
QUEENSLAND RUGBY UNION

SENIOR RUGBY POLICY EXCEPTION – WOMEN SPECIFIC

Policy No: QRU0010 – Senior Rugby - Exception – Women Specific

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CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	2
1. SENIOR RUGBY POLICY EXCEPTION – WOMEN SPECIFIC.....	3

1. SENIOR RUGBY POLICY – EXCEPTION – WOMEN SPECIFIC

1.1 Policy Statement

ARU's Senior Rugby Policy is across the game within Australia.

Whereas senior male competitions have more than one (1) Grade; so that the player in question has an option to find the appropriate level to play 15-a-side Rugby, female competitions do not.

This anomaly for females can and does result in 15-a-side games where novices are playing with seasoned participants and participants who are currently playing representative rugby up to and including for Australia.

In exceptional cases, a participant's physical development, skill level and experience may be such that she may be allowed to participate in senior rugby competitions from the age of 16 years and above. Such participants are only permitted to participate in a senior competition in the following circumstances:

(a) where the participant will not play senior rugby in the front row (prop or hooker) – she must comply with the procedure described in Schedule A - Senior Rugby Policy Exception - Women Specific, including completion of the Consent Form;
or

(b) where the participant will play senior rugby in the front row (prop or hooker) – she must comply with the procedure described in Schedule A – Senior Rugby Policy Exception - Women Specific, including completion of the Consent Form;

and

– She must also apply to ARU for approval play in the front row (prop or hooker), as outlined in Schedule B - Exception for Front Row, including completion of the Submission Form. Such consent will be given on a case by case basis.

ARU approval to play in the Front Row must be received before the player participates in senior rugby as an exception to this Policy.

1.2 Policy Coverage

That ARU's Senior Rugby Policy does not apply to any Women 15-a-side Competition; unless the Competition in question has more than one (1) grade.

Schedule A

Senior Rugby Policy Exception - Women Specific (Applicable for 16 years and over ONLY)

Before a female player wishes to participate in a senior rugby competition at an age of **16 years and over**, the information in this Schedule should be carefully considered and the attached Consent Form must be properly completed and sent to the Competition Manager.

PLEASE NOTE: Female players who are **16 years and over** and play in the Front Row (prop or hooker) must also apply for approval from the ARU prior to participation in senior rugby, as outlined in Schedule B - Exception for Front Row. The player may not play in the Front Row in senior rugby until ARU approval has been received.

Risks:	It is important that all people involved in a decision to permit a female player to participate in a senior rugby competition at an age 16 years and over , understand that rugby is a contact sport and, like all contact sports, players are exposed to the risk of injury. This risk may be heightened where a player participates in a senior rugby competition at an age 16 years and over , where the player's physical development, skill level and experience are inferior to that of the players she will play against.
Considerations	<p>In assessing the suitability of a female player to participate in a senior rugby competition at an age 16 years and over, the coach assessing the player and the player's parent or guardian should consider the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the player's level of physical development (e.g. height, weight, build etc) when measured against potential playing colleagues? Is the player physically equipped to compete on an equal basis with players in the proposed senior rugby competition?• Does the player have a high skill level; both specific to their playing position and in relation to the games fundamentals (e.g. tackle, pass, ruck, maul, scrum etc)? Will the player's skill level place the player on an equal basis with players in the proposed senior rugby competition?• What is the player's level of experience? Is the player reasonably experienced and has the player gained that experience in a comparable standard of competition?• What is the standard of competition in the proposed competition? Is it at a level in which the player can compete safely?
More information:	More information: More information on player safety can be found at http://www.rugby.com.au/rugbylink/PolicyRegister.aspx
Role of the Coach - Player Assessment:	<p>The suitability of a female player to participate in a senior rugby competition at an age 16 years and over must be assessed and the potential risks explained to the player and her parent or guardian. The coach undertaking the player's assessment must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold both a minimum current level 2 coach accreditation, and SmartRugby qualification, and be registered on ARU's MyRugbyAdmin;• Consider the player's suitability to play in a senior rugby competition against the considerations described above; and• Talk to the player and her parent or guardian to ensure that they understand that the player will be competing against older players and this may involve an increased level of injury risk.
Role of the Parent or Guardian:	A parent or guardian of a child under the age of 18 must consent to the child playing in a senior rugby competition. That consent must be evidenced by completing the attached Consent Form.
Role of the Competition Manager:	<p>The Competition Manager must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that a copy of this Policy (complete with Schedules A & B and the Consent Form) is included in the competition rules;• Do their best to ensure that the Policy is observed by all teams participating in the competition; and• Keep records of completed Consent Forms.

