must be recorded on the teamsheet & RugbyLink prior to the opposition official and the referee signing off on the teamsheet. It must also be recorded in RugbyLink by 12:00pm the following working day.

**22.1.6** The referee is to ensure that the Competition Committee is informed of any temporary suspended player by 12:00pm of the first business day after the match.

**22.2** The temporarily suspended player may not be replaced by another player, nor be available to replace an injured player. The exception to this is if the player is a prop or hooker, the suspended player is to be replaced by a suitably trained replacement, and the team captain must direct another of his players to leave the field for the duration. If a suitably trained front row replacement is not available, the match will continue with uncontested scrummages as per the Laws of the game

**22.3** The temporary suspension of a player must be recorded on the Result Sheet (refer: Rule 22.1.5). Failure to do so will leave the player and the Club liable to suspension and/or penalty by the Executive.

**22.4** Should a player incur three (3) temporary suspensions (i.e. sin bins) in any one season he/she will automatically be suspended from playing for ONE (1) PREMIERSHIP ROUND. Should the suspended players' club play against a club which does not field a team in the

suspended players' grade then the suspension will be incurred for the next round in which the suspended players' grade has a match. Finals matches are included. Temporary suspensions do not transfer to the next season.

- 22.5** Clubs may receive from the Competition Committee, notification once a player receives two (2) temporary suspensions.
- 22.6** Clubs will receive notification from the Competition Committee once a player receives three (3) temporary suspensions together with the resulting suspension.

### **RULE 23 SEND OFF's (RED CARDS)**

#### **23.1 Yellow Cards**

The following Penalties will be imposed should 2 Yellow Cards be issued in the one match:

(a) 2 yellow cards:

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: Neither involving dangerous play

**Send off constitutes penalty (No Further Action)**

(b) 2 yellow cards:

If one offence was for dangerous play. Yellow automatically becomes a Red Card

**Send off & player attends Judiciary (Player takes no further part in the match)**

(c) 2 yellow cards:

If both offences was for dangerous play. Yellow automatically becomes a Red Card

**Send off & player attends Judiciary (Player takes no further part in the match)**

- 23.2** Any player ordered from the field with a Red Card will be suspended from playing any further games until his/her case has been decided by the judicial committee.
- 23.3** Red Card offences are transferable to include another Unions, a new or existing competition and if applicable another codes.
- 23.4** Any player ordered from the field with a Red Card cannot be replaced for the remainder of the match.
- 23.5** Match Officials must, by 12.00pm on the first day of business after the match, report in writing to the Competition Committee ([competition@ntrugby.com.au](mailto:competition@ntrugby.com.au)) on the approved form a detailed report of the send-off offence.
- 23.6** An independent judicial panel will meet as directed by the Competition Committee throughout the season as deemed necessary to hear cases. The Competition Committee will inform the Club President of the time and location of where the player will be required to attend the judicial hearing which will normally be on the first Wednesday after the send-off, unless otherwise advised. The Competition Committee will forward the referees report (and any AR report submitted) to the Club by COB on the first business day prior to the Wednesday judicial hearing.

**23.7** Should a player be required to attend a judicial hearing and not be able to attend due to work, family or other related commitments, then he/she may give written permission to be represented by a Club official at the hearing. Written permission must be received by the Competition Committee no later than 24hrs before the judicial hearing.

**23.8** In the event of a match official(s) report (23.5) not being submitted to the Competition Committee before the arranged judicial hearing commences, then that player will be permitted to play without suspension until a written report is received from the referee and a new judicial hearing is convened.

**RULE 24 MAJOR PREMIERSHIP SERIES**

**24.1** At the conclusion of the Senior Minor Premiership, teams one (1) to four (4) of the respective competition table in First & Reserve Grade proceed to the Major Premiership Series which will be conducted as follows:

Major Semi Final	Team 1 v Team 2
Minor Semi Final	Team 3 v Team 4 (loser eliminated)
Preliminary Final	Loser Major Semi Final v Winner Minor Semi Final (loser eliminated)
Grand Final	Winner Major Semi Final 1 v Winner Preliminary Final

**24.2** At the conclusion of the Womens Competition after Round 10, teams one (1) and two (2) will play for the Premiership

**24.3** Should any Womens teams be on equal points at the end of Round 10, position on table will refer to points for and against.

