

A Guide to Junior & Youth Rugby in SA

1. Competition Rules

The [Competition Rules](#) as issued by the South Australian Rugby Union contain the rules applying to all participants in the game of rugby in South Australia including junior and youth players.

You need to refer to the [Competition Rules](#) when you want to know the rules which apply to junior and youth competitions from the Under 12 to the Under 18 age groups and for the Walla (Under 8) and Mini (Under 10) game in South Australia.

Identification and age compliance rules are covered in the [Competition Rules](#).

2. Conduct and Respect

All participants in Junior Rugby Union matches in South Australia are required to acknowledge that:

- (a) any act which is reasonably likely in all the circumstances to offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate or vilify another participant or a group of participants; and
- (b) which is done because of gender, race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin or sexual preference of the other participant,

will constitute a breach of the Code of Conduct and the Laws of Rugby which apply to the game in South Australia.

Any breach of the Code of Conduct or the Laws of Rugby will not be tolerated and will incur penalties under the disciplinary procedures set out in the [Competition Rules](#).

3. The Junior & Youth Rugby Committee

The Board of the SARU has created a Junior and Youth Rugby Committee (**JYR Committee**).

The JYR Committee has the capacity for swift decision making and providing recommendations with both a long and short term focus.

The JYR Committee has the responsibility for providing direction and administration for all junior and youth rugby in South Australia and for reporting to and making recommendations on junior and youth rugby to the Board of the SARU.

4. Decisions about Junior & Youth Rugby

The JYR Committee's scope of responsibility, supported by the Board of the SARU and the development and administration staff of the SARU, includes:

- (a) policy development for junior and youth rugby;
- (b) junior registrations and junior competition draws;
- (c) recommendations on competition rules specifically related to junior and youth rugby;
- (d) to advise and assist the SARU development officers in the delivery of junior and youth development and recruitment programs;
- (e) coordination of operational aspects associated with junior State representative teams;
- (f) organising and hosting junior tournaments held in Adelaide;
- (g) planning and conduct of junior finals series;
- (h) planning and conduct of the junior competition season;
- (i) convening and facilitating 2 "Junior and Youth Rugby Forums" annually;
- (j) advising on fee structures for junior teams;
- (k) administering financial hardship concessions for State representative players;
- (l) selection and management of State team managers.

5. Periods of play

For the purposes of the [Competition Rules](#) the following are the designated periods of play for Matches in each age grade in the Junior and Youth Competition:

- (m) Under 8 – two (2) periods, each of 15 minutes;
- (n) Under 9, 10, 11 and 12 – two (2) periods, each of 20 minutes;
- (o) Under 13/14 – two (2) periods, each of 25 minutes;
- (p) Under 15/16 – two (2) periods, each of 30 minutes; and
- (q) Under 17/18 – two (2) periods, each of 35 minutes.

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6. Minimum players

For the purposes of the [Competition Rules](#) the following are the designated minimum number of players required for each Team in each age grade in the Junior and Youth Competition:

- (r) Under 9/10: 8 players;
- (s) Under 11/12: 10 players (when playing 12 a side), and 13 players (when playing 15 a side);
- (t) Under 13/14: 13 players;
- (u) Under 15/16: 13 players; and
- (v) Under 17/18: 13 players.

7. Timetable & Conducting Competitions

Junior games will be conducted in accordance with the [Competition Rules](#) and as otherwise determined by the JYR Committee.

The [Competition Rules](#) set out the timetable which applies but some key dates and events are:

- **1 March** – Clubs must advise the JYR Committee of proposed team participation for that year.
- **30 March** – Clubs must confirm team and player numbers to the JYR Committee and provide all the details required by the [Competition Rules](#).
- **Registration Fees** – will be determined each year by the JYR Committee and notified to the Clubs.
- **Assessment** – All Club entries will be dealt with and the players will be graded by the JYR Committee.
- **15 April** – Season playing schedules will be advised to Clubs by the JYR Committee for the competition in that year.

8. Representative Teams

The JYR Committee is not responsible for the selection of State teams or the annual State representative program.

The State teams and the program of games for State representative teams will be determined by the State Coaching Panel (comprising the coaches of all State representative teams as selected and appointed by the SARU).

Rules about player numbers and participation in representative teams are dealt with in the [Competition Rules](#).

9. Dispensation Guidelines

The requirements for player dispensation (*i.e. to play in a higher or lower age group*) are set out in the [Competition Rules](#).

The criteria for making a decision on a request for dispensation will be determined by the JYR Committee but they will have regard to the principles of duty of care and the previous playing experience, age and physical characteristics of the player.

Any player seeking a dispensation may be required to present himself or herself and have their legal guardian appear before the JYR Committee and answer such questions as the Committee may put to them.

Please refer to the two attached forms needed for dispensation requests. Note that a Level 2 Coach must sign the relevant form for the player wishing to play in a higher grade or age group.

(It is recommended that you open these attached forms and save them as separate files.)

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