

# **NATIONAL RUGBY POLICY**

## **AGE TO PLAY SENIOR RUGBY**



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### **POLICY #8 AGE TO PLAY SENIOR RUGBY**

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#### **BACKGROUND**

In some provinces, small towns and rural areas, there is only one team available for players to join. Invariably this means that young school leavers have to play senior rugby as soon as they move from a school to club environment.

Given the inherent safety risks of teenagers playing against adults, the following policy applies. This policy is designed to be specific to the New Zealand rugby environment, and does not adhere World Rugby guidelines.

#### **POLICY**

- All senior rugby is classed as Under 19 and above for this policy
- Subject to Provincial Union right to withhold approval if a safety issue exists, 16 year olds at 1 January can play senior rugby in the backs only
- Subject to Provincial Union right to withhold approval if a safety issue exists, 17 year olds at 1 January can play senior rugby in the forwards
- Players 15 years old or younger at 1 January cannot play senior rugby
- Parent/guardian must sign an acknowledgement form

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

New Zealand Rugby:

- Will provide parent/guardian acknowledgement form

Provincial Unions:

- Will view all players aged under 18 years at 1 January who wish to play senior rugby. Approval to play will not be given if the Provincial Union considers a significant risk to the player's safety exists
- Will monitor and administer acknowledgement forms

Clubs:

- Advise Provincial Unions of players aged under 18 years at 1 January who wish to play senior rugby