

RUGBY BY-LAWS

Effective from 1st January 2008

Clause 1: GRADES

(a) The minimum number of grades catered for shall be:

1 st XV	2 nd XV	3 rd XV
16A	16B	
15A	15B	15C
14A	14B	14C
13A	13B	13C

Aggregate points will only be available for the above listed grades. All other grades are to be considered as recreational or developmental and would not count towards aggregate points.

(b) Colleges with extra teams may take the opportunity to fill vacancies left by the Colleges in lower grade competitions. These teams will be eligible for all competition points however only the highest placed team from that particular College should be used for aggregate points.

(c) Teams that are not entered into an AIC competition shall be entered into the supplementary competition.

NB: Within each grade or age group, the higher team shall be nominated by each school before the lower team. 'A' players are not to play in lower grade fixtures. Lower grade teams are to act as replacements / substitutions for the next higher team

Clause 2: QRU & QRFSU SCHOOLS' COMPETITION HANDBOOK

(a) The Queensland Rugby Union (QRU) & Queensland Rugby Football Schools Union (QRFSU) Schools' Competition Handbook has been issued to each College within the AIC and is to be referred to for all matters other than Law.

(b) Within the Handbook are player number audits, quality assurance check lists that are to be completed on an annual basis. Additionally, the Handbook includes Australian Rugby Union (ARU) Policies, Education Queensland Policies, Queensland State Secondary Schools Association (QSSSA) Rules, QRFSU Rules and much more.

Clause 3: PLAYER RESTRICTIONS

(a) The following player restrictions apply:

(1) Players in all games may be replaced or substituted at any time during the game. Players who have been previously substituted may replace or substitute another injured player. An injured player who has been replaced must NOT resume playing.

(2) Substitutions/Replacements. Substitutions and replacements may be made in accordance with the prevailing U19/Schoolboy Law variations, which are in effect for that season (as directed by the ARU). These substitutions or replacements may only take place when the ball is dead and with the permission of the referee. It must be made clear to the referee by the team coach that it is either a replacement or substitution.

Clause 4: AGGREGATE POINTS

(a) All teams shall count towards aggregate points. The minimum number of grades catered for shall be:

1 st XV	2 nd XV	3 rd XV
16A	16B	
15A	15B	15C
14A	14B	14C
13A	13B	13C

Clause 5: MATCH TIMES

(a) Match times and ovals are at the discretion of each College.

(b) The following is a recommended oval and commencement time matrix and is obviously subject to oval availability:

<u>Main Oval</u>	<u>No 2 Oval</u>	<u>No 3 Oval</u>
1 st XV 3.15pm		
2 nd XV 2.00pm	16A 2.00pm	
15A 1.00pm	16B 1.00pm	
14A Noon	15B Noon	3 rd XV Noon
13A 11.00am	14B 11.00am	15C 11.00am
	13B 10.00am	14C 10.00am
		13C 9.00am

This format allows for 'C' or 3rd XV players to act as fresh reserves for the 'B' or 2nd XV team and for 'B' or 2nd XV players to act as fresh reserves for the 'A' or 1st XV team.

(c) Variations to the above times may be decided by mutual agreement, however it is the responsibility of the "Home" College to advise official referees in any matches to be controlled by Queensland Rugby Referees Association [Brisbane] (QRRA) officials.

(d) The "Home" team runs on first and the visiting team runs on immediately after.

Clause 6: MATCH VENUES

(a) All competition games shall be played at the College grounds or ovals as organised by the first mentioned College.

(b) Match venues are to conform to the minimum requirements as set down in the QRU / QRFSU Competition and Conveners Handbook.

(c) Sufficient provision shall be made in all grades to keep spectators at a safe distance from the touchline or outside enclosed grounds.

(d) Goal post pads shall be provided on each field for all games.

(e) Spectators are not permitted on the playing arena at half-time or at the completion of games.

Clause 7: FORMAT OF MATCHES

(a) There shall be two periods of play of the following duration:

1 st XV	=	35 minutes
2 nd XV	=	30 minutes
All other games	=	25 minutes

(b) Regardless of how much time is left in a particular match, the match following must commence at the prescribed time. The referee of the match following may blow his/her whistle to notify both teams of his/her intention to commence the match and also subtly notify the referee of the match in question that real time, not match time has elapsed.

There shall be a half time interval of five (5) minutes in all games.

(d) Time off for injury shall only be applied in 1st XV games.

