

The Great Public Schools' Association of Queensland

RULES OF COMPETITION

RUGBY

Last Reviewed: January 2026

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Spirit of Fellowship



1. ADOPTED RULES

GPS Rugby competitions are conducted in accordance with the Laws of the Game (U19 Variations & Kids pathway U11 & U12) as recognised by Rugby Australia (RA), except where these differ from the GPS competition Rules; in which case the latter shall take precedence. Reference should also be made to all GPS By-laws, Policies and Procedures. These rules are to be read in conjunction with information available on GPS website and GPSNet.

In addition, the competition adheres to the following Rugby Australia Policies & Guidelines:

- 1.1 Age Grade Dispensation Procedure
 - a. Exception: Without an approved Dispensation a player may only be eligible to play in the age group he is turning in that playing year (by 31st December). Refer to the GPS Rugby Dispensations Matrix for the appropriate Dispensation approvals required to play in other age groups.
- 1.2 Concussion Management
- 1.3 Match Day Inspection Checklist
- 1.4 Mayday Procedure Flowchart
- 1.5 Medical & First Aid Requirements
- 1.6 Serious Injury Protocol/Report
- 1.7 Smart Rugby Policy

2. ELIGIBILITY

To compete in a GPS competition, students must meet the eligibility criteria stated in the GPS Eligibility Bylaw.

- 2.1 Boys enrolled in Years 5 to 12 of a GPS member school are eligible to participate in the competition.
- 2.2 Age group eligibility is determined by the age a player is turning in that playing year (by December 31st) in conjunction with any approved Dispensations.
- 2.3 Boys turning age 17 or 18 in the playing year (by 31st December) are eligible to participate in the 1st XV division. With an approved Dispensation, students turning age 16 in the playing year are also eligible to participate in the 1st XV division. 1st XV players must first be registered with the GPS Office.

3. BEHAVIOUR

All misconduct by participants or other personnel that occurs during the normal proceedings of a Sport or Activity will be actioned as according to the Governing body and the GPS Code of Conduct.

- 3.1 If a player is issued a red card the player will be suspended from GPS Rugby competitions for one (1) round. The round in which the suspension is applied must be the next scheduled fixture in the same season (as per the draw) and cannot be a bye.

4. STRUCTURE

GPS competitions must have a minimum number of five (5) teams from five (5) member schools competing in a division.

- 4.1 The competition will follow the schedule as set by the GPS Calendar and the Competition Draw.
- 4.2 Rugby will be played in age groups divisions from U11 (11 Years & Under) to U16 (16 Years & Under), Open divisions 1st XV and below (U17 / U18, combined 17 Years & Under and 18 Years & Under Divisions) .
- 4.3 Matches will be played between home and away schools where teams will be matched 'Like for like'. Remaining teams will be appointed games in the Supplementary Draw.

5. OFFICIALS

- 5.1 The GPS Association, with the assistance of The Queensland Rugby Referees' Association Brisbane Inc shall appoint referees for 1st XV (including Assistant Referees), 2nd XV, and U11 – U16 A division matches. The appointment of referees to the remaining games is to be shared between home and visiting schools.
- 5.2 In all grades, the referee shall be the minimum of a Smart Rugby compliant accredited referee and/or competent person other than the coach of either team.
- 5.3 Each school shall supply one (1) Assistant referee for each division except 1st XV.
- 5.4 Each school shall supply one (1) ball boy for each game.

6. ADDITIONAL RULES

6.1 Uniforms of competitors and personnel must comply with the GPS Uniform Policy.

6.2 Ages U11 and U12 will use a size 4 match ball, U13 and above will use a size 5 ball.

a. Exception: 1st and 2nd XV must use a standardised match ball, being a Gilbert Barbarian or Gilbert Kinetica standard

b. It is preferred all other grades use a match ball of a similar standard to Gilbert Omega or higher

6.3 Squad Size and Replacements:

Age Group	Number of Players	Maximum Number of Replacements
U11	12	6
All other teams (except 1 st XV)	15	8

6.4 Unlimited rolling replacements are permitted for the following divisions:

- U11 & U12- All divisions.
- U13 to U16 - B Grade and below only.
- Open - 2nd XV and below only.

6.5 To play contested scrums in 1st XV, 2nd XV and U16A division matches, all Front Row players must have a current RA Schedule B -Exemption for Front Row Assessment

6.6 When uncontested scrums are being played as per Laws 3.13 to 3.15 then Law 20.4 will not permit the option of a scrum in 1st XV, 2nd XV and A division matches

- a. A team awarded a penalty or free-kick at a lineout may choose a lineout or contested scrum at the same mark

Replacements

1st XV Division

6.7 In instances where the 1st XV match is a standalone match, fresh replacements are permitted.

6.8 In all other instances, replacements for the 1st XV team must have played at least half of either the U16A or 2nd XV match on that day. If a suitable replacement from the U16A or 2nd XV is not available due to injury, the next best player may be from the U16B or 3rd XV division.

All other Teams

6.9 No player who has started in a higher age group or division is permitted to participate (start or reserve) in a lower grade or division in the same round.

a. A Teams (U11 to U16)

In the case of a legitimate, match-stopping injury, a replacement from the immediate team below in that age group may replace the player provided he has not played in any other team that same day.

b. Open Teams (2nd XV and below) & B Divisions (U11 to U16)

No player is to be in more than one squad in one round.

6.10 If a player is injured and their departure has caused the referee to order uncontested scrums and a team has less than 3 suitably trained front-row players the team can replace the player and continue with 15

Time

6.11 Duration of Play:

1 st XV	35 minute halves	(playing time)
2 nd XV	30 minute halves	(actual time)
16A & 15A	30 minute halves	(actual time)
U11 divisions	20 minute halves	(actual time)
All other divisions	25 minutes halves	(actual time)

6.12 Half-time will consist of an interval of five (5) minutes.

6.13 Extra-time is not permitted.

7. RESULTS

7.1 Points, Premierships and Championships will be awarded in accordance with the [GPS Point, Premiership and Championship Results Policy](#).

7.2 Reviews & Protests of results will be conducted in accordance with the GPS Executive Officer and School Headmaster or Principal.

8. CANCELLATIONS

When required, cancellations will be conducted in accordance with the [Abandonment of GPS Competitions and Activities Policy](#).

9. AMENDMENTS

No amendment to these Rules of Competition is authorised unless such amendment is issued by the Executive Officer of the GPS.