

Counties Manukau Rugby Football Union Inc.
Junior Management Board

SPECIAL RULES SET DOWN FOR 2012

1. Ages are to be prior to the first of January and weights as set out the Grading Table.
2. Registration:
 - (a) Team Registrations are to be in the hands of the CMJMB Draws Convenor at least fourteen days before commencement of the playing season.
 - (b) Clubs and Schools are required to "Pre Register" players on the Competition Management Database System prior to registration day. A player will qualify for their respective grade once formally registered on the database and appearing on the Team Sheet for that grade.
 - (c) A centralized registration and weigh-in system is to be conducted by CMJMB, the age/weight officially recorded at that time will determine the lowest open and restricted grades that a player will be eligible for. There will only be one weigh-in per player. Once a player has been officially weighed, that is the weight for the season, no re-weighing after games or at a later date.
 - (d) At Registrations, suitable representatives from a minimum of four other clubs must be available to verify that proper procedures are followed and that the scales be manned by an independent CMJMB representative.
 - (e) At registration, each player shall provide either an original birth certificate or passport or other validated proof of date of birth. The CMJMB will photograph, weigh and record each players details and determine the players eligibility for their Pre Registered team.
 - (f) A "Player List" for each team showing players photo, weight, DOB, and other details will be available from the Competition Management Database System. If the Players List shows the player as Registered, the player qualifies to play within the specified grade and that will apply for the entire season. No growth allowance will be necessary. The coach/manager shall have this Players List available at all games. The principle shall be that coaches can only play the team members that are registered, no exceptions. Only Registered Players will appear on the Team Sheet. It will be the responsibility of the host club coach/manager to meet with the opposing team and exchange Player Lists and official Team Sheets including the player's jersey numbers. The oppositions will retain these for the duration of the game. Checking Player Lists is to take place on the field of play 15-30 minutes prior to the game starting.
 - (g) Unauthorized players are not to play in matches until such time as they are officially registered following all the same procedures as the main weigh-ins, and any late registrations shall be graded according to his age/weight at that time. i.e. to qualify for a grade a player must meet the same requirements as if being weighed at the start of the season.
 - (h) Player Lists are to be produced when requested by a representative of CMJMB or an opposing team official for any reason at any time during the season.
 - (i) Policing the System:
 - (i) Team management must carry the official team Player List to all games and only those players listed as Registered are eligible to compete.

- (ii) Unregistered players must not participate in any game until such time as officially Registered. CMJMB will need to have occasional late weigh-ins to allow for this. (minimum of one per month)
 - (iii) Failure of any team's management to follow any of these procedures, either playing an unregistered player or failing to have the necessary Player List available for examination by opposing teams management before matches, shall result in that team being deemed to have defaulted any game where such omissions occur, and shall lose any competition points attached to that game.
- (j) Where Secondary Schools are playing in grades controlled by the CMJMB then the above registration process's shall apply to those Secondary Schools teams as well.

3.

- (a) New players registering during the season must be registered using the above registration processes. Following the registration weekend and closure of the registration database only the CMJMB Registrar can enter new registrations into the database. The penalty for a club entering a player into the database after the cut-off date will be a \$50 fine for each occurrence, and each occurrence is to be noted in the CMJMB meeting minutes.
- (b) To be eligible to play in either the semi-finals or finals for a particular team, a player must be registered with the CMJMB (for that particular team) for a minimum of 4 scheduled games prior to the semi-finals, irrespective of how many of those games they play. Also, if a player registers after that time that team is not eligible to play in a semi-final or final.
- (c) Every registered player is eligible to play in finals of competition grades provided they meet the criteria above.
- (d) If a team forfeits more than 2 games that team is not eligible to play in a semi-final or final.

