



RULES AND BY-LAWS

OF

CENTRAL NORTHERN RUGBY

UNION INCORPORATED.

ABN 54 119 978 315

Updated 13/10/2019

RULES

1. The name of the Union shall be the "Central Northern Rugby Union Incorporated" (hereinafter referred to as CNRU) being the Central Northern Zone of Country Rugby Union of New South Wales.
2. The CNRU shall affiliate with the Country Rugby Union of New South Wales (NSWCRU) and, shall adopt the Laws of the game of Rugby Union Football as laid down by the Australian Rugby Football Union (Rugby Australia) together with the International Rugby Football Board (World Rugby). (known as the Governing Bodies).
3. The Union shall also adopt the Rules as to the professionalism of such Unions with additions and variation to the Laws as may from time to time be made. Upon receipt of any such additions or alterations to the Rules the Secretary of CNRU shall advise all Member Clubs of the changes and any such changes shall be operative upon the date notified to Clubs by the Secretary.
 - 4.1 Every Club formed for the purposes of playing the game of Rugby Union and which is presently admitted to membership of the Union shall continue to comply with the provisions of this Constitution, notwithstanding that subsequent to admission to membership, the Constitution is from time to time amended
 - 4.2 Every club admitted to membership under this Constitution shall be entitled to representation on the Management Committee of the Union in accordance with these Rules.
 - 4.3 No Club presently admitted to membership or admitted subsequent to the adoption of these Rules shall permit its members to share in the profits of the Club.
 - 4.4 All Clubs presently with membership, shall if so required, from time to time, submit to the Union a copy of its current Constitution.
 - 4.5 All Clubs admitted to membership of the Union must be Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984 (NSW) as amended, or Act so replacing such legislation, or be incorporated without share holdings under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cwlth).
 - 4.6 At the time of adoption of these Rules (as amended) the Union has admitted to membership the following Clubs; namely Barraba Rugby Club from Barraba; Gunnedah Rugby Club from Gunnedah; Inverell Rugby Club from Inverell; Moree Rugby Club from Moree; Narrabri Rugby Club from Narrabri; Pirates Rugby Club from Tamworth; Quirindi Rugby Club from Quirindi; Tamworth Rugby Club from Tamworth; and Walcha Rugby Club from Walcha.
 - 4.7 The admission of further Clubs to the Union, in achieving the aim of fostering the game of Rugby, is totally at the discretion of the Union and is subject to the satisfaction of criteria, so determined from time to time, include:

- (a) The applicant Club, submitting for the approval of the Union, a copy of its current registered Constitution, as is required under Rule 4.5 hereof;
- (b) The applicant Club, providing such evidence as might be determined by the Union or its Executive, to satisfy that the Club is currently trading and profitable; has financial support and sponsorship, which in the sole opinion of the Union, is sufficient to enable the Club to meet its financial obligations to the Union, from time to time; the Club has the use of, whether exclusive or otherwise, of a suitable secured home ground, enabling the Club to control and charge admission thereto; has suitable on facility change rooms and service amenities, including the capacity to provide indoor after match functions; access to a second playing facility (wether adjacent to its main facility or otherwise); is capable of registering on application and thereafter, from year to year, not less than three (3) teams within the Club, comprising, First Grade, Reserve Grade and either Under 19 or Under 17 team.
- (c) The applicant Club satisfying the Union, that its proposed admission to membership of the Union, will not detrimentally impact on any Club, already admitted to the Union. The determination of detrimental impact shall include consideration of player strength and player numbers and of any financial, adverse impact on a Club already admitted to the Union.
- (d) Such other requirements as the Union determines from time to time and as modified from time to time
- (e) The applicant Club once approved for admission, paying such subscriptions, membership fees and charges as the Union determines from time to time,

4.8 The objectives of the Union are to maintain, foster, regulate, co-ordinate and promote the Game of Rugby in the Zone and further control the inter Club football activities within the Zone, including venues, fixtures and match arrangements, both inter-Club and involving Zone representative teams and to control and select Zone Representative teams.

4.9 Clubs within the Union shall, provided there is no impact, in the view of the Union, on the Zone competition, have the right to control visits, to or by relevant Clubs.

- 5.** "Affiliated Bodies" for the purposes of these Rules and By-Laws means and includes: -

All clubs affiliated with CNRU and shall include, Central Northern Junior Rugby Union (CNJRU) and Central Northern Rugby Referee's Association Inc. (CNRRA) and such other body as might by resolution of the Management Committee be admitted as an Affiliated Body.

- 6.** (a) An Annual General Meeting shall be held at the conclusion of each season and fourteen (14) days written notice of such a meeting will be sent to the

Secretaries of all Affiliated Bodies. The Business to be transacted at the Annual General Meeting shall be the presentation of Annual Reports and the Election of all Office Bearers for the ensuing season and including any other competent business as may be provided for in the Rules or that may be considered necessary by the President to ensure the proper functioning of the CNRU and further the President may put any business to the Meeting if requested to do so by two thirds of those present and who are entitled to vote. The Financial Annual Reports shall be presented no later than the General Meeting first held in the year following the financial year.