**RULE 25 MAJOR PREMIERSHIP SERIES PLAYER ELIGIBILITY.**

**25 .1** A player shall have eligibility to compete in the Major Premiership series provided:-

- (a) The player has played a minimum of four (4) out of his last five matches in the Minor Premiership series in the grade for which he/she has been selected for the Major Premiership series; and
- (b) The player has played eight (8) or more matches in the grade selected or a lower grade during the Minor Premiership series.
- (c) The player has not played in more than seven (7) matches in a higher grade during the Minor Premiership series.
- (d) Womens Competition, players are not required to meet the above eligibility criteria or minimum match requirements.

**25.2** For the purposes of this rule, should a player start a match, that match shall count as his grade participated in for that particular day. If a player does not start a match, the highest

grade in which the player participated in will count as the grade participated in for that particular day. Should a player start more than one match on one day, the highest grade in which the player started shall count as his grade participated for that day.

- 25.3** A representative match (as defined in annexure B) shall count as a match for the club the player is registered too.
- 25.4** A player who does not comply with the 25.1 (a) may be granted a dispensation to play in the Major Premiership series provided:
- (a) The player has played with the Club a minimum of five (5) matches during the Minor Premiership series.
  - (b) The player has joined a Club after round 10 of regular competition and has registered with another competition club prior in the year of the competition.
  - (c) The player is returning from a major injury with medical certification showing time of injury and clearance to play.
- 25.5** Players requesting dispensation due to shift work or other related work reasons will generally not be dispensated and be assessed on their merit upon request.
- 25.6** A player who satisfies the competition rules in relation to eligibility either through the above circumstances or having been granted appropriate dispensation shall have an unqualified eligibility which shall not be open to challenge by the board **provided** that such a player may not play for more than one grade team in the Major Premiership series unless that player is replacing an injured player in a higher grade.
- 25.7** All Clubs competing in the Major Premiership series regardless of the number of grades they have in the series must:
- (a) Submit a list of all graded teams including reserves on the form provided by the Union;
  - (b) Indicate the players for whom a dispensation is required;
  - (e) Ensure team's lists are received by the Chief Executive Officer or Competition Committee by 5.00pm on the Monday prior to each match in the series.

**PLEASE NOTE THIS APPLIES TO ALL CLUBS REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF GRADES  
IN THE MAJOR PREMIERSHIP SERIES**

- 25.8** The Competition Committee will consider the submitted team lists and the applications for dispensation prior to the commencement of the Major Premiership series and an email will be forwarded to each Club outlining those eligible for the Finals.
- 25.9** Any further changes in teams (including reserves) must be advised to the Chief Executive Officer or Competition Committee by 10.00am on the Friday proceeding the match, who may rule on the eligibility of the nominated player.

**25.10** Where any Club provides false information or in any other manner contravenes this rule including but not limited to permitting an ineligible player(s) to play in the series, the Premiership Committee may at its discretion:

- (a) Fine the Club;
- (b) Disqualify and/or suspend the Club;
- (c) Disqualify and/or suspend the ineligible player(s);
- (d) Alter the result of the match or matches.

**THE NTRU'S DECISION ON ELIGIBILITY OF NOMINATED PLAYERS AND DISPENSATIONS  
BASED ON RUGBYLINK REGISTRATIONS AND GAMES IS FINAL**

**RULE 26 MAJOR PREMIERSHIP SERIES DURATION OF MATCHES**

- 26.1** In all Semi Final, Preliminary Final and Grand Final matches, time off for injuries shall be allowed in First Grade only. There will be no injury time (time off) in Reserve or Womens grades.
- 26.2** In any First Grade Major Premiership match if the score be equal at full time, two extra periods of ten (10) minutes each way with a five (5) interval will be played, with time off for injuries.
- 26.3** In any First Grade Major Premiership match if the score be equal at the end of extra time, a further 10 minutes of extra time will be played as golden point.
- 26.4** If in First Grade Grand Final, the score is equal after extra time has been played, the match shall be replayed at a time determined by the NTRU.
- 26.5** In any Semi Final or Preliminary Final match in Reserve Grade, if the scores are equal at fulltime the Club which occupied the higher position in the Competition Table at the conclusion of the Minor Premiership Series (Round 15) shall be deemed to have won the match.
- 26.6** In any Grand Final match, other than First Grade, if the scores are equal at full time, two extra periods of five (5) minutes each way with a two (2) minute interval will be played, with no time off for injuries. If the scores are equal at the end of extra time, both teams shall be declared Joint Premiers.