4. Dispensations:

- (a) Requests for dispensations to be put in writing two weeks prior to a CMJMB Meeting.
- (b) Dispensations will only be considered if an applicant will otherwise have to move up two age groups to the next available team within that club.
- (c) Up to two dispensations may be granted to any team.
- (d) Teams opting to retain more than two dispensated players will not be eligible for semi-finals or finals.
- (e)
 - (i) Teams in 15 aside grades opting to retain more than four dispensated players will automatically be moved up a grade.
 - (ii) Teams in less than 15 aside grades opting to retain more than three dispensated players will automatically be moved up a grade.
- (f) There will be no dispensation for any player who is over-weight and over-age.
- (g) Age Dispensation Open Grades:
 - (i) Age dispensations in all grades will only be granted to players who are up to 12 months over age.
 - (ii) Age dispensations in open weight grades will be limited to a maximum weight of 1.5 times the restricted weight for the age group the player is applying to play in ,i.e. to be eligible for the under U12 open grade the player must weigh no more than 1.5(44Kg) = 66Kg.

- (h) Age Dispensation Restricted Grades:
Age dispensations in restricted grades will use a 'sliding scale' for allowable weight.
- (i) A player up to 6 months over age can be equal to the weight for that grade.
 - (ii) A player between 6 and 12 months over age has to be at least 2Kg under the weight for that grade.
- (i) Weight Dispensations in Restricted Grades:
Weight dispensations in restricted grades will not be considered for any applicant:
- a) over 2 Kg's above the stated weight as per the weight table up to U13 grade.
 - b) over 3 Kg's above the stated weight as per the weight table for U14 grade.
- (j) Specially Dispensated players:
- (i) Specially Dispensated players are players that fall outside the normal Rule 4 Dispensation or Rule 5 Special Provision rules. These special dispensations are only at the discretion of the Exemption Committee. They may have additional conditions attached by the Exemption Committee if deemed necessary.
 - (ii) Teams opting to retain Specially Dispensated players on their registered team list will not be eligible for semi-finals or finals.
 - (iii) In the first three competition games of the season, the opposition coaches will be given the opportunity to sight the Specially Dispensated player and to recommend to the CMJMB committee whether the player should be re-graded as a normal dispensation. It is the player's team's responsibility to get these recommendations in writing and to forward them to the registrar. A recommendation by a majority of teams will see the player re-graded as a normal dispensation and the team being eligible for semi-finals or finals, if the team meets all other eligibility requirements.
- (k) A list of all dispensated players will be sent to all clubs before the competition round commences in each grade. Listed will be the player's name, team, weight and age.
- (l) In special cases further applications for dispensations may be considered up to but no later than June 30th, e.g. in cases of families moving into the Counties Manukau area.
- (m) (i) The Registrar has the discretion to recommend to the CMJMB that a particular player or team play in a specific grade.
- (ii) Teams not complying with CMJMB Special Rules and Executive decisions may be withdrawn from the draw.
- (n)
- (i) A team with a squad made up of one third or more players that are aged below the grade the team is entering (excluding any allowable Rule 4 and Rule 5 players) will be allowed to have one additional 'Rule 4' dispensation plus one additional of each of the 'Rule 5' special provisions, and still be eligible for semi-finals and finals.
- For example: an U13 Restricted weight squad of 15 players has 5 players that are U12 (none of those five players can be 'Rule 4' or 'Rule 5' players). So that squad could have up to one additional 'Rule 4' dispensation, plus one additional 'Rule 5b' special provision, plus one additional 'Rule 5c'*

special provision. That could get them up to a squad of 18 players and still be eligible for semi-finals and finals.

- (ii) This rule shall be applied to the squad as registered in the NZRU database on the first Saturday of the season, or at some point up to and including the fourth Saturday of the season, if any new players are registered during that period. An application to apply this rule outside of that period will only be at the discretion of the CMJMB Executive.
- (iii) This rule shall only apply to the grades (and the players) that are officially registered and weighed in by the CMJMB, i.e. the competition grades plus the U9 Restricted to U11 Restricted grades.

