



THAMES VALLEY RUGBY UNION
SECONDARY SCHOOLS RUGBY COUNCIL
RULES AND REGULATIONS
2024



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2 ADMINISTRATION

2.1 NAME

The Thames Valley Secondary Schools Rugby Council is the name given to the committee, herein after called the TVSSRC.

2.2 OBJECTS

The main object of the TVSSRC shall be to Administrate and promote Secondary Schools Boys and Girls Rugby in the Thames Valley Rugby Union.

2.3 MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all registered Secondary Schools and Area Schools in the Thames Valley Rugby Union and other interested persons.

2.4 COMMITTEE – TVSSRC

The Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Secretary, one Delegate from the Thames Valley Rugby Junior Management Board. One delegate from each affiliated Secondary Schools and Area Schools who will be elected at the AGM. One delegate from the TVRFU Board of Management

2.5 COMMITTEE – EXECUTIVE

- The Executive Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the TVSSRC.
- The Executive committee shall consist of the Chairperson, Secretary, RAIS, two delegates from the TVSSRC and the delegate from the TVRFU Board of Management.
- The position of the Chairperson must be someone other than Thames Valley Rugby Union officials or School Delegates.
- Between General Meetings, the governing power of the TVSSRC will be vested in the Committee.
- The Executive Committee also acts as the Dispensation Committee.

2.6 DUTIES OF THE TVSSRC COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of the Chairperson to preside at all meetings of the TVSSRC and to take charge of all other TVSSRC functions.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:

- Keep true records of proceedings at all meetings of the TVSSRC in the book provided for that purpose, and to see that resolutions passed at these meetings are enacted.
- Hold all records connected with the TVSSRC and when necessary, bring before such meetings as meeting may properly deal with them.

- Keep a register of Delegates elected to the Committee by their respective Schools.
- Ensure that elected Delegates supply a registrar of their Club's or Schools Officials and Coaches and Team Lists.

2.7 POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council shall have the power to fill any vacancy caused by death, transfer, resignation, or forfeiture of Office, or for any other reason, and any appointment so made shall be effective until the next **Annual General Meeting. Any TVSSRC Council member may resign by giving one week notice in writing to the Secretary.**

The Committee may elect Sub-Committee's as required. The Committee may co-opt Members other than Delegates to carry out any special duties, but only after being assured that no Delegate is available or willing to carry out those duties.

2.8 MEETINGS

TVSSRC Meetings shall be held on the second Monday of every month, or as required.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of November in each year on a day to be fixed by the TVSSRC.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to receive and consider the report of the Chairman, Game Development Officer and Executive Committee, and to consider any General Business which may be presented.

The dates and time of all Meetings of the TVSSRC shall be posted at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Any member failing to attend three consecutive meetings without an apology shall have their position declared vacant.

Special General Meetings: should be by written notice, **be signed by at least seven members of the TVSSRC and be handed to the Committee, a Special General Meeting of the TVSSRC shall be called within fourteen days of such notice given.**

Only elected delegates may vote and speak at meetings. Visitors maybe invited to speak by request through the Chairperson.

2.9 QUORUMS

A quorum for an Annual General or Special Meeting shall be **seven (7)** all of whom must be associated to a Registered Rugby Football Union and other interested

person. A quorum for a Council Meeting shall be **five (5)** committee members, two of whom shall be of the Executive Committee.

2.10 FUNDS – NO LONGER RELEVANT

2.11 RULE CHANGES

Any changes to these rules must be made by Notice of Motion Prior to the Annual General Meeting, or a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. The written notice of motion must be in the hands of the Secretary fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting at which it is to be handled.

3 TROPHIES

The TVSSRC offers the following Trophies for the Competition by Teams under its control.