**RULE 27 MATCH RESULTS AND TEAM LISTS**

- 27.1** It shall be the duty of **EACH** Club to furnish, on official forms, to the Competition Committee, the results and team lists for all matches. [competition@ntrugby.com.au](mailto:competition@ntrugby.com.au)

- 27.2 A team list must be provided to the Match Manager (if applicable) to ensure all players are registered on RugbyLink.
- 27.3 Signed Match Results Sheets showing team lists and scores and scorers, and any players given a temporary suspension, in each grade must be completed by each Club for all matches and placed in the “Team sheet Box” located at the NTRU bar at the conclusion of each match. The form is to be counter signed by the match referee in the space provided.
- 27.4 Match Result Sheets can also be copied or scanned and emailed directly through to the competition committee from behind the NTRU Bar. Alternatively you can take a photo of the team sheet & send it to [competition@ntrugby.com.au](mailto:competition@ntrugby.com.au)
- 27.5 If a match is played at a venue other than Land Rover Rugby Park, the host Club shall be responsible for the lodgement the Match Result Sheets of the Clubs playing at that venue, to the office of the NTRU no later than midday the following first business working day after the match by either hand delivery or via email: [competition@ntrugby.com.au](mailto:competition@ntrugby.com.au)
- 27.6 It shall be the responsibility of **EACH** Club to ensure that all match day team sheets are uploaded on to RugbyLink and that all information is true and correct by midday of the first business day after a match. [www.rugbylink.com.au](http://www.rugbylink.com.au)
- 27.7 Any Club that fails to lodge a properly completed Match Results Sheet on time in RugbyLink shall incur a penalty as determined by the Board, which may include loss of competition points.
- 27.8 All Match Result Sheets must be filled out in clear and concise printed hand writing or electronic print. All Match Result Sheets must have both full given and surnames on the sheet matching that of RugbyLink. If the names do not match that of RugbyLink such as nic names, initials or shortened names than the player(s) will be deemed to be an unregistered player.

## **RULE 28      ADDITIONAL COMPETITIONS.**

- 28.1 The Executive may at its discretion implement or sanction additional competitions or tournaments before, during and after the Darwin Club Rugby Competition.

## **RULE 29    CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **29.1 Interpretation**

In these by-laws, “Rugby Au” means the Rugby Australia Ltd.

“**Participant**” means player, referee, touch judge, or other match official, selector, coach, trainer, manager or other team official, or an individual involved in the organisation, administration or promotion of Rugby Football including a director, other officer or employee of Rugby Au, of any Member Union or Affiliated Union, or of any Rugby Union Club or other body in membership with or affiliated to a Member Union or Affiliated Union.

Words in the singular include the plural and vice versa; and a reference to a gender includes the other gender.

## 29.2 Object of By-laws

Rugby Au is committed to promoting and strengthening the positive image of Rugby Football and its participants in Australia. In light of this commitment, the Code of Conduct seeks to establish standards of performance and behaviour to ensure that participants act in a professional and proper manner and to ensure that the game is played and conducted with disciplined and sporting behaviour. The Code of Conduct also seeks to deter all on-field and Rugby-related conduct that could damage the game of Rugby Football by impairing public confidence in the honest and orderly conduct of matches and competitions or in the integrity and good character of participants. In addition, these By-Laws seek to ensure that every Participant is liable to effective sanctions if they are found to have breached the Code of Conduct.

## 29.3 Code of Conduct

All participants in the game are bound:

- (A) Not to bet or otherwise financially speculate, directly or indirectly, on the outcome or on any other aspect of a Rugby Football match or Competition which he or she is either involved in (whether as a player, official or in any other capacity) or connected to;
  - (i) not to throw or fix a match, try to achieve a contrived outcome to a match or a Competition, or otherwise influence improperly the outcome or any other aspect of a match or a Competition;
  - (ii) not to provide information to a Bookmaker about a match or any aspect of a match which he or she is either involved in (whether as a player, official or in any other capacity) or connected to;
- (B) not to seek or accept a bribe or other benefit to do anything mentioned in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii);
- (C) to report immediately to Rugby Au any offer of a bribe or other benefit to do anything mentioned in paragraph (i) and (ii) or any attempt by any other person to do anything mentioned in paragraphs (a) ,or (b);
- (D) to promote the reputation of the game and to take all reasonable steps to prevent the game from being brought into disrepute;
- (E) not to engage in any Doping Practice as defined in Rugby Au's Doping By-Laws;
- (F) to comply with Rugby Au's Safety Directives for Referees, Coaches and Players;
- (G) not to repeatedly breach the Laws of the Game relating to Foul Play or Misconduct;
- (H) not to abuse, threaten or intimidate a referee, touch judge or other match official, whether on or off the field, or a selector, coach, manager or other team official;
- (I) not to show unnecessary obvious dissension, displeasure or disapproval towards a referee, touch judge or other match official, his or her decision or generally following a decision of a match official;
- (J) not to use crude or abusive language or gestures towards referees, touch judges or other match officials or spectators;
- (K) not to do anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult or humiliate another participant on the ground of the religion, sexual orientation, disability, race, colour or national or ethnic origin of the person;
- (L) not to conduct themselves in any manner, or engage in any activity, whether on or off the field, that would impair public confidence in the honest and orderly conduct of matches and competitions or in the integrity and good character of participants; and