- (b) Any member of an Affiliated Body may stand for office at a Meeting called for that purpose. Any person seeking Office and is unable to attend the AGM may nominate in writing giving all relevant details as to their suitability for that Office together with an endorsement of a Proposer and Secunder no later than September 30th in the appropriate year, letter of application to go to the CNRU Secretary.
- (c)
 - (i) Notice of a resolution to rescind or amend the Rules and or By-Laws must be given in writing, signed by the Proposer and Secunder to the CNRU Secretary in time to allow fourteen (14) days written notice to be given to the Secretaries of all Affiliated Bodies of the proposed changes.
 - (ii) In respect of the resolution under (c)(i), no such resolution shall be carried unless passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.
 - (iii) However, nothing in this Rule shall prohibit the Executive Committee from rescinding, amending or including a By Law of its own motion without prior written notice to the Affiliated Bodies. Any such action may be subject to further review in General Meeting.
- (d) A quorum at any General Meeting shall be ten (10) which shall include not less than delegates from five (5) member clubs. If a quorum is not present 30 minutes after the appointed time of the meeting the meeting shall be adjourned to such place, date and time as may be determined by those present. Persons entitled to vote as such Annual General, Special General or General Meetings shall be the CNRU President, Senior Vice President; Junior Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Competition Manager and **TWO (2)** Delegates from each Affiliated Body provided that each Club represented is financial and that each member of a Club is financial with that Club and the delegate (if any) of the Life Members appointed under Rule 21(b).
- (e) The Executive may co-opt an individual to temporarily fill a vacancy in any Office until the next Annual General Meeting.
- (f) At all General Meetings the President shall take the Chair and, in his absence a Vice-President; if both are not available the Executive Committee shall elect a temporary Chairman.

(g) Office Bearers to be elected at the AGM are:

1. Patrons
2. President.
3. Senior Vice President.
4. Junior Vice President
5. Secretary.
6. Treasurer.
7. Competition Manager.
8. Zone Publicity Officer.
9. The Judiciary Chairperson
10. Delegates to NSWCRU., CNRRA, CNJRU
11. The Appeals Committee Chairperson
12. The Appeals Committee of four (4)

NOTE: The Executive Committee shall be delegated responsible for the appointment of the following positions as and when required:

- [i] **CNRU Senior Representative Team Manager and Coach/s**
- [ii] **CNRU Colts Representative Team Manager and Coach/s**
- [iii] **CNRU Women Representative Team Manager and Coaches**
- [iv] **CNRU Representative Team Selectors**
- [v] **Other support persons for the above positions as and when required**

7. Should any question or decision as to debate arise that is not provided for herein, the Chairman shall act on the Rules of Debate.
8. The Executive Committee shall consist of the undernoted Office Bearers:

RULE 8 The Executive Committee shall consist of the undernoted office bearers

- i. President
- ii. Senior Vice President
- iii. Junior Vice President
- iv. Secretary
- v. Treasurer
- vi. Competition Manager

- 9.1 A General Meeting shall control all matters pertaining to the football season. It will approve the Draw for the season taking into consideration Venues, dates of rounds, By rounds etc. all matters approved shall be binding on all Affiliated Bodies.
- 9.2 The Executive Committee may control the day to day affairs of the Union between general meetings.
- 9.3 General meetings shall be held not less than four (4) times a year including:
 - (a) February for consideration and adoption of the audited Financial Statements and Balance Sheet.

- (b) At the end of the First Round of the Competition, for the consideration and appointment for the coming season, the positions of: Senior Zone Coach, Under 21 Coach, Under 19 Coach and a maximum of five Selectors.
 - (c) At the end of the Second Round of the Competition.
 - (d) with the Annual General Meeting, and
 - (e) at such other times as may be properly called.
- 10.1** The Judiciary Committee shall consist of one nominated member from each Affiliated Body (to the exclusion of CNJRU) and the Judiciary Chairperson shall be appointed by the Zone at its Annual General Meeting. A Quorum shall three (3) members and shall deal with all matters pertaining to the Laws, Rules and By-Laws and discipline governing the administration of and the playing and controlling of the game of Rugby Union. By-Laws may be approved for the constitution of and the conduct of Judiciary hearings and any appeals Committee Hearings.
- 10.2** Additional temporary members may be appointed from time to time by a decision of all of the President, Vice Presidents and the Judiciary Chairman.
- 10.3** Except as directed by a General Meeting, the Judiciary has control of and responsibility for its own procedures. The Judiciary is not bound by the rules or practice of evidence and can inform itself on any matter in such manner as it considers appropriate. In exercising its functions the Judiciary must conform to the Rules of Natural Justice.
- 11.** The Selectors shall nominate all teams to represent the CNRU in any fixture. The Selectors shall also nominate Trial Teams leading to the nomination of a Central Northern Team for approval and confirmation by the Executive. The Zone Senior Coach shall be the Chairman of Selectors and in all cases of nomination in any Grade shall have a casting vote in the event of dispute.
- 12.** (a) The CNRU Secretary shall, upon receipt of a request in writing signed by the President and Secretary of three (3) Affiliated Bodies convene a General Meeting. Such Meeting will be convened not earlier than fourteen (14) days but no later than twenty-eight (28) days of such notice being received. The notice of this Meeting which shall incorporate a copy of the request from the requisitionists and any other relevant and pertinent material by the Secretary and of which the Secretary has given fourteen (14) days written notice to Affiliated Bodies.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall have the power at any time to call a General Meeting by giving not less than seven (7) days written notice to all Affiliated Clubs and Bodies.
- 13.1** The President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer shall have full power and control over Bank Accounts, subject to such direction as may be given to them by any General Meeting of the Union. All cheques drawn on the Union's Bank Account shall bear the signatures of any two (2) of the Officers Bearers.