2024 Boys Open U18's Competition

Patrons Cup – U18 Winner

Graham Watton Trophy (1st Round Winner)

Allen Fisher Cup (Plate Winner)

Provincial Challenge Shield (Each Game Winner to end of Round Robin)

2024 Boys 1st XV Competition

Coulter Cup (Championship - 1st XV ONLY)

2024 Senior Boys 7s

Condor Cup (7's)

2024 Boys Grade -14-³/₄

L Berry Cup (Championship)

Laurie Burns Challenge Trophy (Each Game in Round Robin)

2024 Boys Grade 15- ¹/₂

Bob Passey Cup (Championship)

Ted Engebretsen Challenge Shield (Each Game in Round Robin)


Frank Treanor Trophy (1st Round)

2024 Youth Boys 7's

Ian Murphy Cup (7's)

2024 Girls 1st XV

TVSS Girls 1st XV Trophy (Championship)

Max Stanfield Challenge Shield (Each Game in Round Robin) 

2024 Girls 1st XV 7's

Hare Family Trophy (7's)

Please note - Medals will also be presented to the winners of 14- $\frac{3}{4}$ and 15- $\frac{1}{2}$ Boys (Bob Passey Cup), Girls (1st XV Trophy) and Boys Open Grade (Coulter Cup) & UNDER 18 BOYS on finals day.

4 GRADES

UNDER 18 BOYS COMPETITION IN TERM 2.

- No restriction on the amount of school leavers.
- Must be 17 years or younger as of 1st January 2024.
- Players do not need to have been previously enrolled at the school they wish to represent.
- Code of Conduct to be implemented to protect the integrity of a teenage competition.
- Local communities can play under a school or club banner.

1ST XV COULTER CUP BOYS COMPETITION IN TERM 3.

- Maximum of five (5) school leavers in match-day squad of 22.
- Must be 17 years or younger as of 1st January 2024.
- Players must have been enrolled at the school they wish to represent.
- The five (5) school leavers must get Principals sign off to participate.
- School leavers must be in a folder (hard-copy) With information and a photo ID. TVRFU must also have a copy.

UNDER 15 - $\frac{1}{2}$ BOYS GRADE

Players must be Under 15 - $\frac{1}{2}$ as at the 01/04/2024 Therefore, players must be born on or after 1st of October 2008 (01/10/2008). 01/04/2024 is the recognised date by the NZRU.

UNDER 14 - $\frac{3}{4}$ BOYS GRADE

Players must be Under 14 - $\frac{3}{4}$ as at the 01/04/2024. Therefore, players must be born on or after the 1st of July 2009 (01/07/2009). 01/04/2024 is the recognised date by the NZRU.

1ST XV GIRLS GRADE:

- Maximum of three (3) school leavers in match-day squad of 22.
- Must be 17 years or younger as of 1st January 2024.
- Players must have been enrolled at the school they wish to represent.
- The three (3) school leavers must get Principals sign off to participate.
- School leavers must be in a folder (hard copy) With information and a photo ID. TVRFU must also have a copy.

YOUTH GIRLS GRADE:

- Must be a Year 9 or 10 Student at the Secondary School they wish to represent.

Additional Information:

Year 9 players will be ineligible to play in the Year 7 & 8 competition provided that each player's school has a Year 9 & 10 team or a team that is available with the TVRFU.

Junior Club registered Year 7 & 8 players may play for a Year 9 team, required, for up to 2 competition games. Players who play 3 or more competition games in the higher grade will be ineligible to return to Year 7 & 8 grade and must remain in the Year 9 & 10 team for the remainder of the season (Must play a minimum of 3 games to play in semi-finals or finals)

5 ENTERING A TEAM

5.1 TEAMS LISTS

- A full team list must be submitted via the Sporty App 2 hours prior to the official start time of the game. If you are unable to access the My Rugby Manager App due to difficulties, you are required to make the RAIS aware and provide a paper copy of the team list including points scorers within 24 hours of the match completion failure to do so will result in not score being recorded.
- A Player listed in an original grade after three (3) competition games regardless of whether he plays or not cannot go down a grade even if he is eligible.
- A Player who goes up a grade after three (3) competition games whether he plays or not cannot go back down. **NOTE:** If players are required to go up a grade to assist with numbers use different players not just the same players. **NOTE:** Player profile must accompany the player going up or down.

This rule does not apply when it comes to players wishing to play both secondary school and club rugby.

However - Any player wishing to play club rugby must:

Fulfil their commitments to their school team in the first instance.

Gain written clearance from their respective principal to do so.

Play no more than 70 minutes in any one day across all games if they are aged Under 19 and below (DSL V Rule 5 2014).

