



2021 Junior Club Rugby

RULES AND REGULATIONS

**POVERTY BAY RUGBY
FOOTBALL UNION**

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OVERVIEW

- These regulations shall apply to all players in all competitions within the PBRFU region or teams from other regions which may join the PBRFU JAB competition and apply to Under 13 age grade and below.
- Teams must be present and punctual every week as required by the competition draw.
- Minimum of one registered Small Blacks coach per team MUST be present and responsible for players each week.
- All players must be registered and play half a game.
- All correspondence and requests from PBRFU in relation to rugby are to be actioned and/or responded to promptly.
- Clubs and participants must adhere to competition rules and regulations.
- For further information please contact your Club JAB Delegate for the correct process and procedures.

1.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS

These regulations shall apply to all players in all competitions within the PBRFU region, or in teams from other regions that participate in PBRFU competitions.

- 1.1. The control and management of all competitions shall be vested in the Junior Advisory Board (JAB) in accordance with directions of the PBRFU Board. The JAB has discretion to manage the PBRFU competitions in a manner that is consistent with the objectives of the PBRFU and the NZRU.
- 1.2. JAB may request, from time to time, that Clubs assist with the running of any facet of rugby in Poverty Bay.
- 1.3. Non-competitive matches and matches against teams from outside the Union are under the jurisdiction of the PBRFU and its disciplinary rules. The PBRFU must be notified in writing before such matches can take place.
- 1.4. No player or person currently suspended by PBRFU may take part in any match or officiate in any capacity.

2.0 GRADES

- 2.1 Each Club shall be required to notify the PBRFU in writing regarding team entries in the various grades within the time specified.
- 2.2 The final compositions of grades shall be at the discretion of the JAB.
- 2.3 The JAB shall have the power to accept further entries during the season if, in its opinion, it is expedient to do so.
- 2.4 The JAB will have the power to increase or reduce the number of grades and to form, or discontinue, sections in any grade whenever the occasion arises.
- 2.5 Where grades refer to age limits, eligibility will be determined as at 1 January in each year.
- 2.6 JAB or PBRFU may require proof of age with registration of a player or at any other time during the season.
- 2.7 Where grades refer to weight limits, players will be weighed prior to playing by PBRFU.
- 2.8 Grades will follow the formats as listed below. All ages recognised as at **1 Jan 2021**.

Grade	Year of Birth	Playing	Game	Field Size	Number on field	Ball Size	Age as at 1 st Jan 2021
U6	born 2015	Rippa /boots	2 x 20 mins	½	7	2½	5 years old
U7	born 2014	Rippa /boots	2 x 20 mins	½	7	2½	6 years old
U8	born 2013	Tackle / boots	2 x 25 mins	½	10	3	7 years old
U9	born 2012	Tackle / boots	2 x 25 mins	½	10	3	8 years old
U10	born 2011	Tackle / boots	2 x 25 mins	½	10	3	9 years old
U11	born 2010	Tackle / boots	2 x 25 mins	½	10	3	10 years old
U12	born 2009	Tackle / boots	2 x 30mins	Full	15	4	11 years old
U13	born 2008	Tackle / boots	2 x 30 mins	Full	15	4	12 years old

3.0 ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Club & School Responsibility

- a) It is the club/school's responsibility to ensure eligibility of their players.
- b) It is the club/school's responsibility to ensure that all coaches, or anyone filling that position, has completed the relevant annual coaching course and are a registered coach.

3.2 Coaches

All coaches, or anyone fulfilling that role as a stand in, must have a relevant current year coaching registration.

3.3 Player Registration

- a) All players must have completed the annual NZR player registration procedure and be registered to the club or school they are playing for.
- b) Additional registrations must be received by PBRFU by 5pm on the day prior to their first game.

3.4 Player Transfers

- a) In case of being registered to more than one club, a player is deemed to be a member of a club once one game has been played for that club.
- b) Player transfers require the permission of the JAB and No transfers will be permitted after the 4th week of the competition except in exceptional circumstances.
- c) Once a player is registered to a team within a club they must remain with that team for the season unless that team has disbanded or the player moves to a different grade, except where there is prior approval of the JAB Committee.
- d) In the case of exceptional circumstances (as in clause c and d), applications must be submitted via the Club Delegate to the JAB Committee for consideration.