Clause 8: COMPETITION POINTS

(a) The following points shall be allocated for all competition games:

Win	2 points
Draw	1 point
Bye	0 points

Clause 9: 90 MINUTE LIMIT FOR 19 YEARS AND UNDER PLAYERS

(a) Each half of a 19 Years and Under match lasts 35 minutes playing time. Play in a match may not last longer than 90 minutes. After a total of 90 minutes playing time, the referee must not allow extra time to be played in the case of a drawn match.

(b) A player on any given day or 24 hour period is not to exceed 90 minutes of rugby. A player who plays the full 50 minutes in a lower grade fixture must only play 40 minutes in a senior fixture before being replaced.

(c) Players are permitted to play less than the prescribed time in a lower grade fixture to ensure they have adequate time to replace or substitute a player for longer in a higher grade fixture.

Clause 10: TWO YEAR WINDOW FOR RUGBY (See Appendix for Consent Form)

(a) The ARU advises that the following guidelines should be adopted for implementation processes. Dispensation will only be granted at 19 Years and Under (and below) if the following steps are followed:

- (1) The skill level and physical development of the player is such that it is commensurate with the level to be played.
- (2) The playing experience of the player must be taken into account prior to permission being granted.
- (3) The playing environment, including the standard of the opposition must be taken into account prior to permission being granted.
- (4) The parents/guardians must 'sign off' that their child is playing outside the 'two year window' having had it explained to them that the game has inherent risks.
- (5) The coach must 'sign off' that the player has received adequate training in the position he is playing for the standard of competition to be played.
- (6) The player must be advised by the coach the the playing outside the 'two year window' inherent risk is accepted.

(c) In essence, a 15 Years and Under player must be of exceptional quality to even be considered for 1st XV selection. If a 15 Years and Under player has been selected in the 1st XV for a particular fixture and the opposition has an 18 Years and Under player, due consideration must be given to whether the 15 Years and Under player actually plays the game or not.

All 16 Years and Under players who intend trialling or playing Open Rugby are to complete the 2 Year Window Exemption Form prior to playing. The AIC 2 Year Window Exemption Form is attached at Appendix 2

Clause 11: SMARTRUGBY

(a) SmartRugby is a national program designed by the ARU to ensure participation in the game of Rugby in Australia is an enjoyable experience.

(b) The SmartRugby program prescribes mandatory compliance with a minimum level of procedures, and will raise the bar for groups that are not fully conversant with the current standards.

(c) All schools are required to review their coaching, and safety practices, and make a commitment to the program.

(d) Every school is to nominate an influential member, who possesses considerable commonsense and a sound background in the game of rugby, to be their SmartRugby Coordinator.

(d) The SmartRugby Coordinator is responsible for:

- (1) Ensuring the basis technical program is delivered to all 15-a-side players.
- (2) Ensuring the prescribed practice time is devoted to contact situations.
- (3) Ensuring the ARU safety guidelines are complied with at all times.

(e) SmartRugby is a pro-active program that was implemented after the ARU conducted an in-depth review of major rugby injuries over the last decade. The program will occur annually, prior to each competition season, with compliance certificates sent to schools who have coaches all 15-a-side players in the SmartRugby program.

Clause 12: SERIOUS INJURY PROTOCOL

(a) In the event of a suspected spinal injury, the ARU Safety Directive should be followed. Procedures are as follows:

- (1) Complete ARU Serious Injury Report (Fatality or Suspected Spinal Injury).
- (2) School representative to contact the Serious Injury Case Manager (SICM) via the ARU Hotline on 1800 036 156. Please have all details listed in the Serious Injury Report ready to pass to the SICM.
- (3) Fax Serious Injury Report immediately to ARU on (02) 9955 3586.

Protocol and Report are attached at Appendix 3.

Clause 13: SAFETY DIRECTIVES

(a) ARU Safety Directives for Players, Coaches and Referees are to be prominently located in both teams change rooms and the first aid room.

(b) It is also strongly recommended that signs be placed on sandwich board easels and strategically located on the sideline of playing fields.

Clause 14: CONCUSSION

(a) Concussed or unconscious players are to be assessed by a medical practitioner either at the field or at a local medical centre or hospital.

(b) "A player who has suffered definite concussion should not participate in any match or training session for a period of at least three weeks from the time of injury, and then on subject to being cleared by a proper neurological examination".

Clause 15: SELECTION OF TEAMS

(a) Colleges shall select all higher-grade teams before selecting lower grade teams, whether or not the higher grades compete on a particular day.

