

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Lead Area:	RUGBY SERVICES
Lead Policy Title:	FINALS ELIGIBILITY POLICY
Date last modified:	MARCH 2019

## SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The underpinning philosophy of this policy 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.

This policy also addresses the calculation of Competition Points where there is an uneven number of BYEs in a Grade.

## SUMMARY STEPS

The summary criteria for finals eligibility for a player is:

1. Have been registered for and played 1 third (33.33...%) of matches in a particular grade; AND
2. Has initially registered (and transferred if required) on or before **Round 9** (29 June 2019); AND
3. For multiple teams in a grade (e.g. Senior Men), the player will be eligible for the grade/team the player has played at least 50% of their matches

## BELOW IS THE FULL DETAIL OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. To be eligible to play in the Finals Series, players must meet the following criteria:

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
1.1	A player may only play a finals match where the player has: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Been registered for and played a minimum of 1 third (33.33...%) of matches during the current minor round. This includes all scheduled minor round matches (does not include byes).</li> </ol> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Initially Registered (and Transferred if required) to the Club on or before <b>Round 9</b> (29 June 2019), and has not Transferred away from the Club (or played for their Transferred From Club) after Round 9.</li> </ol> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Must have played their first match for the Club on or before Round 9 (29 June 2019)</li> </ol>	Team Manager
1.2	Games played will be recorded from team sheets that have been submitted on a weekly basis  There is a maximum of 23 players which can be listed to a team sheet. Any players exceeding the first 23 players listed will not be counted for Finals Eligibility.	Team Manager
1.3	Players will be recorded as playing <u>only</u> for the highest team on that day where they were a starting run on player. <b>OR;</b> 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
1.4	Furthermore, for the purpose of Ref 1.1, 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
1.5	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.	Team Manager

\* This procedure has the effect of a Rule under the Competition Rules issued by the Union and terms used in this procedure and defined in the Competition Rules have the same meaning in this procedure and the rule of interpretation set out in the Competition Rules also apply to this procedure.

2. 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, or any player who plays for 2 different clubs in the same competition (refer Co-Joined Clubs Policy)):

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
2.1	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 1.3)  Players may play a finals match in a grade higher than which they played during the current minor rounds.	Club
2.2	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. (1) Premier Grade (2) Premier Reserve (3) Third Grade	Club

*For worked examples, see the Appendix*

3. Dispensated Players (playing juniors) must meet the following criteria to become eligible for finals:

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
3.1	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.  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.	Club

4. Calculation for Uneven Competition BYEs

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
4.1	The formula in 4.2 will be implemented in circumstances where there is a competition BYE (by design of the draw) <u>and</u> there are a different number of BYE's for teams in the season  The output of the formula will only be applied to the BYEs in the season which exceed the number of BYEs all Clubs have.  The output of the formula will only be applied to the relevant BYEs <u>after</u> the season is complete (so an average for all For and Against points is included in the formula)	Competition Manager
4.2	<b>The formula is:</b> 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)	Competition Manager

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## 5. Finals Dispensation Application

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
5.1	Where a player is unable to meet the qualification for eligibility requirements under Ref 1 of this policy due to injury or illness, <b>OR</b> was required to play in the <b>front row</b> in a higher grade during the season due to a <b>front row</b> player in that grade having suffered an injury or illness, the club should follow the following steps.	Club Secretary
5.2	Any application for finals dispensation must be submitted on the <u>Player Finals Dispensation Form</u> to RUSA by <b>COB Monday 19 August 2019</b> .  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 of this is at the absolute discretion of the Finals Eligibility Committee  <b>NOTE</b> – All players being considered for Finals Dispensation due to injury/illness must have been registered for and otherwise available to play in the requested dispensated matches had it not been for injury/illness.	Club Secretary
5.3	Members of the Finals Eligibility Committee will meet on <b>Tuesday 20 August 2019</b> 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.	Finals Eligibility Committee
5.4	<b>Acquittal Application</b> In extreme and/or special circumstances, the Finals Eligibility Committee will consider acquittal requests.  In such cases, the Finals Eligibility Committee will forward the Acquittal Application (and reasoning) to <b>all Club CAG representatives</b> , and each Club will be afforded 1 vote to accept the request and allow player to play (50% + 1 majority rule).  All Acquittal Applications must be received by <b>COB Monday 12 August 2019</b> (1 week earlier than the injury dispensation requests).	Finals Eligibility Committee / CAG representatives

## 6. Eligibility Communication and Team Selection for Finals

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
6.1	<b>by:12pm Tuesday 20 August 2019.</b> 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.	Competition Manager
6.2	<b>by:5pm Wednesday 21 August 2019.</b> All Clubs must submit their eligible team of 23 via Rugby Xplorer, selected from the 'Eligibility Spreadsheet'. Failure to submit a team sheet by this date may result in finals eligibility requests being unable to be considered and/or granted.	Club
6.3	<b>by: 3:00pm Friday 23 August 2019.</b> Clubs may make their last changes to their submitted team via Rugby Xplorer and communicate any changes via email.	Club

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# OPERATIONAL POLICY



## OTHER INFORMATION:

- A forfeit is still classified as a minor round fixture for the 'non forfeiting team' as long as team sheets are submitted (and team sheet has a minimum of 11 players and maximum of 23 players listed)
- No player will be eligible for finals if they are financially indebted to their club or RUSA.

# OPERATIONAL POLICY



## APPENDIX

### Example 1

Per 1.1: Player has played at least 1/3 of the season (played in 13/15 Rounds) AND has registered before Round 9

Per 1.3: Highlighted cells indicate the Grade that the player is counted for in that Round

Per 2.1: Player has played at least 50% in Third Grade, therefore eligible to play Third Grade up.

Player Name	Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	# of Highlighted Games	# of Eligible Games	% of Games	Meet 50% Threshold?
Max Powers	First Grade	P	P	P			R	R	R	R	R				R		4	13/13	100%	Yes
Max Powers	Reserve Grade					R	R	R	R	P	P	R					2	9/13	69.23%	Yes
Max Powers	Third Grade	P				P		P	P			P	R		P	R	7	7/13	53.84%	Yes

### Example 2

Per 1.1: Player has played at least 1/3 of the season (played 14/15 Rounds) AND has registered before Round 9

Per 1.3: Highlighted cells indicate the Grade that the player is counted for in that Round

Per 2.1: Player has played at least 50% in Reserve Grade, therefore eligible to play Reserve Grade up.

Player Name	Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	# of Highlighted Games	# of Eligible Games	% of Games	Meet 50% Threshold?
Alex Smith	First Grade	P	P	P	P	R	R	R	R	R	R				R		6	14/14	100%	Yes
Alex Smith	Reserve Grade					P	R	R	R	P	P	R					3	8/14	57.14%	Yes
Alex Smith	Third Grade	P						R	P			P	R		P	R	5	5/14	35.71%	No

### Example 3

Per 1.1: Player has played at least 1/3 of the season (played in 13/15 Rounds) AND has registered before Round 9

Per 1.3: Highlighted cells indicate the Grade that the player is counted for in that Round

Per 2.1: Player has played at least 50% in First Grade, therefore eligible to play First Grade.

Player Name	Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	# of Highlighted Games	# of Eligible Games	% of Games	Meet 50% Threshold?
Charlie Tock	First Grade	P	P	P	P			R				R	P		P	P	7	13/13	100%	Yes
Charlie Tock	Reserve Grade						R	P	P	R	P	P			R		5	6/13	46.15%	No
Charlie Tock	Third Grade					P				R	R						1	1/13	7.69%	No