5. Specials Provisions:

- (a) Any player of one age can play in the next lower Open Grade provided that:-
 - (i) their weight is at or below the restricted weight for their own age, with a maximum of two players per team.
 - (ii) there is no restricted grade team for their own age available.
For example: if they are 12 years old and their weight is at or below the 12 year old restricted weight this makes them eligible for the 11 year old open grade.
- (b) Any player of one age can play in the next lower Restricted Grade provided that:-
 - (i) their weight is at or below the restricted weight for the age group below that in which they wish to play, with a maximum of two players per team.
 - (ii) there is no restricted grade team for their own age available.
For example: if they are under 13 years old and their weight is at or below the under 11 year old restricted weight this makes them eligible for the under 12 year old restricted grade.
 - (iii) *The exception to Rule 5(b)(ii) shall be if the player's weight is at or below the restricted weight for the age group two below that in which they wish to play then they will be eligible even if there is a restricted grade team for their own age..*
- (c) Any player of one age can play in the next higher Restricted Grade provided that:-
 - (i) their weight is at or below the restricted weight for the age group above that in which they wish to play, with a maximum of two players per team.
 - (ii) there is no open grade team for their own age available.
For example: if they are under 11 years old and their weight is at or below the under 13 year old restricted weight this makes them eligible for the under 12 year old restricted grade.

6.

- (a) Once any player, of any age or weight, has participated in three games in any one grade, that player is ineligible to play in any lower grade.
- (b) Once competition games begin, a player may play for one team only in the competition, and that team will be recognized as the team whose competition round team sheet first depicts that player's name. Under this rule, a player is prohibited from playing for another team either in the same grade or another grade. If a team is deemed to be in breach of this rule, that team shall be deemed to have defaulted any game where such practice has occurred and shall lose any competition points attached to that game.

7.
 - (a) Players permanently transferring from one team to another and/or from club to club during the season must have the prior permission from the CMJMB Executive and from the transferring club.
 - (b) Team sheets are to be received by the CMJMB Registrar by 5pm the next Tuesday following a game. Any omissions will result in a team being penalised for non compliance by the loss of four competition points. CMJMB has no desire to remove points, however team management must accept responsibility to comply with this rule. Please note that the CMJMB Registrar must still be notified of a defaulted match.
 - (c) Teamsheets shall be on the official NZRU forms and must accurately record the following information.
 - (i) Team identity, opposing team, date and venue.
 - (ii) Each players name and registration number
 - (iii) Jersey number for that day (if available)
 - (iv) Clearly record the result and identify the winning side (if applicable)
 - (v) Coaches and referees signature
 - (vi) Relevant information regarding any Sin-bins or Sending Off situationsFailing to supply the requested information in full shall incur the same penalties as clause (b) of this rule.
8.
 - (a) Points to be allocated on a per team basis as follows: 4 for a win, 2 for a draw, 1 for being within 7 points, and 1 for scoring four or more tries. In the event of a team forfeiting or defaulting a match, a score of 30-0 against the forfeiting/defaulting team shall be entered on the score sheet and the non-forfeiting or non-defaulting opponents shall be awarded the 4 win points plus a bonus point making a total of 5 points.
 - (b) If a competition team is found to be in breach of any of these special rules after the second CMJMB registration of the season they will be deducted 4 points for every separate breach on the competition points table.
9. Coaches may report any players thought to be ineligible to the convenor of the Flying Squad/CMJMB Registrar. Coaches have no power to stop a boy from another team playing. Suspect players are to be reported to the CMJMB Registrar for follow up checks to be made.
10.
 - (a) Any player ordered off or sin-binned for misconduct must be reported on the team sheet with the reasons. Failing to do so will result in a fine of \$50 being imposed.
 - (b) Players ordered off cannot play another game until the incident has been reviewed by the Judicial Committee.
 - (c) Any players sin-binned three times must not play another game until the Judicial Committee has reviewed the incidents.
11. No club may play in the registered colours of an opposing team.
12.
 - (a) A complete set of these rules shall be printed and circulated to every club no later than 3 weeks into the playing season.
 - (b) Remits to change rules are to be in the hands of the Secretary by 5.00PM on the first Thursday in August each year. They are then to be tabled and given to the