5.4 REGISTRATION FEE

Secondary Schools must pay Registration fees as set by the TVRFU and agreed on by the TVSSC. Such fees are set at the end of each season on a per team rate.

FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS

All Boys grades \$250.00 per team + GST. The Girls fees are set at \$100.00 + GST. Fees are to be paid by May 31st.

5.5 SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Each school will provide copies of their school Directory. The Directory is to include names and phone numbers of their Principal, Head of Rugby/Sport Coordinator, Delegates, Team Coaches and Managers. Copies are to be e-mailed to the RAIS who will distribute copies to each school.

6 RULES AND REGULATIONS

6.1 BALL SIZES

All Grades	Full size 5 ball
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6.2 DURATION OF GAMES

Boys 1 st XV	35 minutes each way
Boys U15	35 minutes each way
Girl's	35 minutes each way

6.3 DEFAULTS

The minimum numbers of Players required by a Team to contest a game are as follows:

Game On rules apply across all Secondary School competitions: Minimum of 10 players. More information can be found on the NZR website.

If for any reason a team must default it is the Coach or Managers responsibility to inform the opposing teams Coach or Manager (See website for contact details) and inform the RAIS. If informed early enough an alternative game may be arranged with a team that has a bye game, thus giving two teams a game instead of having three teams not playing: **PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE.**

The time allowed for the arrival after starting time is ten (10) minutes only. If any later the Team must default.

In the event of a team defaulting a game a win shall be awarded to its opponent, which includes maximum competition points for the win and one bonus point for four tries. With 28 points FOR and 0 points AGAINST added to the points table to the winning team and the team defaulting 0 points FOR and 28 points AGAINST.

Number of Players – the Team REFER RUGBY THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2020 Law 3 – Items 1 to 14, Pages 33 to 38.

Addition of NZ Domestic Safety Law Variation 3.14 (e) states that: **All players** in a named squad of 22 players or less at all levels of rugby below Secondary School 1st XV grades **must play a minimum of half a game each match.**

PLAYERS CLOTHING

REFER – RUGBY THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2020- Law 4 – Items 1 to 6, Pages 39 to 41.

6.7 LAW CHANGES

Any other law changes as decreed by NZRU and notified to TVSSRC during each season are to be observed during each.

6.8 RESULTS OF GAMES AND COMPETITIONS.

TIES AND POINTS

In the championship qualifying round (s) the team scoring the greatest number of competition points shall be deemed the winner. The number of competition points gained by other teams will decide the playing order for the top four teams or top two teams, to play off for the championship.

In the event of a two-way tie in any grade, the winning team of the game already played during the last championship qualifying round between the two teams involved shall be declared the winner.

If the two teams concerned in (ii) above had a drawn game the team having the higher points differential between the average points for and the average points against during the championship qualifying round (s) shall be declared the winner.

The foregoing formula indicated in (i), (ii) and (iii) also applies in the event of more than two (2) teams tying, when deciding the top four teams and the playing order of the top four.

Points to be awarded in all competition games will be on the basis of four (4) for a win, two (2) for a draw. One (1) point will be awarded for the losing team finishing within seven (7) points of the winner and one (1) point will be awarded to any team scoring four tries or more.

SEMI FINALS AND FINALS:

At the completion of the last championship qualifying round, the top four teams in each grade will participate in games to find the finalists. This may differ depending on each grades competition format.

The team leading the championship points table at the end of the round robin series in each grade will play the fourth team in that grade, whilst the second and third teams will play. For instance: one plays four: two plays three. The venues for the semi-final games will be the home venues of the first and second placed teams.

The winners of each of these matches becomes the finalists in each grade for the grand final.

TIES FOR SEMI-FINALS:

When the teams are tied at the end of a semi-final game, the winner will be determined by the following criteria:

A further ten (10) minutes each way will be played, and teams will change ends from those they played in the second half of their game and change ends again after the first ten (10) minutes of extra time.

If the teams are still tied the team scoring the most tries in the game (excluding extra time) will be declared the winner.

If the teams are still tied the team winning the game between the two participating teams in the last championship qualifying round will be declared the winner.

If the game (iii) was drawn, then the higher differential points between the average points scored for and the average points scored against in the last championship qualifying round will be declared the winner.

FINALS:

The teams to play in the grand finals will be determined by the winners of the semi-final's games.