3.5 Verified Team List (VTL) Competition Grades only **(Note: No Competition Grades in U6-U13 in 2021)**

- a) Each player must be included in the verified squad list and team photo which is submitted to, and certified by, PBRFU prior to the season commencing.
- b) VTL to include name and date of birth. Weight to be included for those in the restricted grade. Weight will be verified by PBRFU.
- c) PBRFU will provide a copy of this list and photo to all other teams in the relevant competition.
- d) Prior to kick off (15 mins) team officials should meet and view opposing verified team list and team photo, and discuss any matters that may need clarifying.
- e) Players joining the team after the VTL has been submitted must have their photo and details added to the verified team list and the list to be resubmitted to the Union Office.

3.6 Dispensations

- a) Dispensations will be allowed under NZ Rugby Policy 04 Dispensations which states dispensations may be allowed in grades U19 and below. Please contact your club JAB delegate for information of the required process.
- b) High school students who are eligible to play for a club due to age must have a release form completed by their high school and submitted to the Union prior to playing. Failure to do this makes them ineligible to play.

4.0 HALF GAME & MAXIMUM PLAYING TIME

- 4.1 Each team coach/manager MUST ensure each player receives at least a half a game each week. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action. This is a New Zealand Rugby Union directive (NZR Policy06 Half Game Rule).
- 4.2 Players will be swapped at ½ time only or at ¼ time at a stoppage by the referee (no rolling subs).
- 4.3 No game should continue for longer than 70 minutes.
- 4.4 Players must not play more than a combined total of 90 minutes per day.

5.0 TEAM DEFAULTS AND DEFERRED GAMES

- 5.1 Defaults must be notified to PBRFU and the opposing team coach no later than 5pm on the day prior to the game.
- 5.2 Games may be deferred by agreement however must be played within the week of the original fixture date. PBRFU must be notified.
- 5.3 Any deferred games not able to be played in this time frame will be counted as a default by the team who requested the deferment. If both teams had required to defer their game, the fixture will be counted as a draw.

6.0 PLAYER APPAREL & EQUIPMENT

- 6.1 No mouth guard, no game. Mouthguards are compulsory at all levels.
- 6.2 All players in all grades will play in rugby boots. U6-U9 may wear sandshoes or bare feet.

- 6.3 Competitive grades must play in club strip. Numbered jerseys are required for all competition grades to allow easier identification of players for the referees and other teams. (This is already a rule but needs to be enforced.)

7.0 WEEKLY RESULTS AND TEAM SHEETS

- 7.1 Coaches and/or team management participating in **U11, U12 and U13 grades** must complete accurate team sheets (provided by PBRFU) on a weekly basis which must be available for perusal by opposition team management.
- 7.2 Team lists must include full names and points scored.
- 7.3 Team sheets should be signed off by the referee and opposing coach/team manager.
- 7.4 It is the responsibility of each team Coach/Manager to ensure the Team Sheet is submitted to PBRFU by the Monday following the game.
- 7.5 In competition grades; failure to submit the teamsheet will mean points will not be allocated to the team.

8.0 COMPETITION FORMAT

- 8.1 The format for all grades will be confirmed for the main season as soon as entries are finalised, in a round robin format.
- 8.2 Under 6 to Under 13 do not keep results or have a championship table therefore no finals are necessary.

9.0 POINTS

Points and bonus points in **competition grades** will be awarded throughout the season as follows:

Win = 4 pts / Draw = 2 pts / 4+ tries = 1BP / Loss by 7 and under = 1BP / WBD = 5 pts

No results = No points

10.0 SCORE BLOWOUTS

If a team is leading by 30+ points at half time, points for the win are taken but then coaches must take steps to even up the second half by either:

- Subbing off key players
- Giving away wind advantage
- Weaker team restarts with a tap and pass, rather than kick

*Please note that Points For and Against are not a factor in deciding standings table placing in competitive grades.

11.0 HAKA

- 11.1 If a team or teams are to perform Haka they must not go beyond the 10 metre line on their side of the half way line throughout the duration of the challenge.
- 11.2 The opposing team remains behind the 10m line in their half, thereby maintaining a minimum distance of 20 metres between the two challenging teams at all times.
- 11.3 This includes Haka performed immediately at the end of the game and the minimum distance rule between teams is to be observed.