- 13.2** The Common Seal of the Union shall be kept in the custody of the Public Officer. The Common Seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the Executive Committee and the affixing of the Common Seal shall be attested by the signatures of two of the Office Bearers.
- 13.3** The Public Officer shall be deemed to have vacated his position in the following circumstances, namely:
- (a) death,
 - (b) resignation,
 - (c) removal by Executive Committee or the Office Bearers at a general meeting.
 - (d) bankruptcy or financial insolvency.
 - (e) residency outside NSW.

When an alteration occurs in the position of Public Officer the Executive Committee shall within fourteen (14) days suitably notify the Department of Fair Trading. The Public Officer may be an Office Bearer, or any other person regarded as suitable for the position and shall be appointed from time to time by the Executive Committee.

- 14.** Annual Grants shall be made by the Management Committee to Affiliated Bodies other than Clubs based on the financial position of the CNRU at that time and taking into account the submissions made to it regarding programs for the new season. When the Grant is approved the amount shall not under any circumstances be exceeded without reference to the Management Committee. No expenditure will be reimbursed beyond the budgeted figure for the period.
- 15.** Affiliation Fees for each Club shall be set at the Annual General Meeting and shall be payable in two equal parts, the first being in the Treasurer's hands by 4pm on the Friday prior to the first competition game and the second by 4pm on the Friday before the commencement of the second round of competition matches.

Failure by any Club for whatever circumstances to pay affiliation fees by the due date will result in the Club being fined \$100 per day until such time that affiliation fees are paid in full.

- 16.** The colours of the Representative uniform of the Central Northern Rugby Union shall be White Jerseys (Badged) Red Shorts and Red Socks White Striped. No other Clubs or Teams may wear CNRU Official Uniform unless approved by CNRU Officials or Selectors.
- 17.** Each Club is required to register with the CNRU its designed colours and the Union shall have the right to deny any Club the right to play whilst not approved.
- 18.** No Member of any Club may play with or against any Clubs disqualified by the CNRU and no Club shall field a player other than a player Registered with that Club.

19. Any club (being an Affiliated Club) or member of such a Club shall have the right to appeal any decision of the Executive Committee or Appeals Committee by appeal to Country Rugby Union.
20. The Financial Year of the Union shall be October 1st to September 30th in the following year, each year.
21. (a) Any Office Bearers or any current or former member of an Affiliated Body may be made a Life Member of the Union by resolution of a General Meeting of the Union following a Notice of Motion tabled at a general meeting not later than the general meeting prior to the general meeting at which the nominee is to be so elected. No person shall be made an Honorary Life Member, except in the case of exceptional or unusual circumstances or meritorious service.
- (b) Life Members may elect from among themselves one Member who shall be entitled to vote at any General Meeting.
- (c) Life Members will be issued a Special Card which enables him or her to obtain entry to all grounds under the auspices of the CNRU free of charge and enjoy any special privileges afforded by Clubs.
- 22.1 The Appeals Committee shall consist of not less than THREE (3) members including the Chairperson to hear any appeal.
- 22.2 Additional Temporary members may be appointed to the Appeals Committee by a decision of all of the President, Vice Presidents and Secretary.
- 22.3 **Deleted.**
- 22.4 The Appeals Committee may confirm, reverse or vary in any manner whatsoever the decision against which the Appeal has been made and may make any Order or Recommendation to give effect to its determination.
- 22.5 Following the decision of the Appeals Committee if a Player wishes to further appeal he will be ineligible to play in the Competition or Zone or higher Representative games until Country Rugby Union has reached a decision on that further appeal.

SECTION TWO

BY-LAWS OF
CENTRAL NORTHERN RUGBY
UNION INCORPORATED

BY-LAWS

1.1 INTERPRETATION

Any term or word defined in the Rules of the Union shall have the same meaning in these By-Laws unless the contrary is expressed.

1.2 DEFINITIONS

“**Club**” means one of the Football Clubs affiliated to the Union.

“**Coaching and Grading Board**” means the Board of the Central Northern Rugby Union Referees Association (CNRRA) who appoint all referees and Touch Judges to matches during a season and by the authority of the Executive of CNRU has been made subject to the control of the Country Rugby Union of NSW Referees Association.

“**Competition**” means any games under the control of the Central Northern Rugby Union Incorporated (CNRU) including Semi Finals, Finals and Grand Finals.

“**Competition Points**” shall be allocated as follows:

- a win 4 points
- a forfeit 4 points
- a draw 2 points
- additional bonus points will be allocated where a side, regardless of whether it wins, where
 - four (4) or more tries are scored by the side in that match - 1 point; and/or
 - the side losing the match by not more than seven (7) points - 1 point.

In the case of a forfeited match five (5) points will be allocated to the non-forfeiting team.

“**Competition Table**” means the ranking in each grade and over all grades determined by the allocation of Competition Points.

“**Junior Club**” means a Junior Rugby Football Club affiliated with any Club within the Union.

“**The Secretary**” means the Honorary Secretary of the Union.

2. LAWS OF THE GAME

Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the game and rulings therein as laid down by World Rugby or Rugby Australia.

3. **THE COMPETITION**

The Competition shall be divided into Grades and formats as determined by the Zone from time to time.