In all grades if at the end of the grand final game the teams are tied the trophy shall be shared.

6.9 CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

A win = four (4) points. A draw = two (2) points. Losing team within seven (7) points = one (1) point. 4 or more tries = one (1) point. Default Five (5) points

6.10 INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

Where clubs/school have more than one team entered in the competition, there can be **NO INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS BETWEEN TEAMS ONCE THE COMPETITION HAS STARTED.** Each team remains a separate identity throughout the competition. However, in the event of any team losing a few players, or a team is disbanded, a school may apply to transfer players to another team. **Such application must be in writing to the TVSSRC Executive Committee.**

6.11 OVERSEAS TRIPS

Teams and / or players who wish to arrange trips should obtain the necessary forms from the TVRFU General Manager, complete the required details and lodge them with the Union at least three (3) months prior to the proposed trip.

If approved by the TVRFU the application will be forwarded to the NZRFU for approval.

It is necessary for the overseas host club to obtain approval from their National Union.

Visiting overseas teams' permission for local teams to play must be cleared by the TVRFU

6.12 NATIONAL AND LOCAL TRIPS

Application to travel outside the Union boundaries should be made to the TVRFU stating the team manager and other details as required for noncompetition games.

7 NOTES FOR COACHES

7.1 SPIRIT OF THE GAME

Coaches must endeavour to promote, encourage, and foster a healthy and constructive attitude to, and, in the game of Rugby. It should always be remembered that you are there to organise, teach skills, and tactics and to encourage the Players. The actual game is played by the players.

Remember: The way you play the game shows part of your character - the way you lose shows all of it.

7.2 CONDUCT

It is the Coach and Managers responsibility to ensure a good standard of conduct from all Team Members and Supporters before, during and after the game. Illegal and foul tactics should be dealt with immediately after the game. Swearing and offensive language will not be tolerated.

7.3 REFEREES

Referees will be provided where possible. If no Official TVRRA Referee is available, games are to be refereed by the home team. Referees are the sole judge of the game. Their decisions should be supported by all Players, Coaches, Managers and Supporters

8 PLAYER PROFILE

Any team that plays an unregistered player or non-dispensation player shall forfeit the competition game and the points go to the opposition.

Players who attend school up to the final day of term 2 will be eligible to play for that school for the remainder of that competition. Permission must be granted in writing by the School Principal and the TVSSRC Executive Committee.

Late registrations of players must be signed by Principal and sighted by RAIS.

9 JUDICIAL AS PER TVRFU BYLAWS 6-6.9

9.1 JUDICIAL, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS, PROTESTS

The Union shall comply with the NZRU Disciplinary rules and shall appoint Committee as determined by the NZRU from time to time. Currently the Union shall have a Disciplinary Hearing Committee, complaints Review Officer and an Appeals Committee.

9.2 DISCIPLINARY HEARING COMMITTEE

The TVRFU Disciplinary Hearing Committee will handle all Secondary School Disciplinary matters.

The Disciplinary Hearing Committee shall conduct all hearings in accordance with the procedures specified by the NZRU and set out in the current publication "Rules for Disciplinary Hearing" Section two (2), Parts one (1) to five (5) and Section three (3).

The Disciplinary Hearing committee shall have the power to hear cases where a Player has been ordered off or Sin binned on three occasions, cases referred by the Complaints Review Officer, protests from Clubs, misconduct by persons or clubs which occur either on or off the playing enclosure and any other matters referred to it by the Club Review Committee, Board of Management or the Council of Clubs.

The Disciplinary Hearing Committee shall report to the Union's Executive Officer all decisions made.

The disciplinary Hearing Committee shall meet as required, but preferably on Tuesday at 7.30 pm at a venue notified by the Executive Officer or his nominee. Special arrangements may be required for mid-week games.

All suspension penalties handed down by the Disciplinary Committee shall for in weeks commencing from the date of the offence.

Notwithstanding the Disciplinary Hearing Committee's powers the Union under these Bylaws imposes an automatic suspension period of two weeks from the date of the offence for Players ordered off in games under the jurisdiction of the Union, with the following proviso:

- The ordered off player has until 4.30 pm on Monday immediately following the game in which he was involved to seek a hearing of the Disciplinary Hearing committee. Such request must be notified to the Union's Executive Officer or his nominee.
- The Disciplinary Hearing Committee may request a hearing and the Player and his Club will be notified as soon as possible.
- Should neither Player or the Disciplinary Committee request a hearing then by default the Player concerned shall be suspended from all rugby for two weeks from the date of the ordering off.