- (M) not to do anything which adversely affects or reflects on or discredits the game, Rugby Au, any Member Union or Affiliated Union of Rugby Au, or any squad, team, competition, tournament, sponsor, official supplier or licensee, including, but not limited to, any illegal act or any act of dishonesty or fraud.

#### **29.4 Duty to Comply**

Each Member Union and each Affiliated Union is obliged:

To comply with, and to require affiliates, Clubs and other bodies and persons in membership with it or affiliated to it to comply with, these By-Laws; and

##### **29.4.1 Public Statement**

A member player, official, club or affiliate must not at any time, make any comment in any publication, whether written, televised or broadcast criticising the Union, its committees, officers, officials, or members of the Referee's Association or any statement which is detrimental to the interests, welfare or image of the Union.

##### **29.4.2 Publications**

A member, player, official, club or affiliate shall not without first obtaining the approval of the Chief Executive Officer of the Union or his nominee, write a column for any publication, provided that such approval shall not at any time be unreasonably withheld and shall be deemed to continue until withdrawn by the Chief Executive Officer.

##### **29.4.3 Regulations Relating to the Game**

All members, players, officials, clubs and affiliates are bound by the Regulations Relating to the Game as promulgated by the World Rugby Board from time to time and must inform themselves of these principles and regulations and comply with them. A member, player, official, club or affiliate who becomes aware of alleged breaches of Regulations Relating to the Game must communicate in writing, addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of the Union, details of such alleged breaches.

##### **29.4.4 Procedures for Breaches of the Code of Conduct**

Where the Union receives a report on alleged breach of this Code of Conduct, the Board of Directors of the Union or Committee appointed by the Board to which the Board has referred the matter may after inquiry, suspend, expel, or otherwise deal with the player, official or club from participating in any competition conducted by the Union.

### **RULE 30 GROUND MARSHALS**

- (A) The NTRU Ground Marshal shall be the Competition Manager and or CEO
- (B) Each Club shall have a contact person to act as a Club Ground Marshal for the NTRU Ground Marshal from any issues arising from their Club or surroundings
- (C) The person(s) appointed preferably shall be able to attend all Club games
- (D) Incidents in the first instance should be resolved where possible, internally within the Club through the Club Ground Marshal
- (E) Should a resolution not be reached then the Club Ground Marshal shall inform the NTRU Ground Marshal (Competition Manager and or CEO) of the incident for further and appropriate action to be taken

- (F) Club Ground Marshals are not required to engage in any physical confrontation and must report all incidents of a physical nature to the NTRU Ground Marshal

## **RULE 31 CITING OF PARTICIPANTS AND CLUBS**

### **31.1 Jurisdiction**

#### **31.1.1 For all matches within the jurisdiction of the Union:**

- A. A Citing officer(s) shall be appointed;
- B. The person(s) appointed preferably shall be a legally qualified person with rugby experience at grade level as either a player, coach or administrator;
- C. No person who is an elected officer or full-time paid employee of the Union or any affiliated organisation shall be eligible for appointment as Citing Officer;
- D. The Citing Officer can delegate the authority given to him in the Rules herein provided his delegate has been approved by the Union and is an eligible person as defined by (B) and (C) above;
- E. The citing officer shall be deemed to be a Match official for purposes of Law 10 of the Game of Rugby Football.

#### **31.1.2 Powers**

**(A) Power to Lodge a Complaint**

A Club or Participant with the written approval of his Club or the Union has power to lodge a complaint with respect to an alleged breach of the Laws of the Game, the Code of Conduct or the Competition Rules with the Chief Executive Officer of the Union.