Senior Rugby Policy Exception - Women Specific - Consent Form**COMPLETED FORM TO BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR COMPETITION MANAGER****PLAYER** (please print clearly)

Name:	Rugby Link ID:
Club:	Competition/Sub Union:
Date of Birth:	
Playing Position:	
Phone:	Email:

ASSESSING COACH

Name:	Email:
Phone:	SmartRugby
Coaching Level [2] [3] Please circle	Qualification: Expiry:

Coach to assess the player against the following considerations. If the answer is NO to any of these considerations, then the player shall NOT be considered capable of competing safely with players in the proposed competition.

PLEASE NOTE: Female players who are **16 years and above** and play in the Front Row (prop or hooker) must also apply for approval from the ARU prior to participation in senior rugby, as outlined in Schedule B - Exception for Front Row.

Physical Development:	Does the player's level of physical development allow the player to compete with players in the proposed women's senior rugby competition?	YES	NO
Skill Level:	Is the player's skill level comparable with other players in the proposed women's senior rugby competition?	YES	NO
Level of Experience:	Does the player have the experience to compete with other players at a comparable standard of competition?	YES	NO
Standard of Competition:	Is the standard of competition in the proposed senior rugby competition suitable to allow the player to compete safely?	YES	NO

In my opinion, the player's physical development, skill level and experience is sufficiently high that the player is capable of competing safely with players in the proposed women's senior rugby competition.

I have explained to the player and her parent or guardian that the player will be competing against older players and this may involve an increased level of injury risk.

Name:	Signature:	Date:
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PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN (please print clearly)

I confirm that:

- a) I am a parent or legal guardian of the abovementioned player;
- b) I have been provided with a copy of the ARU's Senior Rugby Policy and the QRU's Senior Rugby Policy Exception - Women Specific including Schedules A & B of that Policy;
- c) The coach has explained to me that, in his/her opinion, the player's physical development, skill level and experience is sufficiently high that she is capable of competing safely with players in a women's senior rugby competition;
- d) It has been explained to me that the risk of injury may be increased by the player playing in the proposed women's senior rugby competition; and
- e) I understand that rugby is a contact sport and, like all contact sports, players are exposed to risk of injury. I also understand that the level of risk may be heightened where a player participates in a women's senior rugby competition in circumstances where the player's physical development, skill level and experience are inferior to that of the players she will play against. In addition to understanding these risks, I also agree, to the extent permitted by law, to waive all claims for liability against any participant (including players, coaches, volunteers and administrators) and release every such participant from all liability that may be incurred in connection with the player's participation in the proposed women's senior rugby competition.

Name:	Signature:	Date:
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COMPETITION MANAGER (please print clearly)

I confirm that:

- a) A copy of this Policy (complete with Schedules A & B and the Consent Form) is included in the competition rules; and
- b) Records of completed Consent Forms are kept.

Name:	Signature:	Date:
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Schedule B

Exception for Front Row (Prop or Hooker) (Applicable for 16 years and over ONLY)

A female player **16 years and over** wishing to participate in a women's senior rugby competition in the Front Row (prop or hooker) must also apply for approval from the ARU prior to participation in senior rugby. The player may not play in the Front Row in senior rugby until ARU approval has been received.

The player and parents/guardian should consider the information provided in:

- Schedule A – Senior Rugby Policy Exception – Women Specific; and complete the Consent Form. [Competition Manager approval is not required until ARU approval to play in the Front Row is granted], and
- Schedule B - Exception for Front Row and complete the Submission Form.

NOTE: Both Consent Form and Submission Form must be submitted to the ARU for consideration of this exception.

