

# **NEW ZEALAND RUGBY UNION**

## **National & Regional Sevens Tournament Regulations**

1. These Regulations govern the New Zealand Rugby Union (“NZRU”) National and Regional Sevens Tournaments (“the Tournaments”).
2. The Regional Sevens Tournaments include the Northern, Central and Southern Regional Tournaments and are the qualifying events for entry to the National Sevens Tournament as provided for in the Tournament Manual (“the Tournament Manual”).
3. The Tournaments will be played according to the World Rugby Laws of the Game with Seven-a-Side variations as framed by World Rugby.

### **Entry to Tournaments**

4. The process for entry to the Tournaments will be determined by the NZRU as set out in the Tournament Manual on an annual basis.
5. In cases where the requisite number of entries are not received from Affiliated Unions to enable the format of the Tournaments as provided for in the Tournament Manual, the NZRU may at its sole discretion invite teams representing other Rugby bodies to attend.

### **Team Composition**

6. Each team shall comprise of:
  - (a) up to twelve players who meet the eligibility criteria set out in these Regulations; and
  - (b) up to three management;and shall be declared to the Tournament Director at the Manager’s Meeting prior to the start of each Tournament as set out in the Tournament Manual.
7. Only players declared to the Tournament Director shall be permitted to play for a team entered into each Tournament.
8. The players are to be in numbered jerseys and these details are to be advised to the Tournament Director at the Manager’s Meeting prior to the start of each Tournament. Each player must wear a jersey with his or her nominated number in every match in which they play in the Tournament.

### **Tournament Format**

9. The format of the Tournaments will be determined by the NZRU and set out in the Tournament Manual on an annual basis.

### **Duration of Matches**

10. The duration of all matches (other than the Cup Championship final) will be seven minutes each way, with a two minute half-time interval.
11. The duration of the Cup Championship final (Men’s and Women’s) will be ten minutes each way, with a two minute half-time interval.

## **Player Eligibility**

12. All players are only permitted to play at one Regional Sevens Tournament in any given year.
13. All players must be registered in the National Rugby Database to an Affiliated Union before they are eligible to play in the Tournament. Registered means:
  - (a) having completed the NZRU Senior Player Registration Form for that Contract Year; or
  - (b) having an approved online Senior Player registration recorded in the Sportsground Online Rugby Registration system; or
  - (c) having an active registration in the National Rugby Database.

## **Men**

14. Clauses 15 to 19 govern which players can play in a men's Affiliated Union team.
15. All players must be male.
16. To be eligible to participate in the Tournaments, a player must be 17 years of age as at the date of the first match of the Tournament for which they are being selected. Any Affiliated Union wishing to select a player that is under 18 years of age as at the date of the first match for that particular Tournament must obtain prior written approval from the NZRU in the manner set out in the Tournament Manual.
17. Subject to clauses 18 and 19, each Affiliated Union team will comprise only of players who:
  - (a) are registered to that Affiliated Union for the immediately preceding club rugby fifteen-a-side season and have not transferred out to another Affiliated Union under the *NZRU Player Movement Regulations* prior to the Tournament ("**Local Player**"); or
  - (b) have transferred into the Affiliated Union in accordance with the *NZRU Player Movement Regulations* prior to the Tournament ("**Transferred Player**"); or
  - (c) are registered to that Affiliated Union prior to the Tournament and were not registered to any Affiliated Union for the immediately preceding club rugby fifteen-a-side season ("**New Player**").
18. Affiliated Unions are entitled to include up to two players who do not meet the criteria under clause 17 provided that:
  - (a) if the player was registered to another Affiliated Union for the immediately preceding club rugby fifteen-a-side season, or has already transferred to another Affiliated Union in the current Transfer Period, the Affiliated Union must obtain the prior written consent of that player's current Affiliated Union for the player to play and is provided to the NZRU as set out in the Tournament Manual ("**Loan Player**");
  - (b) if the player was registered with a club or rugby organisation overseas during the immediately preceding club rugby fifteen-a-side season the NZRU has received a World Rugby Clearance from the other national union in compliance with *World Rugby Regulation 4 - Player Status, Player Contracts and Player Movement* ("**Overseas Player**").
19. Notwithstanding clauses 17 and 18, an Affiliated Union team wishing to select a Non-New Zealand Eligible Player must obtain prior written approval from the NZRU. Only one Non-New Zealand Eligible Player is permitted per men's Affiliated Union team. The NZRU High Performance Team will consider each application on a case-by-case basis taking into account the criteria set out in the Tournament Manual. For the purpose of these Regulations, a Non-

New Zealand Eligible Player means a player who has already represented another country playing rugby at a level that makes them ineligible to represent New Zealand under World Rugby Regulations (“**Non-New Zealand Eligible Player**”).