**(B) Power to Cite**

The following have power to cite a Participant or Club for an alleged breach of the Laws of the Game, the Code of Conduct or the Competition Rules:

- (i) The Chief Executive Officer of the Union

**(C) Circumstances when Citing Available**

A player can be cited for foul play when the player has not been ordered off the playing enclosure notwithstanding that for such foul play the referee:

- (i) may have awarded a penalty kick
- (ii) reprimanded the player
- (iii) elected not to act against the player
- (iv) did not observe the act of foul play
- (v) yellow carded the player

**(D) Complaints to be Referred to the Citing Officer**

When the Union receives a written complaint from a Club or a Participant with the approval of the Club or when the Chief Executive Officer of the Union becomes aware of circumstances which he considers may constitute foul play or alleged foul play, the complaint or information must be referred to the Citing Officer who may cite the player to appear before the Judicial Committee.

**(E) Further Evidence**

The Citing Officer will review the evidence and shall have the power to **gather any further information** that he considers appropriate to make the decision as to whether

the complaint should be acted upon and the player cited to appear before the Judicial Committee.

**(F) Decision Final**

The Citing Officer's decision as whether a player should be cited to appear before the Judicial Committee shall be final.

**(G) Special Position of Chief Executive Officer**

The Chief Executive Officer of the Union may cite a Participant or Club to appear before the Judicial Committee without reference to the Citing Officer but this power is to be used in only exceptional circumstances.

**(H) Power to Cite in Circumstances other than Foul Play**

The Chief Executive Officer of the Union has power to cite a Participant or Club to appear before the Judicial Committee without referral to a Citing Officer in circumstances involving breaches of the Competition Rules, Code of Conduct, or the Laws of the Game at his discretion, without limiting his power to refer such matters to the Citing Officer as he considers, in his absolute discretion, warrant such referral.

### **31.1.3 Citing Procedures**

#### **31.1.3.1 A Citing Complaint**

All evidence in support of a citing complaint (including video, sworn statements and any other material) must be supplied by the Club or Participant referred to above, to the Union either by hand delivery, facsimile, post or email at the Registered Office of the Union by 5.00pm the third business day following the date of the match.

#### **31.1.3.2 Contents of Complaint**

The citing complaint referred to in 2.1.5.1 above shall contain the following:

- (i) The date and place of the alleged foul play;
- (ii) The name of the player in respect of whom the complaint is made and the team he was playing for at the time of the alleged foul play;
- (iii) The name of the opposing team;
- (iv) Full details of the incident constituting the complaint;
- (v) All evidence relied upon including the video tape, sworn statements and any other evidence.

#### **Explanatory Note:**

Where a Club or Participant relies upon evidence of a witness, such evidence must be in the form of a statutory declaration and submitted with the complaint and the witness must be available to appear before the Judicial Committee if the Citing Officer or the Judicial Committee so directs.

#### **31.1.3.3 Action on Receipt of Complaint**

The Chief Executive Officer of the Union shall send all information contained in the complaint to the Citing Officer for his determination as to whether there is a case to be answered by the Participant(s) / Club(s) involved.

If the determination of the Citing Officer is that a player/participant is to appear before the Judicial Committee, the NTRU administration will then inform the cited Participant and/or their Club of the determination of the Citing Officer and the time, date and place of the hearing. The NTRU administration will also supply the information contained in the complaint to the Participant and/or their Club

Should the cited Participant, after being given adequate notice, fail to appear or give acceptable notice and reasoning of his inability to appear, after 10 days of being cited he will be stood down from participating in all forms of rugby until he appears before the Judicial Committee?

#### **31.1.3.4 Attendance of Citing Officer**

The Citing Officer is not required to attend a hearing of a citing complaint before the Judicial Committee

### **RULE 32 JUDICIARY / CODE OF CONDUCT PROCEDURES**

#### **32.1 Jurisdiction**

The task of the Judiciary is to consider the circumstances surrounding the conduct of players and officials and impose such penalties, as it believes fair and reasonable in all the circumstances.

**32.1.1** The Judicial Committee shall have power to deal with all disciplinary matters and protests coming within the jurisdiction of the Union.

**32.1.2** The Judicial Committee shall be made up of no less than two independent members appointed by NTRU.

**32.1.2.1** The Judicial Committee shall have jurisdiction, without limiting the generality thereof, to hear and determine all disciplinary matters arising out of:

- i. An ordering off from the playing enclosure
- ii. Citing complaints
- iii. Breaches of the Union's Code of Conduct
- iv. Any other matter that the Chief Executive Officer considers appropriate in all the circumstances.

**32.1.2.2** The Chief Executive Officer may appoint a Counsel Assisting in order to ensure that Judicial Hearings are conducted in a fair and proper manner. The person(s) appointed to this position shall be required to have a minimum of five (5) years legal experience, as well as rugby experience at grade level as a player, coach or administrator.