- Youth Council to ratify. The CMJMB Secretary will then have them circulated to clubs prior to the meeting in September. Voting will be by postal vote and must be in the hands of the secretary no later than 26 September.
Results will be published at the first meeting in October
- (c) No other changes may be made unless a Special Remits Meeting is called.
13. Any CMJMB Delegate posted to a game must be conversant with these rules and have the authority to act on the day.
- 14.
- (a) The competition will consist of one Round Robin round (except where there is less than six teams in a grade, the competition may be held over two Round Robins), with the top four teams playing off for the Championship as follows:
- (i) Semi-finals are played between the top team and the fourth team, the second team and the third team. The winners to meet in the final for the championship.
- (ii) In the event of two teams ending up on the same points in the competition table, the winning team from the competition game/s played between them will decide which team is ranked higher. If the teams drew, or played each other twice and won one game each, then it shall come down to the points for and against difference to decide the ranking. If still equal, then it shall come down to the toss of a coin to decide the ranking.
- (iii) In the event of enough teams in the grade requiring it to be split into two divisions. The top two teams of each division shall form the base for the semi-finals with the top team A playing the runner-up team B and the top team B playing the runner-up team A. This formula applies right down the grades.
- (iv) Semi-finals are to be played the weekend following the completion of the competition round. Any catch up games are to be played during the week before semi-finals weekend.
- (b) (i) In the event of a draw between any teams in a competition grade semi-final, the team highest on the Round Robin point's table will progress to the final. i.e. Teams third and fourth on the point's table must win their semi-final games to progress to the final.
- (ii) In the event of a draw between any teams in a competition grade final, the team highest on the Round Robin point's table shall be deemed the winner of the championship.
- (iii) No extra time will be played at any regular, semi and final games.
- (c) All team fees must be paid prior to the end of the Competition Round. If all the team fees are not paid prior to the end of the Competition Round, then that club/school's teams will not be eligible for semi-finals or finals. If all the team fees are still unpaid at the start of the following season then no teams will be accepted from that club/school until the fees are paid in full.
- 15.
- (a) CMJMB will operate all under 13-age grades and below subject to the rules in the From Small Blacks to All Blacks Development Model put out by the New Zealand Rugby Union.
- (c) CMJMB will operate the following substitution rule in all grades: Unlimited Rolling Substitutions at all regular season, semi-finals and finals games under the control of the CMJMB. Substitutions to be conducted at stoppages only and should be conducted through the Referee.

- (d) Maximum players allowed per playing squad per game are to be:- 22 for 15 aside teams as per NZRU Domestic Safety Law Variations; 15 for 10-aside teams; 12 for 7-aside teams. A \$50 fine will be imposed on a club for the first breach by a team during a season, then on any further breaches during the season a \$50 fine plus removal of 5 competition points from the offending team (no extra points given to the opposition team). Each occurrence is to be noted in the CMJMB meeting minutes.
16. In all games played on half sized fields the in goal rules apply as in normal rugby.
- 17.
- (a) The playing season is to start on a date agreed upon by the designated Draws Convenor and the CMJMB committee, after taking into account the date of the Easter and school holidays. The season will finish at the discretion of the CMJMB committee and the Draws Convenor.
- (b) Rugby games will be played on Public holiday weekends or during school holidays at the discretion of the CMJMB committee and the Draws Convenor.
- 18.
- (a) Each club is to appoint suitable referees to each nominated field of play. Suitable referees should have completed, or be in the process of completing, the NZRU Associate Referees course. Due to the basic philosophy of the Associate Referee structure it must be accepted that at present some of these referees may not be independent of a team's management or players.
- (b) For all semi-final and final games, where possible, referees shall be appointed by the Counties Manukau Rugby Referees Association, and in case they are needed, teams are to provide a touch judge qualified as a NZRU Registered Associate Referee, or better.
- (c) Each club is to appoint a Judicial Representative and any matters requiring judicial involvement are to be directed to that person.
- 19.
- (a) Competition games shall not be cancelled. If it is mutually agreed that a game cannot be played, it is the responsibility of the team requesting the change to arrange a date for the game to be rescheduled within a reasonable time that suits both teams. It is also that team's responsibility to notify the Referees of the change as soon as possible. The CMJMB Draws Convenor must also be notified of the change of day/time/venue so he can check for any game clashes.
- (b) If a team has to default a game it is that team's responsibility to notify the opposition and the Referees as soon as possible.
- (c) The CMJMB Results Coordinator must also be advised of a default by the defaulting team, and the team being defaulted must still fax through a teamsheet noting the default.
- (d) (i) If the team responsible for notifying the Referees (in any of the above cases) fails to do so by 8pm on the day prior to the game then that team's club/school will be fined \$50.00 for each such event. \$40.00 of this will be given by the CMJMB to the Referees to cover their costs, and \$10.00 retained for CMJMB Administration costs. The CMJMB will forward the \$40.00 amounts irrespective of when the clubs/schools actually pay the fine.
- (ii) If a fine is unpaid by the club/school, then that team will not be eligible for semi-finals or finals.