A visiting representative player ordered off in a representative fixture under the jurisdiction of the Thames Valley Rugby Union shall be required to appear before a Disciplinary Committee as soon as possible after the game as can be arranged. The Disciplinary Committee shall comprise of two members of the Thames Valley Rugby Union disciplinary Hearing Committee or other Union Officials where necessary and one official of the visiting team. This rule does not apply to fixtures under the control of the NZRU. An appeal against the decision of this Disciplinary Committee shall be lodged with the visiting player's Union's Appeal Committee.

9.3 COMPLAINTS

The Union shall have a Complaints Review Officer who shall be appointed annually by the Council of Clubs.

The Complaints Review Officer will act in accordance with the NZRFU "Rules for Disciplinary Hearings" Section two (2) part two (2), rules 23 to 30 and part four (4).

Complaints must be in writing and received by the RAIS within 48 hours of the alleged incident involving players for foul play which has not been detected by game officials, ie Referee, Touch Judges, in a game and of misconduct by persons or Clubs other than on the playing enclosure.

The complaint shall contain the date and place where the alleged incident took place; the name of the Player (s), person (s), or Club (s) and full details of the incident.

If the Complaints Review Officer determines that the complaint is not frivolous, vexatious or otherwise and should proceed to Disciplinary Hearing Committee, he shall notify the Union's Executive Officer or his nominee, who shall then notify the Player (s), person (s), or Club (s) with copies of the complaint, copies of other reports, the date, place and time of the hearing.

A Player who is the subject of a complaint which the Complaints Review Officer has determined should proceed to a hearing is not permitted to play any game of rugby until his case is heard by the Disciplinary Hearing Committee.

There shall be no right of appeal against any decision made by the Complaints Review Officer.

Player (s), person (s) and club (s) adversely affected by the decision of the Committee shall have the right of appeal to the Union's Appeal committee.

9.4 APPEAL COMMITTEE

There shall be an Appeal Committee of the Union appointed by the Council of Clubs. Members of the Appeal Committee must not also be members of the Disciplinary Hearing Committee. The number of persons required for the Appeal Committee shall be five (5). A Quorum for the appeal Committee shall consist of three (3) who are not members of the Club for which the Player (s), person (s) or Club (s) are members at the time of the appeal being lodged. The Appeal Committee shall appoint a convener, who shall preferably have a legal background.

The Union's Appeal Committee will be subject to provisions of the NZRFU Rules for Disciplinary Hearings.

Any Player, person, victim, or Club may appeal to the Appeal Committee within seven (7) days of the decision they are aggrieved. Such appeal must be in writing and state the grounds for the appeal with the Union's Executive Officer or his nominee. Appeals must be accompanied by a fee specified by the Council of Clubs from time to time, currently \$100.00. The fee will be refunded unless the appeal is considered frivolous by the Appeal Committee.

The Appeal Committee shall set the date, time and place for the hearing of the appeal, which shall be notified to the person lodging the appeal and any other party who have the right to be heard.

Any Player, person or club heard by the Appeal Committee on an appeal brought under Rules for Disciplinary Hearings, section four (4) may appeal to the NZRFU Judicial Committee against the decision of the Appeal Committee under Rules for Disciplinary Hearings, section five (5).

9.5 SUSPENSION PERIODS

Suspension will be expressed in terms of weeks up to and including a specified day.

Suspensions will apply to all Club and Representative games.

The Penalty for foul play shall never be determined solely on the basis of the severity of the injury suffered by the victim.

9.6 PROTESTS

Where cause for protest is known before the game, the opposing team should be notified and if the complaint is remedied then there is no further action.

If the team protesting against is unable or unwilling to remedy matters, then the game should be played "under protest". A written protest shall be given to the Referee of the game and a copy forwarded to the Union's Executive Officer within 48 hours of the game being played.

Where the ground of protest is discovered during or after the game, the protest must be made within 48 hours of the completion of the game.