- (a) Teams of the member Clubs shall be eligible to compete in the Competition and to enter a team in each Grade and format and shall be bound by these Rules and By-Laws.
- (b) Each Club may enter an Age team in the competition having mind to the special Rugby Australia Rules for Age based competitions.
- (c) Players playing in the Under 19s and Under 17s competition shall be under nineteen and under seventeen respectively on the 1st January of the playing year and each shall provide proof of age satisfactory to the Zone Recorder.
- (d) All players should be registered with a Central North Rugby Club prior to taking the field and must comply with 5a.

PENALTY. Any winning team contravening this By Law by playing an over age player shall forfeit to the non-offending losing side the points gained in the match and if both participating teams contravene this By Law by playing over age players no points shall be awarded to either team, further this match will not be considered for inclusion in the Club Championship competition as the points scored shall not be recorded.

4. **CONDUCTING THE COMPETITION**

Games in the Competition shall be conducted on such days as may be decided by the General Meeting and shall be carried out in the following manner:-

- a) Two rounds of matches shall be played during the period of the season, on a Home and Away basis ensuring each Club will play all other Clubs.
- b) Position in the Competition Table shall be determined by Competition Points.
- c) In the event of two or more Clubs being equal in the Competition Points for any position in the Competition Table, at the conclusion of the last round, such position shall be determined, on the basis, the Team winning the most Games, (Forfeits not to be taken into account) will be declared the highest placed Team. If the Teams are still equal, the following will determine the placings. Refer By-Law 4(d) for calculations.
 - (i) Ratio of points scored for and against, the Team with the highest ratio of points, for and against, being considered the highest placed Team.
 - (ii) If still equal, the Team scoring the most tries shall be considered the highest placed Team.

- (iii) If still equal, the Team with the less Send Offs or Sin Bin offences, shall be considered the Highest placed Team.
 - (iv) If still equal, by the Toss of a Coin.
- (d) In the event of two teams being equal in Competition Points at the end of the Competition, and one of those teams has gained points by receiving a forfeit, the points scored for and against by the other equal team in the forfeited round shall be disregarded in assessing the total points for and against.
 - (e) In the Competition the four teams leading the Competition shall play off to decide the Premier Team. In the Semi Final Matches the leading team in the Competition Table will play the second placed team (the Major Semi Final) and the third placed team will play the fourth placed team (the Minor Semi Final) in each Grade. The winner of the Major Semi Final will advance directly to the Grand Final whilst the loser will play the winner of the Minor Semi Final in a Final Match. The winner of the Final will proceed to the Grand Final to play the winner of the major Semi Final. The ultimate winner to be declared the Premier Team of the Year.
 - (f) All Final Series matches for Grades other than First Grade shall be played at the same venue as the corresponding First Grade Fixture.
 - (g) In any Semi Final or Final match in First or Reserve Grade if the score be equal at full time a further ten minutes each way will be played. If after this period the scores are still equal the team which occupied the higher position in the Competition at the conclusion of the Competition shall be deemed to have won the match. In any Grand Final match in First and Reserve Grades, if the scores be equal at full time an extra period of ten minutes each way **without an interval** will be played, should the score remain equal, then, **after a five minute interval**, an additional five minutes each way shall be played, during which time the first scorer wins. If after this period the scores are still equal, the participating teams shall be declared joint premiers.
 - (h) In Under 19s and Under 17s and any other age group in the event of scores being equal at full time in Semi Finals, Finals and Grand Finals no additional time may be played where the duration of the game in total would exceed seventy (70) minutes.

In the Under 19s and Under 17s and any other age group where the two sides draw a match in the Semi Finals and Finals the side higher at the completion of the Competition rounds shall be declared the winner.

In the case of the Grand Final for the Under 19s and Under 17s and any other age group if two sides draw at the completion of the game they shall be declared Joint Premiers.

- (i) For all Semi-Finals, Finals and Grand Finals time-off for injury, will be taken for all Grades.

- (j) For Minor and Major Semi Finals the nett proceeds from Gate receipts shall be divided as follows:

Of the total moneys received - 30% thereof will be paid to the host Club of the First Grade team with 10% of the total moneys received being allocated to each participating team for that relevant Minor or Major Semi Final.

- (k) For the Final and Grand Final, the Zone shall receive all Gate takings plus proceeds from the sale of the doubles. The Zone may pay to the Host club written pre approved expenses incurred in staging the Final or Grand Final limited to Ambulance charges, Program printing or other expenses so approved.

5. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

A Player shall not play for any Club if financially indebted to that Club or to the Zone. Financially indebted means if any sum owing remains unpaid thirty days after the date on which the payment was due to be made.

- 5.1 In order to be insured and be eligible to participate in any sanctioned match including trials and competition games, players must be currently registered with a CN club via Rugby Explorer in accordance with RA Registration Regulations. Club officials must also be registered.
- (a) For players registered with a club that is not on RX in the current season, and the player wishes to register with a CN Club, clearance in writing from the previous club must be received by the CN competition manager before the player can play in any competition. It is the responsibility of the new club to obtain the written clearance.
- (a) Except with the express permission of the Executive Committee no player may play for more than one Club in a season. Permission will be given in the case of a player who is transferred to another town within the Zone because of work or other reason.
- (b) Deleted.
- (c) Players wishing to continue to play with another club outside of CN competition cannot play in the CN competition unless they are a full-time student currently studying outside the zone or a member of the Permanent Armed Forces. In both cases the parents or Legal Guardians should reside within the zone.

6. MATCH RESULTS SHEETS.

NOTE: The requirements for completion of match sheets both manual and online will be advised by the competition manager to clubs at the start of each season.

