



GENERAL INFORMATION

Lead Area:	RUGBY SERVICES
Lead Policy Title:	PLAYER NUMBERS AND CONTESTED/UNCONTESTED SCRUMS
Date last modified:	FEBRUARY 2019

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

This policy can apply to all matches in grades U14 and above

If a Coach/Team Manager knows before the game that their team will not be able to field 15 players at the start of the game and/or intend to nominate uncontested scrums at the commencement of the match, then they must notify the Referee and opposition Coach/Manager of this fact before the start of the match.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

The detail in this policy is approved to apply as a variation to Law and Rugby Australia Rules. However, this policy should be read in conjunction with:

World Rugby Laws <http://laws.worldrugby.org/>

Rugby Australia Variations <http://www.rugbyau.com/participate/referee/laws>

RUSA Laws Summary document

RUSA Team Forfeit Procedure

STEPS

1. Minimum and Maximum Player Numbers (U14 and Above)

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
1.1	<p>Minimum Playing Numbers = 11 When competing for Competition Points, a team must maintain a minimum number of 11 players participating in the match. Participating players includes players on the field, reserve players and temporarily unavailable players (e.g. yellow card, blood injury) Participating players excludes players who are injured and unable to return to play or sent off (red card)</p>	Club / Team Manager
1.2	<p>Maximum Playing Numbers = 23 Any team in U14 and above can name a maximum of 23 players for a match.</p>	Club / Team Manager

2. Contested Scrums

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
2.1	<p>Senior Grades When 23 players are nominated in a team there must be sufficient front row players to play at hooker, tight-head prop and loose-head prop who are suitably trained and experienced to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement in each front row position is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums. When a team is reduced to fewer than 15 for any reason, then the number of players in each team in the scrum may be similarly reduced. Where a permitted reduction is made by one team, there is no requirement for the other team to make a similar reduction. However, a team must not have fewer than five (5) players in the scrum (3 x front row and 2 x second row).</p>	Referee
2.2	<p>Junior Grades (U14 to U18) When a team is reduced to fewer than 15 for any reason, the number of players in each team in the scrum may be similarly reduced. Where a permitted reduction is made in the scrum by one team, the other team must reduce their scrum accordingly, down to a minimum of five (5) Where there is an incomplete scrum, it must be formed as follows: (i) Seven (7) players = 3-4 formation (i.e. no number 8)</p>	Referee

* 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.

OPERATIONAL POLICY



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	(ii) Six (6) players = 3-2-1 formation (i.e. no flankers) (iii) Five (5) players = 3-2 formation (i.e. no flankers or number 8)	
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Uncontested Scrums

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
1	<p>Commencing a Match with Uncontested Scrums In the South Australian competition, be required to nominate uncontested scrums, then the team concerned must play with one player fewer on the pitch than the team had prior to nominating uncontested scrums. If, subsequently, a qualified front rower becomes available so that scrums can be contested then that player will be allowed onto the field and the team may return to the appropriate complement of on-field players. If neither team has suitably trained front row players to start a game with contested scrums, the above arrangements do not apply to the game, even if qualified front rowers subsequently become available.</p> <p>Those teams that are unable to commence a game with contested scrums, or cause uncontested scrums as a result of a sending off, temporary suspension or injury, are required to scrum with eight players. For those scenarios where teams are starting with 13 players or less, uncontested scrum numbers may be reduced accordingly (e.g. A 13 player team requires at least 7 players in the scrum).</p> <p><u>First Grade and Reserve Grade Mens</u> In the South Australian competition, teams competing in First Grade Mens and Reserve Grade Mens must commence their match with contested scrums. If a team is unable to commence their match with contested scrums, then that team will be recorded as forfeiting the match. Exemption from commencing a match with contested scrums for the Reserve Grade Mens team, where the lowest Senior Mens team in the Club is Reserve Grade, can be considered on a case by case basis for a nominated Minor Round by the Competition Manager.</p>	Referee

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