(b) This Clause is included to ensure higher team players do not play against less experienced or less physically capable players. The risk of injury occurring at this level significantly increases as the standard diminishes.

Clause 16: EQUIPMENT

(a) In every game, teams shall each provide a minimum of one match ball, which conforms to the laws of the game.

(b) For 1st XV matches a minimum of three match balls must be in use. The minimum requirement for AIC 1st XV matches is an ARU approved 4 ply ball, size 5 football.

Clause 17: REFEREES

(a) General. All AIC competition games must be refereed by persons who hold a minimum Level 1 qualification from a recognised Referees' Association, unless neither College is able to provide such qualified persons. Provision of referees shall be the responsibility of the home College which may invite the other College it is playing to provide referees for some games.

(b) QRRRA [Brisbane] QRRRA Officials shall be asked to control all 1st XV, 2nd XV, 16A, 15A, 14A and 13A matches. Colleges may approach the QRRRA for additional refereeing requirements if they so desire.

(c) Pupil Referees. No pupil, unless he is suitably qualified, and unless no person according to Clause 9 (a) above is available, shall be appointed to referee a competition game.

(d) Coach Referees. In no game shall the coach of either team be the referee unless mutually agreed by the rugby coordinators or sports masters and in accordance with Clause 9 (a).

(e) Referees Not Turning Up. Where the appointed referee does not turn up within 15 minutes of the agreed starting time of the game (including Q.R.R.A. referees), or where Q.R.R.A. referees are unavailable, a mutually agreed by the rugby coordinators or sports masters, qualified referee, in accordance with Clause 11(a) will be appointed to the match.

Clause 18: LINESMEN AND BALLBOYS

(a) Linesmen. Q.R.R.A. officials may be appointed to act as linesmen for First XV matches. For every other grade, each school shall supply one linesman who shall be correctly dressed and carry at least one flag. College or other unqualified linesmen shall only officiate on ball in and out of play situations and goal kicks.

(b) Ballboys. Each school shall provide at least two correctly dressed ball boy for the First XV game.

Clause 19: WEATHER

(a) If weather causes fields to become dangerous or unplayable, a decision is to be made on the morning of play by the Head of Sport of the home College, with each College taking the responsibility for notifying their own players.

(b) The home College has the responsibility of informing the QRRA (as per weekly appointment sheet).

Clause 20: MISCONDUCT

(a) In the case of a player being sent from the field, the referee shall be requested to communicate in writing to the Principal of the College concerned.

(b) A player who is sent from the field should receive a suspension with reference to the ARU's "Crimes Act" and as decided by the Head of College.

The ARU "Crimes Act" is attached at Appendix 4.

(c) All send offs are to be included to the AIC Executive Officer with results from the weekend matches.

Clause 21: MEDICAL

Adequate sports medicine staff, first aid facilities and access to ice are to be available at all grounds in accordance with the QRU / QRFSU Conveners Handbook. There should also be easy access to a doctor or medical facility.

Clause 22: HOSPITALITY

Afternoon tea is to be provided for 1st XV players and coaches from each College after the match. The format is to include a speech by the home Principal or Sportsmaster / Director of Activities and each team Captain.

APPENDIX 1 - Rugby

Effective from 1st January 2008

Substitutions/Replacements

(1) Substitutions and replacements may be made in accordance with the prevailing 19 Years and Under Law variations, which are in effect for that season (as directed by the ARU). These substitutions or replacements may only take place when the ball is dead and with the permission of the referee.

(2) The AIC Rugby Convenor shall be responsible for gaining clarification of the relevant law variation that will be in effect for the upcoming season. This information is to be presented at the Heads of Sport meeting immediately prior to the commencement of the rugby season each year. This will As per Appendix 1

LAW 3. NUMBER AND REPLACEMENT OF PLAYERS (Under 19 variation)

Number of Players in a Team.

(1) A Team shall comprise:

- a) No more than 15 players on the playing area.
- b) Number of players for replacement/substitution as authorised by the Laws of the Game and to cater for the 90 Minutes Limit for Under 19 Players.
- c) The only requirement under Law for 13 Years – 19 Years and Under inclusive, is that there are equal numbers in the scrum.

(2) When a Union authorises matches to be played with fewer than 15 players per team, Law requires that a minimum of five (5) players are required in the scrum

(3) Any objection by either team as regards to the number of players in a team may be made to the referee at any time but objections shall not effect any score previously obtained.

