

TASMAN SENIOR CLUB RULES

These rules apply to both the Marlborough & Nelson Bays Sub Unions of the Tasman Rugby Union

1. Overview and Structure

1.1 These Rules:

- (a) apply to the playing of Senior Rugby in the region; and
- (b) are administered by the TRU and TTGG
- (c) any Tasman Trophy fixtures are governed by the TTGG
- (d) any game which is solely part of a Sub Union competition is governed by the appropriate Sub Union.

1.2 These rules shall:

- (a) regulate and govern all Senior Rugby club contests in the TRU; and
- (b) apply to all clubs, coaches, managers and players involved in Senior rugby in the region.

2. Definitions and Interpretation

2.1 In these rules:

Appeal Committee	means the body established by TRU to hear and determine appeals against decisions of the Judicial Committee.
Code of Ethics	means the code adopted and upheld by the TRU.
Judicial Committee	means the body appointed by TRU to conduct inquiries into coach, management and player conduct and implement the judicial procedures set out in the NZR disciplinary rules.
MRSU	means the Marlborough Sub Union of the Tasman Rugby Union, comprising a member from each affiliated club, school or affiliated body in the region.
MRSUCOD	means the Marlborough Sub Union Council of Delegates
NBSU	means the Nelson Bays Sub Union of the Tasman Rugby Union.
NBSUCOD	means the Nelson Bays Sub Union Council of Delegates comprising a member from each affiliated club, school or affiliated body in the region.
NZR	means the body known as New Zealand Rugby and having Jurisdiction over rugby in New Zealand.
NZR Handbook	means the handbook put out by the NZR regulating the playing of rugby in New Zealand and in force at the particular time.

Operations Manager	means the person fulfilling the role of Operations Manager at TRU at the particular time.
Referees Appointments Officer	means the person specified by the Referees Association as being responsible for allocating referees to matches.
Region	means the whole of the Nelson and Marlborough provinces.
Rules	means these rules, as amended from time to time and includes the NZR handbook and rule that has a corresponding meaning.
Senior	means non age group rugby but includes U21s if it exists.
Special Requests Committee	means the Committee established by the NBSUCOD or MRSUCOD and empowered to act on its behalf to deal with matters which require urgent determination or attention.
TRU	means Tasman Rugby Union (who will delegate authority according to paragraph 1.1c)
TTGG	The Tasman Trophy Governance Group consisting of the Operations Manager, the Chairperson of the MRSU, and the Chairperson of the NBSU.
Week	means seven (7) calendar days.

- 2.2 These rules shall be interpreted and applied in a fair and liberal manner consistent with their intent and in accordance with what the decision maker believes to be in the best interests of Senior rugby in the region.
- 2.3 Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of these rules shall be determined by the Chief Executive Officer of the TRU. Such person may take such advice as he/she thinks fit and the decision shall be final and binding.

3. Regulation of Matches

- 3.1 No club shall play any match without the prior consent of the TRU and all matches played are subject to any conditions imposed by TRU.
- 3.2 Any club/team travelling outside of the region or overseas must first obtain the approval of TRU and must comply with any condition(s) imposed by TRU. All such clubs and teams shall be subject to any regulations as stated in the NZR handbook.
- 3.3 All clubs shall have registered colours and uniforms approved by or on behalf of TRU. No approved uniform is to be changed without the prior approval of the TRU.
- 3.4 Teams shall play in their club's registered colours and uniform with correctly numbered jerseys except:
- (a) where there is a similarity in colours such that a potential for confusion/mistakes exists, the travelling team shall provide themselves with alternative colours approved by TRU that remove the confusion/mistake.

- (b) where a club has two (2) or more teams in a grade, they may differentiate those teams with suitable alternative jerseys approved by TRU. Alternative playing colours can be provided by TRU if requested one (1) week in advance of the fixture.

3.5 Every club shall ensure that all matches comply with these rules and the Code of Ethics.

4. Rules for Club Competitions

4.1 All matches are under the control of TRU and all team entries into a competition must be approved by TRU. TRU shall define/amend grades, as it considers necessary from time to time.

4.2 Clubs shall notify the Operations Manager in writing the teams they wish to enter into various grades, prior to the closing date (as advised by TRU) each year before the start of competition.

TRU may direct any team to a grade it considers appropriate/desirable.

4.3 The Operations Manager will complete a draw for each round of competition in all grades for approval by TRU. Details of draws shall be advised to clubs prior to the commencement of each competition.

4.4 Fixtures may be arranged on the principle of reciprocal home games, but shall always have regard for the best interests of the TRU when allocating fixtures/venues.

4.5 Unless TRU, acting in accordance with Rule 2.2, decides otherwise, in each grade of competition, each team will play every other team in that grade at least once in each round.

