

OPERATIONAL POLICY



GENERAL INFORMATION*

Lead Area:	RUGBY OPERATIONS
Lead Policy Title:	FINALS ELIGIBILITY POLICY
Date last modified:	15 MARCH 2018

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

- The underpinning philosophy of this process is to ensure each team playing in the finals series is a true reflection of that team throughout the season, as well as allowing players who do not qualify due to injury/illness the opportunity to provide evidence to obtain finals eligibility dispensation.

Policy

- To be eligible to play in the Finals Series players must meet the following criteria:

Ref	Policy	Responsible
1	A player may only play a finals match where the player has played the minimum of 1 third (33.33...%) of matches in a particular grade during the current minor round. This includes all scheduled minor round matches (does not include byes).	Team Manager
1.1	Games played will be recorded from team sheets that have been submitted on a weekly basis.	Team Manager
1.2	Players will be recorded as playing <u>only</u> for the highest team on that day where they were a starting run on player. OR; Should the player only have acted as a reserve they will be <u>only</u> recorded against the highest team that they were a reserve for on that day.	Competition Manager
1.3	Furthermore, for the purpose of Ref 1, any player unable to play for their club due to state, provincial or other representative commitments required under the auspices of the RUSA, will have been deemed to have played a match for the most senior team (applicable to their age group) in their club during the relevant period for which they were unable to play due to those commitments.	Competition Manager
1.4	As per the Co-Joined Clubs Policy, players that play for another club under this policy are eligible to play for the co-joined club in the final series providing they meet the requirements of Finals Eligibility Policy. Clubs will not be able to apply for dispensation due to injury/illness for the inclusion of a player in a final series from a co-joined club.	Team Manager

To be eligible to play in a Particular Senior Grade of the Finals Series players must meet the following criteria (this is also applicable to Clubs who field more than 1 Junior/Youth team within their Club):

Ref	Description of action	Responsible
2	A player may only play a finals match in the grade/team where the player has played at least 50% of their matches during the current minor round. (see ref 1.2) Players may play a finals match in a grade higher than which they played during the current minor rounds.	Club

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2.1	<p>If a club has more than one (1) team playing in the finals series in numerically consecutive grades on the same day, selection of players for those teams is the responsibility of the club proposing to play those players to ensure that they meet the criteria under Ref 1.</p> <p>(1) Premier Grade (2) Premier Reserve (3) Third Grade (4) Division 1 (5) Division 1 Reserve (6) Over 35s</p>	Club
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- Dispensated Players (playing juniors) must meet the following criteria to become eligible for finals:

Ref	Description of action	Responsible
3	<p>A Permanent dispensated player may <u>only</u> play in the finals series for the grade which they have been dispensated up or down to.</p> <p>A standby dispensated player may continue to stand by during finals for the grade to which the individual was dispensated into as a stand by player. However, to ensure a fair and even competition, this 'stand by' individual must have 'stood by' for at least a third (33.33...%) of matches during the minor rounds as either a run on starting player or reserve player.</p> <p>Note: no Junior and Youth Player under the age of 18 is permitted to play for a combined total of greater than ninety (90) minutes in any consecutive twenty four (24) hour period.</p>	Club

Uneven Competition BYE's

- The following will be implemented in circumstances where there is a competition BYE (by design of the Draw) **and** there are a different number of BYE's for teams in the season
- The formula is not used for all BYE's in a season – only when the number of BYE's by teams is different (i.e. to ensure all teams have the same number of BYE's)
- The output of the formula will only be applied to the BYE's in the season which exceed the BYE's all Clubs have (e.g. if 3 Clubs have two BYE's, and all other Club's have one BYE, then the 3 Club's who have the two BYE's will have the output of the formula applied to their second BYE only)
- The output from the formula will only be applied to the relevant BYE's **after** the season is complete (so an average for all For and Against points is included in the formula)

The formula is:

Sum of "For" points across the season / Number of matches played in the season

AND

Sum of "Against" points across the season / Number of matches played in the season

THEN

The output from the above formulas are applied to the applicable BYE(s) and competition points applied as required

If the points "For" are 20 points or more, competition points will be applied including a bonus point (4 tries or more)

Where a player is unable to meet the qualification for eligibility requirements under Ref 1 of this policy due to injury or illness, or was required to play in a higher grade during the

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season due to a player in that grade having suffered an injury or illness the club should follow the procedural step 3.1:

Step	Application to play in the finals series	Responsible
3	<p>Email: info@sarugby.com.au by: 12pm Tuesday 21 August 2018. All clubs competing in finals in both Juniors and Seniors grades will receive an 'Eligibility Spreadsheet'. This will include a breakdown of all players eligible for finals and the grade which they are eligible for.</p> <p>by: 5pm Wednesday 22 August 2018. All Clubs must submit their eligible squad of 23 via Rugby Link, selected from the 'Eligibility Spreadsheet'. Failure to submit a team sheet by the date stated above may result in finals eligibility requests being unable to be considered and/or granted. by: 03:00pm Friday 24 August 2018. Clubs may make their last changes to their submitted Rugby Link Squad and communicate any changes via email.</p>	Club Secretary
3.1	<p>Any application for finals dispensation must be submitted on the <u>Player Finals Dispensation Form</u> to SA Rugby by COB Monday 20 August. Applications will <u>only</u> be considered with supporting documentation issued and signed by a medical professional. A decision to grant a player exemption from the requirements in step 1 is at the absolute discretion of RUSA.</p>	Club
3.2	<p>Members of SARU will meet on Tuesday August 21 to determine the eligibility of all players and reserves for the finals series of all grades and consider any exemptions sought for situations that do not meet the eligibility criteria as stipulated in the Competition Rules.</p>	Finals Eligibility Committee

OTHER INFORMATION:

- The stipulated qualification for finals is based on one third (33.33...%) participation in the minor season.
- A forfeit is still classified as a minor round fixture for the 'non forfeiting team' as long as team sheets are submitted
- No player will be eligible for finals if they are financially indebted to their club or RUSA.

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