7. COMPETITION CONDITIONS.

GENERAL RULES.

- 7.1 All Clubs with teams participating in the Semi Finals, Finals and Grand Finals shall submit to the Zone Recorder a list of players submitted to be eligible by that Club from which team(s) shall be selected. Such eligibility list is to be provided to the Zone Recorder in writing (with a copy to the relevant opposing Club/s) not later than 5.00 p.m. on the Monday preceding the first Semi Final. The Zone Recorder will then advise the Club if any player/s deemed not eligible to play.

Eligibility for Semi Finals, Finals and Grand Finals.

7.2.1 FIRST GRADE, UNDER NINETEENS AND UNDER SEVENTEENS

A player must have played at least three (3) games in the CNRU Competition in the current season prior to the Finals Series.

7.2.2 "Played" in Clause 7.2.1 includes:

- (a) Where a player participated in a game by representing the Zone, the Province, NSW Country, NSW or higher on a day on which the competition is being played; and
- (b) Where a player in the competition is included on the match result sheet for a team held to have won on a forfeit under By-Law 9(a).
- (c) Where a player of a team that has forfeited participates in a non-competition game on the day of the round, at the home club ground, such participation shall constitute a game for Semi-Final, etc. eligibility test for that player, provided that the non-forfeiting club submits a completed match sheet as though such game was a ground of the competition.

7.3 RESERVE GRADE/UNDER 19S/UNDER 17S.

A player must have:-

- (a) Played three (3) out of his last five (5) games in Reserve grade and played less than 75% of his games in first grade.
- (b) OR played 75% of his games in Reserve Grade, or played at least three (3) games in Reserve grade and not played first grade.
- (c) "Played" in relation to Reserve Grade games referred to in (a) and (b) above means:
 - (i) If a Club wants to qualify a First Grade Player, so that he will qualify under By-Law 7.3 (a) or (b), to enable them to play in Reserve Grade Semi-Final, Final, Grand Final, the following must happen. A player must have been included on the starting team game sheet as a player and in fact commenced playing at the beginning of the game and must complete that Reserve Grade game.

EXCEPTIONS.

- * When a Club's First and Reserve Grade teams are engaged to play on the same day provided that a player has three (3) Competition Matches or, at the discretion of the CNRU Judiciary Committee a player who has played two seasons with a Club and has not played for any other Club since may be eligible to play irrespective of the number of games played in the current season.
- ** When a Club's First and Reserve Grade teams are engaged to play on different days those players not selected to play First Grade may play Reserve Grade and shall be eligible to play in Reserve Grade from then on provided they have played at least three (3) Competition Matches during the current season, and that the Club advises the Zone Recorder the names of the players selected to play in both Grades prior to the first match. Any dissenting Club will refer to the Judiciary Committee for a decision.

7.4 ELIGIBILITY AND COMPETITION RULES FOR THE CENTRAL NORTH SENIOR COLTS COMPETITION.**Definitions.**

Senior Colts means teams of players who are turning 18, 19 or 20 years of age between the 1st January and 31st December (inclusive) in the year of the competition;

Senior Colts senior age dispensation player means those Registered Players granted Age Dispensation who are turning 21 or 22 years of age between the 1st January and 31st December (inclusive) in the year of the competition;

Representative Player means a Registered Player who was nominated or selected to play in a Representative Game, even though they may have subsequently withdrawn due to injury or any other circumstance, in the ARU's Junior Gold, National Gold Squad, NSW Country Under 19s, 20s or 21s, or any other Rugby Australia High Performance Unit squad in the previous two (2) years.

7.4.1 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPETITIONS

- 1.1 To be eligible to play in the Senior Colts Competition, players must turn 20 years or under in the year of Competition.

Despite rule 1.1:

- 1.1.1 if a club has insufficient age specific players to field a side in the Senior Colts competition they will be allowed to apply for players to be granted Senior Colts senior age dispensation

7.4.2 ELIGIBILITY AS A SENIOR COLTS SENIOR AGE DISPENSATION PLAYER

- 2.1 Dispensation may be granted by the Competition Manager to a Registered Player to play in the Senior Colts competition that is below that Registered Player's age as determined in accordance with this Competition Rule.
- 2.2 For a Registered Player to qualify as a Senior Colts senior age dispensation player, he must be turning 21 or 22 years of age between the 1st January and 31st December (inclusive) in the year of the competition.
- 2.3 Players who have played 1st grade in any previous season will be ineligible to participate in the Senior Colts competition as a Senior Colts senior age dispensation player.
- 2.4 Senior Colts senior age dispensation players, who play 1st grade in the current season, even if coming off the bench, will be ineligible to participate any further in the current season Senior Colts competition.
- 2.5 A Representative Player cannot apply for Senior Colts senior age dispensation. If a Registered Player has received Senior Colts senior age dispensation and subsequently becomes a Representative Player, they will no longer be eligible to participate in the Senior Colts competition.
- 2.6 The Senior Colts senior age dispensation is valid only for the season during which it is granted.
- 2.7 Any Team that plays a Registered Player in contravention of this Competition Rule shall be required to show cause to the Competition Manager as to why all Matches of that Team involving the Registered Player should not be deemed to have been forfeited by the Team.