4.6 Prior to the start of each season, TRU will organise the format of the competition/championship structure and advise all teams involved.

4.7 TRU shall set the value of competition points for each match during each season prior to the commencement of competition. The team scoring the most competition points shall be the winner of the round/competition (whichever is appropriate). Current competition points (which shall remain in place unless TRU determines otherwise) are set as follows:

- Win: 4 points
- Draw: 2 points
- Loss by seven (7) points or less: 1 point
- Loss by more than seven (7) points: 0 points
- Bonus Points - Four or more tries scored in a match: 1 point

a) Points from ALL Tasman Trophy Fixtures will also count in the relevant Sub Union Competition Table (including any deductions for defaulted fixtures).

b) The competition points table in any grade may be dropped at the end of a full round, with a trophy to be awarded to the winner of the grade and the competition points tally to restart for the next round of competition (as determined by TRU prior to the start of the season).

- (c) In the event of two or more teams being tied on the same points, their positions will be determined in accordance with the following criteria, which will be applied in the order in which they appear until the tie is broken:.
- (i) where any two teams are tied
 - a) the team that won their previous match (against each other) will have the higher position
 - b) the team with the higher points differential shall have the higher position.
 - (ii) where three or more teams are tied:
 - a) the team with the most competition points against the other tied teams will have the higher position.
 - b) the team with the greatest points differential will have the higher position
 - (iii) if the tie cannot be broken by the criteria set out in subclauses (i) and (ii) above then;
 - a) the team which scored the most tries in the competition will have the higher position
 - b) the team that scored the most points shall have the higher position.
 - c) a coin toss will take place.

4.8 Any competition may be terminated at the discretion of TRU.

5. Defaults

5.1 All matches shall commence at the time, date and place appointed by TRU. Any variation to match time/date/venue, is subject to the approval of the opposition coach, the appointed referee and the Operations Manager.

If play does not commence within ten (10) minutes of the appointed time, the referee having blown his whistle may declare: *The team that is unable or unwilling to proceed to have lost by default.*

TRU will uphold the referee's decision, unless TRU is satisfied that the defaulting team has established that exceptional circumstances existed at the time of the default that warrant the game not being defaulted.

5.2 Any club/team unable to keep its engagement (defaulting) in any match must give notice to: the Operations Manager, Referees Appointments Officer and the opposition club coach and/or Secretary prior to 12.00 pm (noon) of the day prior to the match.

In the event of default the game and maximum competition points (5) shall be awarded to the opposition team. The Score will be recorded as 50 – 0 to the opposition team. For all Division 1 and Tasman Trophy fixtures the defaulting team will also lose 5 competition points.

5.3 Any default shall be noted so that if the defaulting team was the away team, they will still be required to travel when they are next due to play in the same season the team to which they defaulted.

5.4 For any Senior Rugby Fixture, any club which defaults a game will be fined an amount set by the NBSUCOD or MRSUCOD (up to \$500-00), which is to be paid to the opposing club as a reimbursement for expenses incurred/potential revenue forfeited.

If the conditions are met as in Rule 5.2: i.e. the club/team must give notice to : the operations manager, referees appointments officer and the opposition club coach and/ or Secretary prior to 12:00 pm (noon) of the day prior to the match, then the penalty shall be a maximum of \$300, if these conditions are not met the maximum fine shall be \$500.

5.5 The minimum number of players a team may field without defaulting a match is fifteen (15), however teams turning up to play a match with insufficient players yet willing to play will not be subject to the default fine set out in Rule 5.4.

6. Team Lists

6.1 At the end of each match, a team card is to be provided to the referee by the coach or manager of each team containing the names and initials of each player and all reserves. The referee will fill in the result on each team card, sign it and return it to the respective team representative.

6.2 Each club/team is responsible to ensure the team card is returned to the Operations Manager (scanned & emailed or text a photo) by 10am on the Monday following the match (or 2 days after the match - if the match is played on any day other than a Saturday).

If the Operations Manager does not receive a team card as required, the offending club may be fined an amount of \$25 per team card outstanding, as determined by TRU.

6.3 From information provided on each team card the Operations Manager will maintain a register showing the classification and grading of every player and the games they have played.

At each NBSUCOD and MRSUCOD meeting the Operations Manager will report to the meeting with regard to outstanding team cards.

6.4 The appointment of referees for matches will be made by the Referees Appointments Officers.

All appointments of referees for representative matches and for interchanges with other Unions shall be recommended to and approved by TRU.

7. Registration of Players

7.1 All teams must register all players on their Club Sporty website noting: surname, first name and date of birth. The TRU will keep a register of all players.

New players must be registered prior to playing; this is to be done by completion of NZR registration form via club Sporty Websites.

