



RUGBY UNION BY LAWS



2026

***AIC BY LAWS ARE DEVELOPED IN ADDITION TO
THOSE OF THE STATE AND NATIONAL
GOVERNING BODY, EXCEPT STATED
OTHERWISE. THE BY LAWS ARE REVISED
ANNUALLY.***

AIC RUGBY UNION BY LAWS 2026

RULES PERTAINING TO ALL TEAMS

Clause 1: GRADES

- (a) The Association will cater for as many grades as practically possible from Years 5-Open.
- (b) The follow grades will count for the Rugby Union Aggregate competition:
1st XV, 2nd XV, 3rd XV, 4th XV, 10A, 10B, 9A, 9B, 8A, 8B, 7A, 7B.
- (c) Colleges with extra teams may take the opportunity to fill vacancies left by the Colleges in lower grade competitions. These teams will be eligible for all competition points however only the highest placed team from that particular College should be used for aggregate points where applicable.

Clause 2: COMPETITION POINTS

Win = 2 points Loss = 0 points Draw/Washout = 1 point

Clause 3: SELECTION OF TEAMS AND RESTRICTION ON PLAYERS

- a) Colleges shall select all higher-grade teams before selecting lower grade teams, whether or not the higher grades compete on a particular day.
- b) 'A' players are not to play in lower grade fixtures. Lower grade teams are to act as replacements/substitutions for the next higher team
- c) All teams with the exception of 'A' teams, may have fresh reserves with a maximum of 23 players per team.
- d) Year 5A and 6A teams are permitted to have fresh reserves.
- e) Players in Years 5 - 10 must play in their year level for the calendar season.
- f) The following age and year level framework must apply when selecting teams:

Age Restrictions

Students participating in AIC Rugby must fall within the following age levels in a calendar year. If a student studies in a certain year level he should play in that year level unless he falls out of age groups listed below. If student falls out of the age groups listed, he must play in the age group above. Alternatively, the College could apply for age dispensation for that student to remain with his year level if he qualifies.

Year 5 – turning 10 or 11 years old

Year 6 – turning 11 or 12 years old

Year 7 – turning 12 or 13 years old

Year 8 – turning 13 or 14 years old

Year 9 – turning 14 or 15 years old

Year 10 – turning 15 or 16 years old

Open Rugby – turning 16, 17 or 18 years old (all 16 year old students must have the appropriate age dispensation forms complete in order for them to play in the Opens category, if they do not meet the standards, they fall into the Year 10 category)

- g) The exception to Clauses 3 (e & f) is if a player is selected for the 1st XV and approved for the 2 year window playing age criteria.

Clause 4: NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- a) Year 5 teams shall play with 12 players per team
 b) Year 6 to Open teams shall play with 15 players per team
 c) All games of age 14 Years and Under and below (Year 8 and below) will play with the rolling substitutions that are unlimited in number. All games of age 15 Years and above (Year 9 and above), with the exception of 1st XV, will play with rolling substitutions that are limited to twelve (12) movements.
 d) 1st XV teams will have a maximum of 23 players with eight (8) replacements (no interchange) subject to front row players being available on the bench.
- 23 players permitted if 3 front row reserves available
 - 22 players permitted if 2 front row reserves available
 - 21 players permitted if 1 front row reserve available
 - 20 players permitted if 0 front row reserves available
- Reserves must be identified and included on the First XV team sheet by 10 minutes into the First XV fixture.

Clause 5: FORMAT OF MATCHES

1 st XV	=	35 minutes
2 nd XV	=	30 minutes
Open, Years 6 - 10	=	25 minutes
Year 5	=	20 minutes

- a) Regardless of how much time is left in a particular match, the match following must commence at the prescribed time. The referee of the match following may blow his/her whistle to notify both teams of his/her intention to commence the match and also subtly notify the referee of the match in question that real time, not match time has elapsed.
 b) There shall be a half time interval of five (5) minutes in all games.
 c) Time off for injury shall only be applied in 1st XV games.

Clause 6: MATCH TIMES

The following schedule shall apply where possible.

Home Rugby Schedule (these schedules may vary pending college facilities)

TIME	MAIN OVAL	OVAL 2	OVAL 3
8.00am			
9.00am			
10.00am			9C
11.00am		10C	9B
12.00pm	3 rd XV	9A	10B
1.00pm	2 nd XV	10A	
2.15pm	1 st XV		

Away Rugby Schedule (these schedules may vary pending college facilities)

TIME	MAIN OVAL	OVAL 2	OVAL 3
8:00am	7C	5C	5B
9:00am	7B	8C	5A
10:00am	7A	8B	6B
11:00am	8A	6A	6C
12:00pm			

- Variations to the above schedule are only made when BOTH schools mutually agree to do so. It is the responsibility of the College hosting those games to notify the officially appointed referees of any changes to the schedule.
- All lower grade and/or supplementary matches are to be scheduled around the existing schedules above where possible.