12.0 FINALS ELIGIBILITY, FORMAT AND RULES

- 12.1 To be eligible to participate in play-off matches (semis and finals), players must have played and been listed on a team sheet in a minimum of three (3) competition games for that club/school in the current season.
- 12.2 The half game rule still applies.
- 12.3 If any team is found to be in breach of the player eligibility the team shall be disqualified.

12.4 Semi Finals

- a) Play must not continue for longer than 70 minutes in total.
- b) In the case of a draw between teams at the end of the round robin, the team which won the last fixture between the 2 teams will have a higher position on the standings table.
- c) Top 4 will play off in a knock-out semi-final format: 1 v 4, 2 v 3. Winners progress to finals.
- d) Bottom 4 will follow the same format if team numbers allow.
- e) A maximum of 22 players for Under 12 and Under 13 grades are permitted, for semis and finals games.
- f) A team list of players in semis and finals must be handed in to the Union office no later than the Thursday of the week of semi-final matches.
- h) In the case of a drawn semi-final the team with highest ranking at the completion of the round robin will progress to the final.

12.5 Finals

- a) The same rules as in Semi-Finals for each grade will apply on finals day except in the case of scores being tied at the completion of normal time. In such a case 5 minutes extra time each way will be played. If scores are still tied at the completion of extra time the trophy will be shared.
- b) Play must not continue longer than 70 minutes total.

13.0 PENALTIES

Clubs/teams who fail to comply with any of the outlined JAB criteria, rules and regulations and eligibility requirements will be subject to the listed disciplinary actions on a case by case basis:

- Team and club warning
- Forfeit points from game (Competition grades) or written warning (U6-U13 grades)
- One-week suspension of team
- Coach suspended for rest of season. New coach must have completed relevant coaching courses specific to that grade.

14.0 Disputes & Complaints

- 14.1 All incidents/complaints referred to the JAB Committee must come from the Club Delegate.
- 14.2 Minor incidents/complaints should be handled by the Club Delegates of the clubs concerned.
- 14.3 If the problem is unable to be resolved between delegates or is of a very serious nature, the matter is to be referred to the Union office within 48 hours.
- 14.4 The Union office may take action if the complaint has been received from a member of the public.
- 14.5 The Union office will investigate such a complaint and then in consultation with the JAB Committee decide on appropriate action which may be a letter of caution, a penalty or proceed to a hearing before the PBRFU Judicial Committee.
- 14.6 Disciplinary action requiring Union involvement will revert to rules and proceedings as per NZRU Disciplinary Rules "The Black Book".

15.0 Appeal

- 15.1 If a complainant (person or club) feels that their complaint has not been given due consideration or feel that they have been unfairly treated in the matter, they may appeal with all supporting evidence to the JAB Committee.
- 15.2 Appeals against the decision of the JAB Committee may be made in accordance with the policies of the PBRFU, to the PBRFU.
- 15.3 The JAB Committee reserves the right to forward any complaint to the PBRFU Judicial Committee.

ANY OF THESE RULES MAY BE UPDATED AND CHANGED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE JAB COMMITTEE.