- 7.2 If requested, evidence must be provided by a player's club confirming that a player has complied with the Rules regarding: clearances/transfer, residence, grading or age.
- Any player will be regarded as an "*unregistered player*" until they have complied with the Rules.
- 7.3 Any team playing an unregistered player will be deemed to have lost the game and a win will be credited to the other team, along with five (5) competition points. If both teams are found to have played unregistered players, each team will have five (5) competition points deducted from their points tally. *No right of appeal to this ruling will be allowed.*
- Teams, which play an unregistered player, may also be fined an amount up to \$500 by TRU at the next appropriate meeting.
- ALL players must complete the NZR Player Registration Form each year. (If completed on paper this form must be lodged with TRU.) (This is compulsory and provides Insurance Cover for death or permanent injury while playing Rugby.) Any player who has not completed this form will not be allowed to play until the form is completed and lodged.
- 8. Transfer of Players**
- 8.1 A player may not play for another club except for the one to which they are registered.
- 8.2 A player may transfer from one club to another club or play for a club different to that for which he/she has played in the last two (2) years with the prior approval of TRU under the following conditions:
- (a) The player must produce a written clearance from the club they are leaving:
 - (i) giving consent to the transfer; and
 - (ii) confirming that the player is not in arrears with their subscription.
 - (iii) This clearance must be received by TRU at least 24 hours **prior** to the player playing for their new club; and
 - (b) The player must also have completed and provided to the Operations Manager all TRU or NZR transfer forms.
- 8.3 A player who is refused a clearance to transfer may appeal to TRU.
- 8.4 After a player has participated (as a player or as a reserve) in four (4) competition matches or 1 June in any year, whichever occurs first, that player may not transfer clubs within TRU unless under exceptional circumstances, as determined by TRU.
- 8.5 Any new player arriving from outside the Region must comply with all registration rules and must meet all transfer conditions. Any non-contracted player must be playing within the Region before the fourth round of the games prior to the semi-finals.

- 8.6 The TRU reserves the right to place TRU contracted players arriving in the Region after the start of the final round in a club they deem appropriate.
- 8.7 Should a club be unable to field a team in a specific grade for which they have registered, any registered members of that team may transfer to a club fielding a team in that grade, subject to the approval by TRU and compliance with the normal transfer conditions (noted above).
- 8.8 The following are exceptions for transfer/registration rules but must be advised to the Operations Manager prior to the match:
- Secondary School students home on vacation from outside the region are permitted to play for any one club, for a team/grade for which they are eligible.
 - Secondary School students on school holiday that reside within the region are permitted to play for a club (where they have had previous affiliation) in a grade for which they are eligible with the permission of the school they are currently attending.
 - Tertiary Students and Armed Services employees home on leave are permitted to play for a club (where they have had a previous affiliation) in a grade for which they are eligible.

9. Classification and Grading of Players

- 9.1 TRU handles and administers the classification of all players.
- 9.2 All players will be classified at the start of each year based on the team lists/classification list provided to TRU at the start of each year.
- 9.3 TRU shall have power to reclassify any player at its discretion.
- 9.4 A player eligible to play in an age grade team but who has been playing in an open grade is eligible to be reclassified to the appropriate age grade, but will be required to be officially re-graded.
- 9.5 Clubs fielding a Division 1, Division 2 and/or Under 18 grade team in a TRU Competition are able to rotate their players between the two grades, based on selections for player form and fitness. **However** once a player has started in 6 matches in a higher division he may not play down again during the season. For the purposes of this Rule "**started**" means the player was in the initial, run-on 15.
- 9.6 Clubs fielding a Division 2 and Under 18 grade team are able to rotate their players between the two grades, based on allowing maximum participation, player safety and satisfactory team numbers for matches, with good sportsmanship displayed in all instances.
- 9.7 Tasman Mako contracted players from the current or previous season are not eligible to be regraded into a lower division at any time during the season.

10. Rolling Substitutions

This Rule is only applicable to Senior Women

- 10.1 The use of rolling substitutions (i.e a player can be subbed off and then return to the field at a later time) is allowed to maximise players game time for all squad members.
- 10.2 The substitutions may only be made with the permission of the match referee at a suitable stoppage in play.