7.4.3 SENIOR COLTS SENIOR AGE DISPENSATION PLAYER PARTICIPATION

- 3.1 The Senior Colts senior age dispensation players must be marked accordingly to recognise their status on the Match Day team sheet.
- 3.2 No more than five (5) Senior Colts senior age dispensation players may be listed on a Match Day team sheet.
- 3.3 Of these players only three (3) may be on the playing field at any one time.
- 3.4 Team numbers on Match Day team sheet will be adjusted according to the total number of Senior Colts senior age dispensation players (max of 5);
 - 4.1 Five (5), team limit of twenty-(21)
 - 4.2 Four (4), team limit of twenty-one (22)
 - 4.3 Three (3), team limit of twenty-two (23)
 - 4.4 Two (2), team limit of twenty-three (24)
 - 4.5 One (1), team limit of twenty-four (25)

7.4.4 TEAM MAKEUPS

- 1 Where a team has fewer than 15 players but at least 10 players, then the match can proceed with a minimum of 5 players in each scrum.
- 2 Numbers in the scrum must always be matched.
- 3 If one team does not have at least 3 qualified front rowers, then uncontested scrums should be allowed.
- 4 Where a team is short of player numbers, the opposition team may if it chooses, commence the game with one extra player.
- 5 Where both teams agree, clubs can share players to enable the game to commence.
- 6 Games must commence within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time.

8 SUBSTITUTION DURING PLAY.

8.1 Substitutions and replacements during play

- a) Rolling substitutions, with a maximum of 12 movements are allowed for all U19 rugby aged U15 and above.
- b) Rolling substitutions, with a maximum of 8 movements are allowed for all senior rugby, except for 2nd grade and any lower grade, the maximum number will be 12.

In Central North a maximum of 23 players can be nominated for 1st Grade teams and 27 players can be nominated for 2nd grade and any other grade falling below 2nd grade.

8.2 Mechanisms to Discourage Uncontested Scrums

When 23 players are nominated in a team there must be sufficient front row players to play at hooker, tight-head prop and loose-head prop who are suitably trained and experienced to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement in each front row position is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.

Should a team not be able to meet this obligation for any reason during a game, or should a team not have three suitably trained front row players to commence a game with contested scrums, then the team concerned must play with one player fewer than would otherwise be allowed.

If, subsequently, a qualified front rower becomes available so that scrums can be contested then that player will be allowed onto the field and the team may return to the appropriate complement of players.

If neither team has suitably trained front row players to start a game with contested scrums, the above arrangements do not apply to the game, even if qualified front rowers subsequently become available.

- 8.3 The above (8.2) also applies to all senior grades in CNRU where more than 23 players are nominated.

Note: Clubs are reminded of World Rugby Laws for injured players

Law 3.21

A player may be replaced if injured. An injured player may not return once replaced.

Law 3.22

A player is deemed to be injured if:

- a) At national representative level, it is the opinion of a doctor that it would be inadvisable for the player to continue.
- b) In other matches, where a match organiser has given explicit permission, it is the opinion of a medically trained person that it would be inadvisable for the player to continue. If none is present, that player may be replaced if the referee agrees.
- c) The referee decides (with or without medical advice) that it would be inadvisable for the player to continue. The referee orders that player to leave the playing area.

Law 3.23

The referee may also order an injured player to leave the playing area to be medically examined.

By way of clarification clubs are advised that if a player leaves the field of play to seek medical attention for an injury and is replaced, or is injured on the field of play and is medically assessed on the field as being injured and unable to play and is replaced, that player may not for any reason return to the field of play in any match or subsequent matches played on that day.

Any replaced injured player who does return to the field will be asked to leave the field by the referee and if he/she refuses to leave the field he/she may be sanctioned in accordance with the Central North By-law 35 - Penalties Generally and/or any other penalty provided under the Laws of Rugby including receiving a Red Card).

- 8.4 It is permissible for a First-Grade side in the Finals Series to play a Replacement Player who may not have taken part in any other game that day provided he has played a minimum of three (3) games for his Club, in that season.
- 8.5 Any Club contravening any section of this By-Law shall be liable for disqualification, fine or suspension for such time or amount as the Judiciary may seem appropriate.

The concerned Club may lose a match in which an offending player takes part and the player suspended for such time as the Judiciary Committee may decide.

9. FORFEITS

- (a) A Match forfeited by a Club shall be regarded as having been won by the opposing Club on the day on which the match but for such forfeit, would have taken place.

The match however shall be declared null and void and no points awarded to either team if the Club receiving a forfeit in any Grade and has not lodged with the Zone Recorder a Match Result Sheet as provided for in By-Law 6

containing the names and registration numbers of those players who would have taken the field had the match been played.

- (b) In the case of a Club withdrawing from the Competition the Competition Points shall be retained for the Competition Table but the points for and against in games against the withdrawn Club shall be disregarded.
- (c) Any Club which fails to carry out Fixtures shall be held liable for any expenses incurred by its opposition, referees and touch judges, for the match or matches unless its failure to play is satisfactorily explained to the Judiciary each team of a Club shall be regarded as a separate Club.
- (d) PENALTY.
Clubs failing to notify their opposition, the Secretary, and the Secretary of CNRRA of their intention to forfeit a match in any Grade by 9.00 a.m. on the morning of the game shall incur a Fine; the amount to be determined by the Judiciary.

10. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

There shall be a Club Championship, which shall be determined during the season by multiplying the total of Competition Points secured by each team of Five (5) in the case of First Grade, Three (3) in the case of Reserve Grade and Two (2) in the case of Under 19s or Colts and Two (2) in the case of Under 17s and one (1) in the case of Women's 7s. . In the event of two or more Clubs being equal in points at the end of the Competition they shall be declared Joint Champions.