**32.1.2.3** The Judicial Committee shall meet at such times as directed by the Chief Executive Officer or at such times as the Judicial Committee deems necessary throughout the season to hear cases. The Union prior to the commencement of the Competition will promulgate the regular hearing time. Any player who is ordered off the field must attend the next meeting of the Judicial Committee. Such player must check with the Union on the first business day following the match, the time and place of the hearing.

**NOTE:**

The attention of Clubs is drawn to this rule as failure to attend the next meeting of the Judicial Committee results in automatic suspension of the player until the matter is dealt with at a subsequent meeting. A special meeting will not be arranged to deal with a player who cannot attend the regular meeting. It is the responsibility of the player and his Club to ascertain when the next meeting will be held.

**32.1.2.3** Any player ordered off the field shall be suspended from playing rugby at all levels until the Judicial Committee has heard the matter.

**32.1.2.4** Should a player be unable to attend he may be represented by an official of his Club.

**32.1.2.5** At all Judicial Committee or Appeals Tribunal hearings, the referee may be required to attend a hearing if the accused player or players so requests, and the chairman agrees that there is grounds for his or her appearance. In such circumstances, the hearing may be adjourned until a later date suitable to all parties, and the player in question may not be permitted to play until that hearing is reconvened. The decision in this regard is in the sole discretion of the Judicial Committee or Appeals Tribunal depending upon the circumstances of the matter.

**32.1.2.6 Referees' Responsibility**

Referees should, prior to 12 noon on the first business day following the day of the match, report in writing to the Chief Executive Officer on the approved form, any player or players ordered off the field of play for any reason or any misconduct.

**32.1.3 Judiciary Procedures**

**32.1.3.1 Powers Generally**

The Judicial Committee shall in any hearing before it have power to make a finding that a player has breached the laws of the game or the Union's Code of Conduct, notwithstanding the fact that the player was not originally referred to the Judicial Committee with respect to such breach. If in the opinion of the Judicial Committee a player or official has prima facie committed any breach referred to above, then the player or official shall be granted the opportunity to present such evidence as is considered necessary to properly defend such allegations.

**32.1.3.2 Power to Judicial Committee to regulate its own Procedures**

The Judicial Committee shall have power to regulate its own procedures depending upon the circumstance of each case.

#### **32.1.3.3 Information Sheet**

The player sent off is to fill in the information sheet provided by NT Rugby Union. This includes Name, Club, Address, Match & Representative (i.e. Club Official, legal counsel)

#### **32.1.3.4 Notice to Player**

Players ordered off and/or their Club are entitled to be supplied with a copy of the Referee's report and where applicable the touch judge's report by the Union

#### **32.1.3.5 Representation**

A player who is required to attend a hearing by a Judicial Committee shall be entitled to be represented at the hearing by an official of his Club or by legal counsel.

#### **32.1.3.6 Record of Proceedings and Decision**

- (a) The hearing of proceedings by the Judicial Committee shall endeavour to fully audio recorded. The record of the proceeding and all formal papers associated with the proceedings shall be held by the Union.
- (b) Copies of the record shall be made available at reasonable cost only on Appeal of the decision of the Committee.
- (c) After seven (7) days the audio tape and all relevant papers may be destroyed unless otherwise required in (B) above.

#### **32.1.3.7 Further Preparation**

If for any reason a player is not able to proceed with the consideration of the matter then the Committee will generally allow further time to prepare on the basis that the player does not play until the Committee has completed its hearing. Notice should be given to the Chief Executive Officer or the delegate by 5pm of the need for further time for consideration.

**NOTE:** Club General Managers should be aware of Rule 2.1.1.7

#### **32.1.3.8 Conduct of Hearing**

Unless it otherwise directs, the procedure of the Judicial Committee at the hearing will be as follows:

An official of the union will call the player to the Judiciary. Once seated an official of the Union or the Counsel Assisting will announce to the Judicial Committee the following:

- Name of player sent off;
- Name of person(s) representing the player and their title;
- The Judiciary Chairman will read the referee's report prior to hearing submission from anyone present.

#### **32.1.3.9 Player Intention**

- (a) The Player or his representative will be asked by the Judicial Chairman whether it is a plea of guilty or not guilty.
- (b) The Player or his representative may plead guilty with an explanation.
- (c) The player or his representative may call witnesses to speak about the incident.

- (d) Witnesses who did not actually see what occurred will have little or no bearing on the hearing.