### **Women**

20. Clauses 21 to 26 govern which players can play in a women’s Affiliated Union team.
21. All players must be female.
22. To be eligible to participate in the Tournaments, a player must be 16 years of age as at the date of the first match of the Tournament for which they are being selected. Any Affiliated Union wishing to select a player that is under 18 years of age as at the date of the first match for that particular Tournament must obtain prior written approval from the NZRU in the manner set out in the Tournament Manual.
23. Subject to clauses 24 to 26, each Affiliated Union team will comprise only of players who:
  - (a) are Registered to that Affiliated Union for the immediately preceding club rugby fifteen-a-side season and have not transferred out to another Affiliated Union prior to the Tournament (“**Local Player**”);
  - (b) have transferred into the Affiliated Union prior to the Tournament. Provided that each Affiliated Union team may only include one (1) player that has transferred into the Affiliated Union (“**Transferred Player**”);
  - (c) are registered to that Affiliated Union prior to the Tournament and were not registered to any Affiliated Union for the immediately preceding club rugby fifteen-a-side season (“**New Player**”); and
  - (d) are Registered to another Affiliated Union in the immediately preceding club rugby fifteen-a-side season and meets the criteria as set out in clause 26 (“**Player of Origin**”). Provided that each Affiliated Union team may only include one (1) Player of Origin.
24. Affiliated Unions are entitled to include up to two (2) players who do not meet the criteria under clause 23 provided:
  - (a) if the player was registered to another Affiliated Union for the immediately preceding club rugby fifteen-a-side season, or has already transferred to another Affiliated Union prior to the Tournament, the Affiliated Union must obtain the prior written consent of that players current Affiliated Union for the player to play and is provided to the NZRU as set out in the Tournament Manual (“**Loan Player**”);
  - (b) if the player was registered with a club or rugby organisation overseas during the immediately preceding season the NZRU has received a World Rugby Clearance from the other national union in compliance with *World Rugby Regulation 4 - Player Status, Player Contracts and Player Movement* (“**Overseas Player**”).
25. Notwithstanding clauses 23 and 24, an Affiliated Union team wishing to select a Non-New Zealand Eligible Player must obtain prior written approval from the NZRU. Only one (1) Non-New Zealand Eligible Player is permitted per women’s Affiliated Union team. The NZRU High Performance Team will consider each application on a case-by-case basis taking into account the criteria set out in the Tournament Manual. For the purpose of these Regulations, a Non-New Zealand Eligible Player means a player who has already represented another country playing rugby at a level that makes them ineligible to represent New Zealand under *World Rugby Regulations* (“**Non-New Zealand Eligible Player**”).

26. A **Player of Origin** means a player who:
- (a) was Registered to another Affiliated Union (“**the Current Provincial Union**”) in the immediately preceding club rugby fifteen-a-side season; and
  - (b) during at least three (3) years in which the player was aged 9-18 years (inclusive), attended a school based in that Provincial Union (“**the Original Provincial Union**”);
- provided the player is party to a Player of Origin Agreement as follows:
- (c) the Agreement is signed by the Original Provincial Union, the Current Provincial Union and the Player of Origin and is provided to the NZRU prior to the Player of Origin being named in the Affiliated Union team in the form set out in Schedule 1;
  - (d) the Affiliated Union team can only contain one (1) Player of Origin;
  - (e) a Player of Origin can only play for the Current Provincial Union after having played for the Original Provincial Union in the same Tournament if:
    - (i) another Current Provincial Union player in a similar position is injured; and
    - (ii) the Player of Origin agrees (whether agreed in the terms of the Player of Original Agreement or at the time the other player is injured);
- in which case the Player of Origin must be named in the next playing Affiliated Union team for the Current Provincial Union.

### ***Judicial***

27. The NZRU shall appoint a Judicial Officer and a Citing Commissioner for the Tournament.
28. A player sent off for breach of the laws will be dealt with immediately by the Judicial Officer.
29. The NZRU will also appoint an Appeals Officer.
30. The Judicial Officer, Citing Commissioner and Appeals Officer will operate in accordance with *World Rugby Regulation 17* as it applies to Sevens Matches with appropriate modifications as set out in the Tournament Manual and in clauses 31 and 32 below.
31. In addition to the modifications referred to in clause 30 above, the Citing Commissioner will have the ability to issue a Citing Commissioner Warning (“CCW”) for serious acts of foul play that, in the opinion of the Citing Commissioner, came close to but did not warrant the player being Ordered Off.
32. Any CCW will count towards the three yellow cards in a tournament which leads to a hearing before a Judicial Officer as if it is a yellow card issued by a referee for an on-field incident.

### ***Referees and Assistant Referees***

33. The NZRU shall appoint the referees for the Tournaments.
34. All assistant referees must be recognised referees.

### ***Disputes and Interpretation***

35. In the event any dispute shall arise as to the meaning or interpretation of these Regulations or any contingency arising not covered by these Regulations, a ruling shall be given by the Tournament Director and that ruling shall be final.

### **Breach of Regulations**

36. Any breach of these Regulations by an Affiliated Union will be dealt with by the NZRU in accordance with clause 14 of the *NZRU Domestic Competition Regulations*.
37. If a breach of these Regulations is brought to the attention of the Tournament Director at any stage during a Tournament, the Tournament Director may refer the matter to the Judicial Officer for determination. The Judicial Officer will have all relevant powers and jurisdiction as if he was appointed by the NZRU in accordance with its policy for dealing with breaches of Regulations.