16.0 PLAYING CRITERIA FOR SATURDAY MORNING RUGBY

Age Grade	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	Comments
Length of games	2 x 20	2 x 20	2 x 25	2 x 25	2 x 25	2 x 25	2 x 30	2 x 30	These are maximums. All players MUST play at least half a game each or LBD.
Ball Size	2 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3	3	4	4	Balls are colour coded for each size. 2 1/2 = orange, 3 = blue, 4 = green.
Numbers of players	7	7	10	10	10	10	15	15	These are maximums. Balancing player numbers and ability is encouraged. Game-On applies.
Field Size	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	Full	Full	15s must be full field. 1/2 = goal to 10m (across field) - portable goal posts are required. Full size posts on one touchline need to have bolsters on them.
Try (points)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	Score blowouts have a detrimental effect on both teams. If score blowouts occur i.e; 30+ @ halftime, points awarded for the game, then coaches MUST take steps to even up game.
Conversion (points)	-	-	0	0	0	0	2	2	U8 - U11 conversion taken from in front of posts, drop goal or punt. Points don't count. U12-U13 conversions are not to be taken further out than the 15m line. *
Tackle	Rippa	Rippa	Tackle	Tackle	Tackle	Tackle	Tackle	Tackle	At U8 players will start playing tackle rugby. Tackles must be below the nipple. Fending can begin at U9 grade. (All U8 & older must have attended a Tackle Clinic).
Fending	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Scrum (players)	No	No	5	5	5	5	6-8	8	Contest and pushing only at U12 & U13. The push is limited to 1.5 metre maximum. Safety is paramount. Game-On applies.
Lineout (players)	No	No	5	5	5	5	8	8	Lineouts can be contested from U11. There is to be no lineout lifting at any level.
Kick off	Tap & pass	Tap & pass	Tap & pass	Punt or drop-kick by scoring side	Punt or drop-kick by scoring side	Punt or drop-kick by scoring side	Normal	Normal	At U11 and below, kick offs to be rotated through all players.
Penalty	Tap & pass	Tap & pass	Tap & pass	Tap & pass	Tap & pass	Tap & pass	Normal	Normal	
Kicking	No	No	Discouraged	Discouraged	Discouraged	Discouraged	Yes	Yes	
Learning Referee	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

*Conversions: In all tournament games conversions are to be taken from the point perpendicular to the point where the try is scored.

17.0 DISPENSATION GUIDELINES

- 17.1 Application for a dispensation must be made on the official application form. This can be supported by a brief letter from the parent/guardian/caregiver along with supporting official medical information, where applicable.
- 17.2 The purpose of dispensations is to allow players, who will be adversely affected by playing in the correct grade for their age, to be re-graded to play in a lower grade.
- 17.3 Each dispensation will be determined on an individual basis. Factors the JAB dispensation group will take into consideration are:
- a) **Primary Factors** (Players must meet one of the primary factors).
 - Safety/Risk of injury
 - Medical reasons
 - Exceptional circumstances
 - b) **Secondary Factors.**
 - No impact on the grade
 - No other team to play for
 - Without this player not enough numbers to make a team
- 17.4 The application form (plus any supporting information) is to be submitted to the JAB Club delegate, who will forward to the JAB Dispensation Group.
- a) The application will be considered by the JAB Dispensation Group.
 - b) If the application is successful a "Dispensation subject to viewing" is granted, until the applicant is viewed.
 - c) A final decision will be given.
- 17.5 A player for whom a dispensation "subject to viewing" has been given, can play in the proposed grade/team until viewed. This player must be viewed within 7 days of application if possible.
- 17.6 All clubs will be notified of all dispensated players and the team and grade that they play in. That player must be clearly identified in weekly Teamsheets for U11-U13 participation grades in 2021. If it's a competition grade they must be clearly identified in the verified team list and photo.
- 17.7 Players who are sufficiently skilled and considered capable of playing in their grade will not be granted dispensation.
- 17.8 Players that have their dispensation declined and have no team to play for at the club of choice have the option of playing at another club in the correct grade.

Notes

- 1) No dispensations will be granted after the third week of competition (22nd May 2021), all applications for dispensation must be made before this date. Only under exceptional circumstances may applications be submitted after this date.
- 2) Applicants have the right to appeal the decision made by the JAB dispensation group to the PBRFU.
- 3) Teams can only play three dispensated players on the field at the same time.

18.0 DISPENSATION FORM

Parent or guardian to complete:

Date: _____

Players details

First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Phone: _____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / _____

Club: _____ School: _____

Has this player been re-graded before? Yes No

Please state this player's previous playing experience: _____ grade/years

Name of person completing this form: _____

According to the PBRFU JAB Grading Policy, which grade should this player be participating in this season? Under: _____

What Grade do you seek this player be re-graded to? Under: _____

On what grounds is the re-grade sought (please attach any supporting information): _____

JAB Dispensation Group Decision: Approved (Subject to Viewing) / Not Approved/ Final Approval

Subject to: _____

Letter sent: _____ Approved (Subject to Viewing) / Not Approved/Final Approval

Follow up letter sent: _____ Final Approval / Not Approved

Signed: _____ Date _____

Any queries please contact Christine McInnes / Karen Bryant.

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FINAL APPROVAL: YES / NO