11. Judiciary Procedures (Sin Binning/Sending Off Procedures)

- 11.1 A player sent off is automatically suspended from all Rugby for two matches from the date of sending off. The suspension is subject to the following:
 - (a) A player ordered off has the right to request a hearing. This is treated as an appeal against the automatic suspension.
 - (b) If the player requests a hearing within 48 hours of the ordering off, a hearing will be held by the Judicial Committee within six days of the ordering off.
 - (c) If the player requests a hearing after 48 hours of the ordering off but within seven (7) days of receiving a copy of the referee's report on the ordering off, a hearing will be held by the Judicial Committee.
 - (d) If a member of the Judicial Committee or the complaints review officer considers that the automatic suspension imposed under Rule 11.1 is not an adequate sanction in any particular circumstance, a hearing will be held to determine the appropriate sanction in the particular circumstance
- 11.2 A player temporarily suspended (yellow card) on two occasions in any matches within the TRU during a season will be advised in writing that a third temporary suspension in the same season will result in an automatic one match suspension. The automatic suspension is subject to the following:
 - (a) the player may within 48 hours of receiving notice of the suspension (but not any later request a hearing. The player may not play until either the hearing has been concluded and a decision delivered or he/she is permitted by the Judicial Committee to play pending the hearing.
- 11.3 The Judicial Committee may, in its discretion, increase the automatic suspension referred to in Rules 11.1 or 11.2(a) above.
- 11.4 Rights of appeal exist in respect of decisions of the Judicial Committee. The person or organisation appealing must pay to TRU an appeal deposit of \$500 within 48 hours of lodging the appeal. If the appeal deposit is not paid within that time, the appeal is deemed to be abandoned. The Appeal Committee has the power to order that all or part of the appeal deposit be refunded.
- 11.5 If there is any inconsistency between what is set out above and the disciplinary provisions in the NZR Handbook, the latter will prevail

12. Protests and Disputes

- 12.1 All protests and disputes relating to any matter under the Code of Ethics or the Rules. Shall be made and lodged in writing to TRU, via the Operations Manager, prior to (in the case of a protest) or within 48 hours of the match in question (in the case of a dispute)
- 12.2 Decisions on matters under protest or in dispute will be made by TRU as expediently as is practicable. The TRU decision is final unless it exercises its discretion to refer the matter to the Special Requests Committees or TTGG for determination.
- 12.3 If a specific cause for protest is known before a match begins the protesting team shall advise the team (opposing team) of the protest (and its cause) and if the matter is not addressed the protest shall be lodged, in writing with the referee or an official of the TRU. The match must proceed at the time set down. If the team at fault is unwilling or unable to remedy the cause of the complaint, the game will be played "*Under Protest*" and the protest shall be considered at the next meeting of TRU.

13. Semi-Final/Final/Play Off Rules

- 13.1 For a player to be eligible to play in a semi final or final that player must have played for that team in not less than four (4) round robin matches in the same competition. For the purposes of this Rule the term "*played*" includes reserves. The following are exempt from this Rule:
- (a) any TRU ITM contracted player who only needs to play in at least TWO (2) round robin games
 - (b) any person exempted by the appropriate Special Requests Committee or TTGG acting in accordance with Rule 2.2.
- 13.2 In the event of a draw at full-time in a semifinal or final.
- There will be a two (2) minute break to allow the teams to change ends.
 - The team who kicked off at the start of the game will kick off.
 - The teams will play an extra ten (10) minutes each way. (The Half time break will be 2 min. and injury time will be added to each half.)
 - The normal rules about Substitutions/injury replacements continue as usual.
 - The winner will be the team scoring the most points.
 - If on completion of this extra time there is still a draw, the following criteria will be applied in order to find a winner;
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- The team scoring the most tries in the whole match (including extra time).
 - the team that won their match in the preceding round.
 - The team with the best points differential.
 - The team who scored the most tries in the Round Robin.
 - The team who scored the most points in the Round Robin
 - The team with the highest finals ranking.
 - If still indecisive or in the event of unforeseen circumstances, the TRU may declare joint winners for a final or make such decision as it deems equitable.

- 13.3 All sides must name a squad of 22 before semi-finals and finals, 24 hours before the start of the game; changes to this squad may only be made with the approval of the Operations Manager.
- 13.4 Location Of Semi- finals and Finals
- (a) For the Tasman Trophy- the higher qualifier for semi-finals is able to nominate the venue for the playing of the fixture. The final will be held at either Lansdowne Park or Trafalgar Park, depending on the Sub Union of the highest qualifier.
 - (b) For Marlborough Sub Union:- Semi finals and Finals will be held at Lansdowne Park unless the higher qualifier for a semi final in Div 2 is the “flagship” team for their club, in which case this team can choose the venue for that semi final.
 - (c) For Nelson Bays Sub Union:-Semi finals are at the home ground of higher qualifier; Final of Div 1 is at Trafalgar Park: Final of div 2 is at Trafalgar Park unless the highest qualifier is a Country team who may nominate a venue.
14. **Match Balls**
- 14.1 TRU reserves the right to provide and enforce the use of official sponsor’s competition match balls.
- 14.2 At every Division 1 match, each team shall provide two (2) match balls for their game. In all other grades each team shall provide one (1) match ball. Failure to conform to this Rule could result in the loss of five (5) competition points if TRU so determines.



Tasman Rugby Union are fully committed to providing fair and equitable opportunity for all players to play in a meaningful competition and make all of their decisions based on what is best for the overall growth and development of Rugby within our region