#### **32.1.3.10 Evidence**

- (a) The Committee does not provide its own evidence and therefore will rely on the Referees report, to which considerable weight will generally be given.
- (b) The Judicial Committee shall be entitled to receive such further evidence as it thinks fit (including evidence in writing) notwithstanding the evidence may not be legally admissible.
- (c) In all fixtures where a match is filmed, clubs **MUST** supply any video evidence for the judiciary hearing.

#### **Explanatory Notes:**

The Judicial Committee will generally apply the Best Evidence Rule, i.e. first-hand accounts from persons present at the hearing as to their observations of the incident in question. That is not to say that hearsay evidence will never be accepted. However caution should be exercised before hearsay evidence is presented in preference to first hand evidence and generally considerably less weight will be given to hearsay evidence.

Further, as a general rule, Judicial Committees will not permit the introduction of opinion evidence other than expert opinion evidence. Expert opinion evidence will be permitted only when the evidence falls outside the everyday knowledge of members of the Committee e.g. medical opinion. It is of no use to have a witness who says what someone else told him or her what they saw.

#### **32.1.3.11 Provocation and Retaliation**

- (A) In any case in which it is claimed a player was guilty of foul play by reason of provocative conduct on the part of another player or person, such provocative conduct shall be no defence to foul play but may be taken account of in determining penalty.
- (B) The fact that a player acted in retaliation shall be no defence for foul play, but may be taken account of in determining penalty.

#### **32.1.3.12 Notification of Decision**

- (A) The Judicial Committee's deliberations on its decision shall be in private. The Union official will ask you to leave the hearing room while the Judicial Committee considers whether in its opinion further action is justified.
- (B) After the Committee has completed its deliberations the player and/or player's representative will be recalled and the Judicial Committee will announce its decision, as to whether the player is guilty or not guilty.
- (C) If found guilty the player or the player's representative will then be asked to make submissions in relation to the penalty (i.e. may wish to speak about the player's rugby background and character).
- (D) The Judicial Committee will then ask the player and all other persons to leave the room while consideration is given as to penalty. The player will then be recalled and informed of the Judicial Committee's decision.
- (E) Whenever any penalty of suspension is imposed by a Judicial Committee, the

term of suspension will not include byes or split rounds unless a match has been postponed to that particular weekend.

#### **32.1.3.13 Deferment of Suspension.**

Whenever any penalty of suspension is imposed by a Judicial Committee the commencement of such suspension may be deferred at the discretion of the Judicial Committee. Unless the incident is deemed illegal and/of foul play, the ruling guideline will be that of WR rule 17.14.7: **For cases involving Illegal and/or Foul Play, Judicial Officers and Disciplinary Committees may not suspend the effect of any sanction to be imposed.**

#### **32.1.3.14 Power to deal with incidents arising from one match at the same time**

Where the Judicial Committee is required to deal with more than one player as a result of incidents occurring in the one match, such proceedings may be heard by a Judicial Committee at the same time, provided however that if the Judicial Committee is satisfied that a player will be prejudiced, then the hearings shall be conducted separately.

#### **Explanatory Note:**

This Rule allows the Committee to hear more than one case at the same time, when there is a clear link between separate incidents or, if the hearing arises from the same incident, there is a clear link between the respective players' conduct.

#### **32.1.3.15 Burden of Proof**

- (A) In any case where the Judicial Committee is required to consider an incident of foul play or alleged foul play it may decide to impose a penalty or take no further action.
- (B) In any case where the Judicial Committee is required to consider an ordering off, the Judicial Committee may review the referee's decision and the circumstances surrounding it. In any such case the Judicial Committee shall not make a finding contrary to the referee's decision unless it is comfortably satisfied on the evidence that the referee's decision was wrong.
- (C) In any case where the Judicial Committee is required to consider a citing complaint in relation to an incident where the referee has made a decision on the field of play in relation to the incident, the Judicial Committee may review the referee's decision and the circumstances surrounding it. In any such case the Judicial Committee shall not make a finding contrary to the referee's decision unless it is comfortably satisfied on the evidence that the referee's decision was either inappropriate or wrong.
- (D) In any case where the Judicial Committee is required to consider an incident not the subject of a determination on the field of play by a referee, it shall not impose any penalty unless it is comfortably satisfied that the allegation is proven.

#### **Explanatory Note:**

The above Rules have been prepared with Law 6(5) of the Laws of the Game of Rugby Football clearly in mind. It is essential to preserve the integrity of this Law and the referee's position as sole judge of fact or law during a match. Any decision by a referee during a match cannot be affected by a ruling of a Judicial Committee. It is recognised however, that a referee may make an error when deciding, for example, that a player be



ordered from the field. In such a case the ordering off cannot be reversed, but it would be unjust to impose a further penalty on the player.