Nomination of players for replacement/substitution

(4) For international matches a Union may up to seven replacements/substitutes

(5) For other matches the number of replacements / substitutes is the responsibility of the Union having jurisdiction over the match provided they otherwise comply with the Laws of the Game.

Nomination of players for replacement/substitution of a team.

- (1) A team must include suitably trained /experienced players as follows:
 - a) If a team nominates 16,17 or 18 players, it **must** have at least four players who can play in front row positions.
 - b) If a team nominates 19, 20, 21 or 22 players it **must** have at least five players who can play in the front row positions.
 - c) If a team nominates 22 players, it **must** have at least six players who can play in the front row and there must be replacement cover for the loose head prop, hooker and tight head prop.
 - d) If a team nominates 22 players, it **must** have at least six players who can play in the front row in order that there is replacement cover for the loose head prop, hooker and tight head prop and there must be three players who can play in lock positions.

INJURED PLAYER AND HIS REPLACEMENT

- (2) An injured player should stop playing and be replaced as follows:
 - a) On the account of a bleeding or open wound the player must leave the playing area until such time as the bleeding is controlled and the wound is covered or dressed; the replacement of the player is temporary but, if he is unable to resume playing, the replacement becomes permanent.
 - b) On the account of any other type of injury; if the referee is advised by a doctor or other medically trained person or for any other reason considers that a player is so injured that it would be harmful for him to continue playing, the referee shall require the player to leave the playing area. For this purpose the referee may also require a player to leave the field to be examined medically.
- (3) An injured player who has been permanently replaced must NOT resume playing.
- (4) The replacement of an injured player may be made on the following advice:
 - a) In matches in which a national representative team is playing, by a medical practitioner only.
 - b) In other matches, by a medically trained person, or if a medically trained person is not present, by a request from the team's captain to the referee.

- (5) The replacement of an injured player shall be made only when the ball is dead and with the permission of the referee. The referee should not permit a player to resume until the ball is dead.

SUBSTITUED PLAYERS

- (6) Up to two substitutes of front row players and up to five substitutes of the other players may be made for any reason only when the ball is dead and with the permission of the referee.

(12)(a) Players who have been substituted may not re-enter the match even to replace an injured player except in the case of a player having a bleeding or open wound or for an injured front row player if no other suitably trained replacement is available.

(12)(b) Players who have been substituted may replace an injured player.

Special Circumstances

- (c) In the event of a front row forward being ordered off, the referee, in the interests of safety, will confer with the captain of each team to determine whether another player is suitably trained/experienced to take his position; if not, the captain shall nominate one other forward to leave the playing area and the referee will permit a substitute front row forward to replace him. This may take place immediately or after another player has been tried in the position

When there is no other front row forward available due to a sequence of players ordered off or injured or both, then the game shall continue with non-contestable scrummages which are the same as normal scrummages except that:

- There is not contest for the ball
- The team putting the ball in must win it
- Neither team is permitted to push
- The formation of both teams must be 3-4-1
- If one team is one player short, then both scrummages must be in a 3-4 formation
- If one team is two players short, then both scrummages must be in a 3-2-1 formation
- If one team is three players short, then both scrummages must be in a 3-2 formation

Attention is drawn to the Resolution adopted by the Council which states that “A player who has suffered definite concussion should not participate in any match or training session for a period of **at least three weeks from the time of injury**, and then on subject to being cleared by a proper neurological examination”

APPENDIX 2 - Rugby
Effective from 1st January 2008



ASSOCIATED INDEPENDENT COLLEGES - RUGBY

Consent Form for Players Born in 1989 or above

PARENT/S CONSENT

I/We _____ give permission for our son _____ born _____ to trial and play Open Rugby in the Associated Independent Colleges Rugby competition in season 2007.

I/We believe our son _____ has the skill level and physical development playing experience to play in the trials with players born 1989 & 1990 and understand that he is playing outside the “two year window” for selection to play Open Rugby. I/We are aware of the inherent risks associated with the game of Rugby Union.

Parent/s Signature _____ Date _____

COACH/S CONSENT

I/We _____

of _____

believe that the player _____ has received adequate training for the positions he is playing.

Positions: _____

and he is playing to the standard of competition to be played at trial and Open Rugby in the Associated Independent Colleges Rugby competition in season 2007 . The player has been advised that he is playing outside the “ two year window” for selection to play in Open Rugby.

Coach/s Signature _____ Date _____