Clause 7: MATCH VENUES

- All "Home" competition games shall be played at the College grounds (or affiliated) and organised by the designated "Home" school as stated in the AIC Draw.
- All "Away" competition games shall be played at the College grounds (or affiliated) and organised by the designated "Away" school as stated in the AIC Draw.
- Match venues are to conform to the minimum requirements as set down in the RA/QRU competition rules.
- Sufficient provision shall be made in all grades to keep spectators at a safe distance from the touchline or outside enclosed grounds.
- Goal post pads shall be provided on each field for all games.
- Spectators are not permitted on the playing arena at half-time or at the completion of games.

Clause 8: REFEREES

- General: All AIC competition games must be refereed by persons who hold a minimum Level 1 qualification from a recognised Referees' Association, unless neither College is able to provide such qualified persons. Provision of referees shall be the responsibility of the home College which may invite the other College it is playing to provide referees for some games.
- QRRR Officials shall be asked to control all 1st XV, 2nd XV, 3rd XV, 10A, 9A, 8A and 7A matches. Colleges may approach the QRRR for additional refereeing requirements if they so desire.
- Student Referees: no student, unless suitably qualified, and unless no person according to Clause 8 (a) above is available, shall be appointed to referee a competition game.
- Coach Referees: in no game shall the coach of either team be the referee unless mutually agreed by the rugby coordinators or Heads of Sport.
- Referees not turning up: where the appointed referee does not turn up within 15 minutes of the agreed starting time of the game (including QRRR referees), or where QRRR referees are unavailable, a mutually agreed person, suitably qualified, by the rugby coordinators or Heads of Sport will be appointed to the match.

Clause 9: ASSISTANT REFEREES

(a) Assistant Referee. QRRR officials may be appointed to act as linesmen for First XV matches. For every other grade, each school shall supply one linesman who shall be correctly dressed and carry at least one flag. College or other unqualified linesmen shall only officiate on ball in and out of play situations and goal kicks.

Clause 10: EQUIPMENT

- a) In every game, teams shall each provide a minimum of one match ball, which conforms to the laws of the game
- b) For Years 5 and 6, a Size 4 shall be used
- c) For Years 7 and above a Size 5 shall be used
- d) For 1st XV matches a minimum of three match balls must be in use. The minimum requirement for AIC 1st XV matches is an ARU approved 4 ply ball, size 5 football

Clause 11: MISCONDUCT

- a) All incidents that result in a Red Card (send-off) must be notified to the AIC EO by 3pm the following Monday. Players that are sent off will automatically receive a one-week suspension, unless otherwise held up via the appeals process. Appeals are to be submitted in writing to the EO within 2 working days and cited by an independent judiciary. The independent judiciary will be made of 3 people as directed by the Management Committee.

Clause 12: RUGBY AUSTRALIA GUIDELINES

The guidelines of competition set by the governing bodies, Rugby AU shall be referred to in AIC competition for 2024, along with any variations. These include:

- 90 minute limit for players U19
- Age Dispensation Policy
- Smart Rugby
- Serious Injury Protocol
- Concussion Management

Rugby Australia guidelines can be accessed via <https://australia.rugby/about/codes-and-policies/all-codes-and-policies>

Clause 13: MEDICAL

First aid staff with a minimum qualification of Advanced Life Support must be in attendance at all fixtures. First aid must be accessible and in close proximity to all ovals where fixtures are being played.

Clause 14: HOSPITALITY

Post-match functions are to be a brief on-field exchange of refreshment and speeches.

Clause 17: WEATHER

- a) If weather causes fields to become dangerous or unplayable, a decision is to be made on the morning of play by the Head of Sport of the home College, with each College taking the responsibility for notifying their own players.
- b) The home College has the responsibility of informing the QRRR and any other appointed officials.

Clause 18: Uncontested Scrums (Only applicable to 7A/8A/9A/10A)

If a team is unable to field a contested scrum, **neither team is permitted** to run backrow plays on their feed. This includes:

- I) #8 cannot pick up the ball and run from the base of the scrum,
- II) the number 9 must pass from the back of the scrum