- (iii) If a fine is still unpaid at the start of the following season then no teams will be accepted from that club/school until the fines/s are paid in full.
 - (e) If the CMJMB makes an administration error that causes a referee to turn up to no game then the CMJMB shall pay the Referees \$40.00 for each such event.
 - (f) CMRRA – Referee Appointments contact details will be listed in the CMJMB website and handbook, so contact must be made, or a date stamped FAX or Email is required for policing.
 - (g) Once the first week of a competition has been played and the points awarded, that competition can not be abandoned and restarted. If a team pulls out of the competition thus creating a situation of two byes in a round the competition can be rescheduled without disadvantaging any of the remaining teams.
- 20.
- (a) All draws - competition and North and South Zone - non competition are to be done by the CMJMB Draws Convenor.
 - (b) U10 Grade North and South Zones combine into one draw playing on a home and away basis.
 - (c) Where there are less than six teams in a Southern Zone non competition grade, the Northern and Southern Zone teams in grade amalgamate into one draw. Efforts are to be made by the Draws Convenor to select a suitable venue.
- 21.
- (a) All coaches must attend the compulsory NZRU accredited course as facilitated by CMRFU. Coaches of U13 and below grades must attend the required Small Black Modules. Coaches of U14 and above grades must attend the required Rugby Smart modules. Failure to attend the appropriate course will result in the team being withdrawn from the draw. This is an NZRU requirement.
 - (b) A calendar of prospective coaching courses will be circulated to all clubs by the beginning of March each year.
22. Non-competition grade rugby will finish at the same time as semi-finals of competition grade rugby.
23. Regardless of which weight and/or age scale is adopted for Counties Manukau Junior Rugby, all grades are to be aggressively policed to ensure adherence to the rules. This is to be done from the start of the season and with the full support of the CMJMB to the Judicial Committee. This is to include some form of positive identification for all players, ideally a document with a photograph including certified age and weight information.
24. U9 grade rugby shall be given the option of a weight restricted division as well as an open weight division.

Addendum

As agreed by the CMRFU the SPECIAL RULES SET DOWN shall apply to Counties Manukau Junior rugby with the following proviso and riders.

1. Where mentioned "club" is interpreted as "club and/or secondary school" as applicable.
2. Rule 4. Dispensations - Applies only to U6 to U13 Grades.
3. Rule 5. Special Provisions - Applies only to U6 to U13 Grades.
4. a, It should be noted that Under 13 age grades are open to any Under 13 Intermediate or Secondary School pupil.
b, It should be noted that Under 13 age grades are open to any Under 13 player.
5. The grade scale is set by the CMRFU in conjunction with the CMJMB Executive.
6. All players attending secondary school and eligible for U15 Grade and above must play rugby for their secondary school. No U15 Grade and above players shall play in U14 and below grades. All secondary school grades U14 and above come under the jurisdiction of CMRFU and rules of the CM Secondary Schools.