Protests must be in writing with the Union's Executive Officer and accompanied by the fee set by the Board of Management from time to time (currently \$100.00). The fee will be refunded unless the protest is considered frivolous.

Protests will be heard by the Board of Management or by the Board's Disciplinary Hearing Committee. The date, time and venue and decision to be notified to all parties involved.

9.7 TECHNICALITIES

No proceedings heard by the Disciplinary Committee or the Appeal

Committee shall be quashed or held invalid by reason of defect, irregularity or omission or other procedural technicality provided the Disciplinary Committee or Appeals Committee is satisfied there has not been a miscarriage of justice.

9.8 **SIN BIN RULES**

A player sin-binned on **two occasions** in a season will be **cautioned** and warned that a further sin-bin will result in an additional penalty. A player sin-binned on **three occasions during a season** will incur a mandatory period of suspension from rugby for a **period of 14 days** (2 weeks) from the date of the sin-bin offence.

9.9 **REFEREES**

Referee's reports must be in the hands of the Union Disciplinary Coordinator by 4.30 pm on the Monday following the game. TVRFU Office: email janine@tvrfu.co.nz

10 **NOTES**

Players have the right of appeal and the Judicial Committee can request a hearing as per TVRFU Bylaws 6.1 G (i), (ii), (iii).

10.1 **DISPUTES**

All disputes must be in writing. Any disputes regardless of their nature, will be heard by the TVSSRC. If all teams, Coaches and Managers play the game and do their jobs, the number of genuine disputes should be minimal.

At any Inquiry or appeal conducted by the Judicial committee, no person shall sit as a Member thereof in the determination of any matter in which he / she has an interest greater than any other member of the Committee. (eg in the eventuality of a player from a members club appearing before the Board).

10.2 **ROPED OFF GROUNDS**

Please note that all grounds should be roped off (3-5 metres) from the side-line. An event manager must be appointed for each game. Referee's can stop the game proceeding if this is not done.

10.3 **SUB BENCHES**

Subs and Coaches will sit behind the in-goal lines at both ends of the grounds. No sub benches are to be on either side-lines – this applies to all secondary school games. Girls U18's sub benches will be at the middle of the fields at opposite sides as agreed. This can change as required back to in-goal if any trouble occurs.

10.3 **COMPLAINTS**

All complaints to be reviewed by the TVRFU complaints Officer as per TVRFU Bylaws 6.6.

11 REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

The Order of precedence for matches played in NZ are as follows:

- a) National Team Representative
- b) Franchise Team Representation
- c) Provincial Team Representation
- d) 1st XV fixtures – National 1st XV Championship games will take precedence over Provincial Representation.
- e) Club Representation

With regards to age grade representative teams – No player can play for a higher age grade team than they are eligible for. For example - if a player is eligible for Under 16's they cannot trial or be selected for the Thames Valley Under 18's. Extraordinary circumstances may necessitate this ruling to be reviewed during the current season on a case-by-case basis. This review to be conducted by the Thames Valley Rugby Union.

Rep Coaches at their discretion may call upon a player of origin (Attends School outside of Thames Valley) if they are struggling to fill a position. That player must have played all their primary school rugby in the Thames Valley.

Thames Valley Representative Age-Group Player Eligibility.

- Players must meet the age requirements of the team they wish to represent.
- Players must be registered to the school/club they represent.
- Players must be registered and play a minimum of 3 games for their club/school to be eligible as a local player.
- TVRU staff & individual representative management groups will select a maximum of 3 players of origins per team. These players must of attended school previously in the Thames Valley area and be registered to a school/club. These players will only be selected in positions where there is a need/weakness.

12 DISPENSATION PLAYERS

All players seeking Dispensation may be asked to appear before the TVSSRC Executive Committee.

Any Player seeking TRANSFER to play for another College other than the College he is registered / enrolled at must seek clearance from the TVSSRC Executive Committee. A TRANSFERED player is not classed as a dispensation player for the purposes of rule 12 (vii) unless he / she has in the first instance been given dispensation to play in a particular grade - then transferred.

A Secondary School student who has played three (3) or more club games and not played Secondary School Rugby cannot turn out for their school side in a season. But in extreme cases may apply for a dispensation.