11. PLAYERS' UNIFORMS

Players must appear and play in proper football uniform which consists of Jerseys with sleeves, in the Club's registered colours, together with Football shorts and socks, again in the Club's registered colours and boots and otherwise in compliance with the laws of the Game.

Each playing jersey shall be numbered clearly from 1 - 15 and other consecutive numbers from 15 denoting substitutes. Numbers must be in accordance with position in team.

12. APPOINTMENT OF REFEREES.

A Referee shall be appointed for each Match by the Coaching and Grading Board or failing that appointment, the Secretary of the home Club.

- (a) In the event of the Referee so appointed not attending prior to fifteen (15) minutes before the time set down for the game to commence, a Referee shall be appointed who is acceptable to both team captains. Failing agreement by the captains, the participating Club Secretary in conjunction with the team Captains shall decide the matter. If however the appointed Referee does eventually appear he shall take over from the agreed substitute.

- (b) In the case of any injury to an appointed Referee preventing him from taking any further part in the Match By-Law 12(a) will similarly apply, in general in the event of an official referee either not turning up for any other reason and the Match cannot continue By-Law 12(a) will apply in all cases.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

NOTE: Central Northern Rugby will comply with the Rugby Australia Disciplinary Procedures.

21. EXECUTIVE POWERS.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend any Club, whose player and/or Club, fails to comply with any penalty imposed on them, (provided that the Player's Club has been notified of any decision in either Judiciary or Appeals hearings) there shall be power to suspend a Club whether or not members of the Club's Executive Committee and Team(s) Coaches are aware of the Player's failure to comply with any penalty imposed on him pursuant to the provisions contained herein.

22. INHERENT POWERS.

The Judiciary Committee has power, acting on its own accord or at the direction of the Executive Committee to investigate and deal with breaches of these By-Laws, the Rules, or of the Laws of the Game of Rugby.

23. COMMENCEMENT TIMES OF MATCHES.

Matches shall commence at such time as may be directed by the Executive Committee or failing such direction by the Secretary. Any Club not prepared to commence a Match within fifteen (15) minutes of the time officially directed shall forfeit the Match, and the offending Club shall be liable to a fine; the amount to be determined by the Judiciary unless satisfactory reasons for the delay are given to the Judiciary.

24. COMMENCEMENT OF AND DURATION OF MATCHES.

- 24.1 The Competition Manager will schedule commencement and duration of matches at the Preseason meeting. This will be done in accordance with Rugby Australia requirements.

Note: A minimum of 12 players are required on the field in each 1st Grade and reserve grade before a match can commence. In the case of colts and age grade matches a minimum of 10 players per side is required. In both cases there is no requirement for teams to match numbers unless this is agreed by both teams prior to the commencement of the match.

24.2 Starting times for the Semi Finals, Finals and Grand Finals shall be determined at the August General Meeting.

24.3 Competition Matches - but not Semi Finals, Finals and Grand Finals.

- (a) First Grade: Time shall be taken into account for injuries in First Grade at all times and the duration of a First Grade match shall be forty (40) minutes each way.
- (b) Reserve Grade: For maximum duration thirty-five (35) minutes each way - no time off for injury.
- (c) Under 19s: Maximum duration thirty-five (35) minutes each way - no time off for injury.
- (d) Under 17s - Maximum duration thirty (30) minutes each way - no time off for injury.

24.4 Match Durations - Semi Finals, Final and Grand Finals.

- (a) First and Reserve Grade - In the event of a draw at the end of ordinary time, extra period of time of ten (10) minutes each way shall be played. In the event that the two competing teams are still drawn at the end of such extra time, the team higher on the table at the end of the ordinary competition rounds shall be declared the winner in respect of the Semi Finals and Final but in respect of the Grand Final, in First and Reserve Grades, if the scores be equal at full time an extra period of ten minutes each way **without an interval** will be played, should the score remain equal, then, **after a five minute interval**, an additional five minutes each way shall be played, during which time the first scorer wins. If after this period the scores are still equal, the participating teams shall be declared joint premiers.
- (b) Under 19s - no extra time is to be played in the event of a drawn score, and in such case in the Semi Finals and Finals the team higher on the competition table at the end of the ordinary rounds will be declared the winner and in case of the Grand Final, the two competing teams will be declared Joint Premiers.
- (c) Under 17s - If at the end of ordinary time the scores are level, extra time of five (5) minutes each way shall be played. If at the end of such first period of extra time the scores are still drawn no extra time shall be played. In respect of Semi Finals and Finals the team higher on the competition table in the ordinary competition rounds will be declared the winner and in respect of the Grand Final the two teams will be declared joint premiers.
- (d) All players should be registered with a Central North Rugby Club prior to taking the field and must comply with 5a.

25. ALLOTMENT OF GROUNDS AND DEFERRAL

Matches shall be played upon such Grounds as may be directed by the Executive Committee or, failing such direction, by the Secretary. The Executive Committee may disapprove of any Ground and direct a Match appointed to be played at another venue. Where there arises a difficulty as to whether a game can be played because of adverse ground conditions, or that access and egress to that grounds is limited or impossible the respective Club Presidents shall make a decision as to venue or the deferral of the Matches and inform all teams by 9.00 a.m. on the day of the match. In the case of dispute, the Zone President shall make the decision.