This means that when, after a match, a Judicial Committee comes to consider the disciplinary consequences of an incident where the referee has already made a decision on the field in relation to that incident, the Judicial Committee may nevertheless review the referee's reasons for that decision and the circumstances surrounding it.

#### **32.1.3.16 Proceedings not to be Invalidated for Technical Reasons**

No proceedings heard by the Judicial Committee or Appeals Tribunal shall be quashed or held invalid by reason only of any defect, irregularity, omission or other technicalities provided there has been no miscarriage of justice.

#### **32.1.4 Sanctioning Procedures**

- (A) When imposing sanctions, the Judicial Committee shall undertake an assessment of the seriousness of the Player's conduct in accordance with WR Regulation 17.14
- (B) The Judicial Committee have the power to enforce RUGBY AU Rule 4: **Variation to Charge** if required.
- (C) The Judicial Committee shall apply the recommended penalties for Illegal and/or Foul Play set out WR Regulation 17

### **32.2 PRE-DETERMINED PENALTY SYSTEM**

#### **32.2.1 Qualification**

**32.2.1.1** A Club/Player will be notified of the offence he has been charged with via the Referees Send Off Report on Monday morning following the game. He will also be advised at this time if he qualifies for an early plea under the pre-determined penalty system.

**32.2.1.2** Qualifying for the pre-determined penalty system is contingent on the Scale of Seriousness of the Player's conduct being identified as Lower End in the Send Off Report

**32.2.1.3** The Pre-determined Penalty System will only apply to offences carrying a 1 - 4 week penalty under Regulation 17;

**32.2.1.4** If a player wishes to take an early plea the player or his Club must register this intention with the NTRU Administration by 12.30pm on the Monday following the game.

**32.2.1.5** A player eligible for an early plea still has the choice of appearing before the Judiciary.

**32.2.1.6** Should a player/s elect to take an early plea for the offence committed they will be subject to the Lower End of the Scale of Seriousness as outlined in WR Recommended Sanctions for Offences within the Playing Enclosure (Regulation 17).

**32.2.1.7** Should a player/s elect to appear before the NTRU Judiciary they will be subject to whatever penalty the Judiciary deems to fit the offence within Regulation 17.

**32.2.1.8** Players have the opportunity to elect to take an early plea once (1) every 1 year within the NTRU Premiership Competition. If a player has been sent from the field previously and found guilty within a one (1) year period he will not have the opportunity to elect to take an early plea.

**32.2.1.9** The period of the previous two Premiership Competition rugby seasons will be included in the determination of whether a player is eligible to elect to take an early plea.

**32.2.1.10** The early plea option is not applicable 2 weeks before a Finals Series.

## **RULE 33 APPEALS**

### **33.1 Appeals Tribunal**

- (A) An appeal shall lie to the Appeals Tribunal against all decisions of the Judicial Committee or as directed by the Chief Executive Officer and/or NTRU Executive. WR rule 17.7
- (B) Such appeal shall be made by the Participant within seven (7) days of the date of the decision appealed against, by lodging with the Chief Executive Officer a statement in writing of the reason for the appeal, and the evidence to be submitted and relied upon for the appeal. Where evidence relates to a person who is proposed to be called on the appeal, that person shall, in that statement, state in writing that in so far as the statement relates to him, it is true and correct.
- (C) In dealing with any appeal from a decision of the Judicial Committee, the Appeals Tribunal in exercising its jurisdiction shall have power to quash, suspend, vary or increase the penalty appealed against.
- (D) Where any question of fact arises on an appeal before the Appeals Tribunal, it shall be determined by reference to the record of proceedings before the Judiciary Committee provided that the Appeals Tribunal in its discretion may rehear the whole or any part of the evidence given before the Judicial Committee as it considers appropriate.
- (E) The Appeals Tribunal shall have full discretionary power to hear and receive such further evidence on an appeal as it thinks fit provided it is established that such evidence was not, on reasonable inquiry, available at the time of the original hearing.



**ANNEXURE A**

Casuarina RUFC  
Darwin Dragons RUFC  
Palmerston RUFC  
South Darwin RUFC  
Swampdogs RUFC  
University RUFC

**ANNEXURE B**

Mosquitoes 15s	Mosquitoes
Country of Origin	Australia XV Team
	New Zealand XV Team
	Development XV Team
	Womens Team