All Dispensations must be in writing to the TVSSRC Executive Committee.

Players must be accompanied by their Team Manager or Coach at the Dispensation Hearing.

Dispensation players are to be identified on the Team Sheet and the managers must have a folder with players details, and a photo ID.

Before kick-off, dispensation players must be identified to the opposing coach.

Dispensation players should not be used as "impact players" during special moves eg: Penalty moves.

The Status of Dispensation players will be reviewed mid season – completion of first round to ensure Dispensation players are not overly influential in their grade.

The TVSSRC Executive Committee ruling will be final.

13 DRAWS

The official draws will be published before the season begins. While every endeavour is made to be fair to all teams, in each Grade, in respect to home grounds and travelling, it must be accepted that factors such as ground availability, Referees, early start times and ground conditions, all dictate the time and venue of games. While the Council understands and sympathises with parents who have more than one child playing in different grades, it is impossible to try to arrange for their children's team to play all at the same venue, one after the other.

14 RESULTS

All results are to be text into the RAIS within one hour after the end of games so results can be put onto social media and updated onto the website.

14.1 RESULTS CONVENOR

RAIS: Janine Spice
Contact: 027 243 6289

15 NZRU COACHING COURSES:

- Rugby Smart Course is Compulsory for all Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Managers and Referees.
- Foundation Coaching Course Level 1
- Development of Rugby Coaching Level 2
- Level 3 Coaching Course
- More information regarding Coaching Courses can be found on the TVRFU website www.thamesvalleyswampfoxes.co.nz.

16 PARENTS

It has been said that Parents cause more problems than children. Coaches and Managers should be aware that they are responsible for the actions of the Parents and Supporters of their team. Often a quiet word on the spot is enough to cool a situation. Parents should be discouraged from shouting and criticising the players. Good barracking and encouragement always bring better results. Bad language and phrases such as. "Kick his head in or Kill the little so and so", have no place in Rugby. Another disturbing practice of parents is to offer, sometimes large, sums of money, for their boy/girl to score a try. Although this may seem harmless, it can be the cause of bad tempers, sudden violence and worst of all creates a greedy, selfish child which destroys the main aim of Rugby, that is Sportsmanship and belonging to a team.

17 PUBLICITY

The TVRU will clear all Press Statements to ensure that they are in the best interests of the game. The TVRU will also take every opportunity to promote the game of Rugby and, promote Secondary Schools Rugby.

18 CANCELLATIONS AND GROUNDS CLOSURES

18.1 CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations may occur due to weather or other adverse conditions which cause the cancellation of a game. In the event of a game being cancelled - the game will be rescheduled and played later. The day / date will be finalised by the Executive Committee.

If a game is to be cancelled it is the team managements responsibility to inform the opposition and the TVSS Chairman in plenty of time to avoid any unnecessary travel. In the event of a change of game dates for any other reason - Team management must seek permission from TVSS management.

All cancellations will be put onto social media as soon advised.

18.2 GROUND CLOSURES

Any School/Club who has their grounds closed for weather or other adverse conditions must advise the RAIS as soon as possible and with plenty of notice so that other arrangements may be made.

19 OTHER RULES OR REGULATIONS

The Thames Valley Rugby Football Union Inc BYLAWS cover any other issues, rules or regulations not covered in this handbook.

2024 Thames Valley Secondary Schools Rugby Council

Chairperson: Jen Fletcher (Thames High School)

Secretary: Janine Spice (RAIS)

Board Representative: Andrew Gemmell

Council Delegates:

Pauline Kisling (Paeroa College)

Matt Walker (Waihi College)

Matt Carden-Scott (Waihi College)

Jennifer Taylor (Whangamata Area School)

Paul Clague / Leisa McCleery (Mercury Bay Area School)

James Higgins (Te Aroha College)

Jon Liddell (Thames High School)

Cindy Berridge (Hauraki Plains College)

Amy King (Katikati College)

Executive Committee

Jen Fletcher

Andrew Gemmell

Leisa McCleery

For any queries regarding Secondary Schools Rugby please contact:

Rugby Administrator in Schools:

Janine Spice

027 243 6289 or janine@tvrfu.co.nz

Community Rugby Manager

Scott Day

027 281 5270 or scott@tvrfu.co.nz