26. APPOINTMENT OF TIMEKEEPERS

For all matches Timekeepers shall be appointed, by the home Club who shall in conjunction with the Referee keep a record of the time of commencement and interruptions to play and shall give an appropriate signal to the Referee as an indication that the time for each period of play has expired, it should be noted however that the Referee is the sole arbiter of time during the Match.

27. GROUND ARRANGEMENTS FOR MATCHES.

It is now mandatory that all Clubs have in attendance at all matches qualified medical First Aid personnel and otherwise comply with Safety Directions of RUGBY AUSTRALIA and have available for use a "Jordan Frame". Serious implications could arise for any Club who do not provide these facilities.

- 27.1 The "Home" Club shall be responsible for the proper marking of the ground which shall comply with marking as set out in the Laws of the Game.
- 27.2 the "Home" Club shall be responsible for the accurate and legible display of the score during Match progress.
- 27.3 The "Home" Club must provide a bell or other appropriate signal medium for use by timekeepers and Touch Line Flags for Touch Judges.
- 27.4 The "Home" Club is to provide three (3) Match balls in good condition for all Grades and complying with the Laws of the Game.
- 27.5 In the case of any dispute the Management Committee or the Secretary shall decide which Club is to be considered the "Home" Club.
- 27.6 Any objection by any team arising in this connection (27.1) must be made prior to Kick-Off.
- 27.7 All Clubs hosting Semi Finals, Finals and Grand Finals must provide adequate toilet, refreshment and bar facilities as required and in compliance with the standards of the local Health Authority.
- 27.8 All Clubs hosting Grand Finals must provide hospitality tents for at least two (2) of the CNRU major sponsors as advised to the Club by the President and must provide, at the host Club's expense, food & beverage to a maximum of \$1,000:00.

- 27.9 Any breach of this By-Law may result in a fine being imposed on the offending Club.

28. APPOINTMENT OF TOUCH JUDGES AND BALL BOYS

In Under 17s, Under 19s and Reserve Grade Matches (except in the Semi Finals, Finals and Grand Finals) qualified Touch Judges shall be appointed by the Home Club; a visiting Club shall be entitled to appoint one of the Touch Judges in these games. In First Grade, Touch Judges appointed by the CNRRA shall be preferred for Competition Matches and the Finals Series in all Grades. At all times Touch Judges Gear must be distinguishable from the playing colours of both teams of the day.

29. In Club Matches controlled by CNRU not more than three (3) representatives of each Team and each Team Coach shall be permitted to enter the playing area at half time. This Rule will be strictly enforced.

30. REPRESENTATIVE FIXTURES

All Applications for Representative Matches must be made through the Zone.

- 30.1 A Player selected for CNRU or other representative team shall not play for his Club during the period the representative teams are engaged. If the representative game falls on a Bye weekend and the Player makes himself unavailable for that representative fixture, he must stand down from the next competition game unless excused by the Executive Committee and the Zone Coach or Coaches.

- 30.2.1 Notwithstanding arrangements to the contrary between any player and his Club in respect to duties and obligations to that Club, all players are eligible to represent the Zone.

- 30.2.2 If a player and/or his Club is approached by the Zone for a player to trial or to train for or to represent the Zone, the player must make himself available for such trialling, training and/or representation unless he be previously excused by the Executive Committee or Coach or Coaches of the relevant team.

- 30.3 When the Zone Representative team is engaged to play within the Zone Boundaries on a Saturday, all Club Competition Games shall be played on a Sunday and when the Zone Representative Team is engaged to play outside the Zone on a Saturday all Competition games shall be played on the Saturday unless by mutual agreement Clubs may wish to play on the Sunday.

31. There shall be a Central Northern Junior Rugby Union Committee who shall administer all Representative Teams and all matters relating to Junior Rugby Union, such Committee shall be affiliated to the Zone but shall be autonomous and will report to the Zone's General Meeting.

32. Any fines imposed by the Judiciary or Appeals Committee on a Club or Player shall be paid within thirty (30) days to the Treasurer or Secretary. Failure to

comply with this By Law will cause an offending Club or Player to be suspended from the Zone. Any fines outstanding after thirty (30) days shall be collected in the same light as outstanding affiliation fees and shall be dealt with as such in accord with the Rules.

33. The Union will stringently control the mandatory RUGBY AUSTRALIA Regulations governing tours abroad and tours to Australia by teams from abroad without seeking and completing the appropriate forms obtaining from the Zone Secretary and giving the RUGBY AUSTRALIA the requisite four (4) months notice of intent. Forms will be then submitted to the Zone, who then refer them to Country Rugby Union and then to RUGBY AUSTRALIA.
34. Only the Zone Publicity Officer and the President may deal with the media. Clubs and players may discuss their own business with the media but may not discuss Zone business in any way.
35. **PENALTIES GENERALLY**

Unless elsewhere in the constitution, a specific provision is made for a penalty, or sanction on a Player, a Team, a Club, or an affiliate, on a finding of guilty, for any breach of a Rule or By-Law, including the Code of Conduct, the penalty may include any or all of; a fine, a suspension, a loss of points, or expulsion. *NOTE: Only in exceptional circumstances, shall a team suffer, loss of points, for a breach.*

36. Where a club video records a match, a copy of the recording must be made available on request to the opposing team, the Central Northern Referees Association or to the Central Northern Rugby Union. A charge to cover reproduction costs may be made.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Central Northern Rugby Union has adopted the Australian Rugby Union Code of Conduct (as amended) as its code of conduct and which takes precedence over any other Code of Conduct.