Risks:	It is important that all people involved in a decision to permit a female player to participate in a senior rugby competition at an age 16 years and over , understand that rugby is a contact sport and, like all contact sports, players are exposed to the risk of injury. This risk may be heightened where a player participates in a women's senior rugby competition at an age 16 years and over , where the player's physical development, skill level and experience are inferior to that of the players she will play against. Medical studies support that players in the Front Row (prop or hooker) are exposed to a higher level of serious injury than players in other positions.
Considerations:	<p>In assessing the suitability of a player to participate in the position of Front Row (prop or hooker) in a women's senior rugby competition at an age 16 years and over, the following factors will be considered and addressed in the Submission Form.</p> <p>(i) Skill level, experience and the level of coaching received – <i>Player experience in the Front Row (prop or hooker)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of years experience playing in front row • Did you play in the front row last year? • If you missed a game through injury last year please identify the injured area (eg R. Shoulder, L. Knee or neck etc) <p><i>Level of coaching received</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Level coaching qualifications does your current coach have? • Have you received any specialist front row coaching in the last 2 years? If Yes, please outline coaching received, identify the coach who provided this coaching, and outline their coaching qualifications and experience? <p>(ii) Strength –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you undertake a regular strength program? If Yes, how many times a week do you complete strength training, identify who provided the program and their qualifications and provide the strength program that you have completed over the past 4 weeks. • How long have you been doing regular strength training? (ie months/years) Provide maximum number of lifts for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bench Press – at 60% of body weight ii. Squat – at 75% of body weight Provide current height and weight <p>In addition to the above information, an objective assessment of body structure may also be required if deemed appropriate.</p> <p>(iii) Body structure –</p> <p>If your skill/experience and strength levels outlined above have been considered adequate, the ARU may request additional information in the form of MRI or CT scan, prior to approving an exception for Front Row. A referral for these investigations will be posted to you if appropriate. The costs of these investigations must be borne by the athlete.</p>
Submission forms can be sent into:	Australian Rugby Union Fax: (02) 8005 5681; or E-mail: communityrugby@rugby.com.au
Approvals	Approvals will be granted on a case by case basis.

FRONT ROW EXCEPTION – SUBMISSION FORM

COMPLETED SUBMISSION FORM, ATTACHMENTS AND CONSENT FORM TO BE SUBMITTED TO AUSTRALIAN RUGBY UNION

Fax: (02) 8005 5681 or e-mail communityrugby@rugby.com.au

PLAYER (please print clearly)

Players Name: _____ **Club/School:** _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

ASSESSMENT (attached further information if required)

In assessing the suitability of a player to participate in the position of Front Row (prop or hooker) as an exception to this Policy, the player must complete this Submission Form addressing the considerations outlined in Schedule B.

Playing skill and experience in front row

1. Please enter the number of years played in front row _____
 2. Outline level of rugby played in front row (eg club/school, representative, etc and year played)

3. Did you play in the front row last year? YES or NO (circle)
 If No, please state why: _____

4. Did you miss any games due to injury in the last year? YES or NO (circle)
 If Yes, how many games were missed due to injury last year? _____ missed games
 List injuries causing a missed games: _____

Level of coaching and training received in front row

1. Have you received any specialised front row coaching in the last two seasons? YES or NO (circle)
 If Yes, specify details (eg what coaching, identify the coach, level of coaching qualifications & experience, etc)

2. Provide your current coach's name, coaching and SmartRugby qualifications
 Name: _____ Coaching Qual. level _____ SmartRugby Expiry _____

Strength and Conditioning

1. Do you undertake a regular (> 2/week) strength program? YES or NO (circle)
 If Yes, how many times a week do you complete strength training? _____ per week
 2. How many years have you been completing regular strength program? _____ years _____ months
 3. Outline who wrote the strength program and their S&C qualifications

Name: _____ S&C qualifications _____

Attach copy of the strength program completed over the past 4 weeks. YES or NO (circle)

4. Provide maximum number of lifts for (i) Bench and (ii) Squat
 (i) Bench Press: _____ kgs (at 60% of body weight) _____ (reps / number of lifts)
 (ii) Squat: _____ kgs (at 75% of body weight) _____ (reps / number of lifts)

5. Player's Current: _____ kgs (weight) _____ cm (height)

OFFICE USE ONLY	
S/E: <input type="checkbox"/>	FRC: <input type="checkbox"/>
S/C: <input type="checkbox"/>	SP: <input type="checkbox"/>
BP: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
SQ: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
APP: Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>

I declare that the information provided and attached is true and correct.

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____