

**OFSAA RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP**

**PLAYING REGULATIONS**

*The sole basis for the very existence of high school sport is the contribution it makes to the general educational experience of those students who participate.*

**PLAYING REGULATIONS**

**1. Events and/or Classifications:**

There shall be two classifications of Championships - "A/AA" and "AAA" for Rugby. Associations shall classify their school teams based on the criteria found in By-Law 5, Section 2(b).

**2. Championship Structure and Procedure:**

- (a) (i) If the Boys' OFSAA Rugby Championship is a **16-team** championship it shall be a **single** elimination tournament with a consolation round. See Sport Specific Directives.
- (ii) If the Boys' OFSAA Rugby Championship is a **12-team or 18-team** championship it shall be a pool structure with 3 teams in each pool. See Sport Specific Directives
- (iii) The Girls' OFSAA Rugby Championship is a 16 team championship. It shall be a modified double elimination tournament with a consolation round. The seeded draw for a 16 team tournament shall be as shown in Girls' Rugby Sport Specific Directives
- (iv) A friendship game shall be held for teams playing in games 23 and 24 in the girls' championship.
- (b) At the completion of the game, the teams will clap each other off the playing field.
- (c) Registration materials will be given to the teacher accompanying the athletes upon receipt of the required entry materials as outlined on the OFSAA Rugby website.
- (d) The teacher-coach/supervisor must attend the coaches' meeting. If the coach is a non-teacher, both the teacher-supervisor and the coach must attend.

**3. Entry:**

- (a) Entries shall be accepted from Association convenors or designates only.
- (b) Entries must be received by the convenor by the deadline date as indicated in the coaches' information package on the OFSAA Rugby website. Late entries will only be accepted if they can be accommodated, and an additional entry fee will be charged.
- (c) Each Association is allowed one (1) entry into each Championship.
- (d) Each team may register a maximum of thirty-four (34) participants, which includes players and team personnel. Only registered participants may represent the school and/or attend Championship

activities. (ref. Appendix XV)

- (e) Any suspension or disciplinary actions in Association play shall be carried forward into OFSAA competition. The Association convenor shall be responsible for reporting such players and the nature of the disciplinary action on the OFSAA entry form.

**4. Expenses:**

- (a) Those schools having entries are responsible for their entry fee, arranging and financing their own travel, meals and accommodation for the event.
- (b) All schools entering a Federation Championship/Festival shall, by signature of the school principal on the entry form, acknowledge responsibility for making restitution for any damage resulting from misconduct by participants.

**5. Eligibility:**

**(a) School/Team Eligibility**

To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation, a school/team must:

- (i) conduct a 'bona fide' high school program consisting of fifteen (15) practices, including eight (8) contact practices during a minimum 4-week period under the supervision of a teacher as certified by the school principal
- (ii) participate in an Association-approved league if one is held
- (iii) participate in the Association Championship or qualifying event. If neither is held, then the team must play six (6) games/competitions
- (iv) use only eligible athletes in any competition during the school year or the school forfeits its right to participate in the OFSAA Rugby Championship.

**(b) Individual Student Eligibility**

To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation a student **must**:

- (i) be eligible for competition under the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules (Playing Regulations) of the Association to which his school belongs;
- (ii) be certified as eligible by the Principal of the school;
- (iii) In the boys' championship meet the following age requirement: the individual's birth certificate indicates that he has not reached his 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held; **and must be in grade 10 or higher and have reached his 15th birthday by January 1st the year in which the competition is held.**
- (iv) in the girls' championship an individual must be in Grades 9-12;
- (v) be eligible under the OFSAA Transfer Policy (By-Law 5, Section 4(f));
- (vi) be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from date of entry into Grade 9 (By-Law 5, Section 4(g));
- (vii) have signed the Rules of Behaviour signature form for the competition;
- (viii) have executed the Federation's "Release of Liability" form.

- (ix) have participated as a member of a 'bona fide' high school program as outlined in (a) above and attended the majority of practices and competitions
- (x) participate in the Association Championship or OFSAA-qualifying event
- (xi) not participate in both the OFSAA Championship and any other event in that same sport on the same day

**6. Rules and Officials:**

The **laws of World Rugby** shall govern play at the OFSAA tournament with the following exceptions:

**(a) Replacement of Players**

- (i) Based on agreement between opposing coaches and officials prior to the start of the game and at half time, unlimited substitution will be permitted during your possession; once replaced the player cannot return.
- (ii) Should a player receive a red card during the games, the player will be ejected from the current game, and is no longer eligible to compete in the tournament. No replacement will be allowed for the remainder of that game during which the offense occurred. Any such instances shall be reported to the Protest Committee.
- (iii) If a player receives a yellow card during the game, the temporary suspension (sin bin) shall be 5 minutes during a 40-minute game, and 7 minutes during a 50 minute game.

**(b) Playing Time**

- (i) The OFSAA Championship shall be played under the **laws of World Rugby** toss and time regulations.
- (ii) All games, except the championship games, will be two 20-minute halves. The consolation final, bronze medal game and gold medal game shall be two (2) 25-minute halves.
- (iii) The start time of games shall be a minimum of two (2) hours from the end of their previous game.

**(c) Coaching Zone**

- (i) Where possible, players and coaches from opposing teams shall be on opposite sides of the field, and a coach from each team is permitted to coach from the try zones. One coach must remain with the players at all times.
- (ii) When teams must be on the same side of the field, players and coaches will be located between the try line and the 10m line on their respective half for the duration of the game.
- (iii) When a playing enclosure exists at the field; a coach, a water person (who is not a coach ie. a substitute player) and medical personnel (if applicable) will be permitted within the playing enclosure.
- (iv) One coach must remain with the team outside of the playing enclosure (when it exists), within the coaching zone, at all times.

**(d) Roster Limits**

- (i) Each team may register a maximum tournament roster of thirty (30) players.
- (ii) The game sheet provided by the convenor prior to the start of each game must identify a maximum of 30 players to compete in each game.

**(e) Tie-Breaking Procedures**

**(a) Tie Games**

- (i) On days when teams are scheduled to play one (1) game in a day in pool play, and in consolation final, bronze medal and gold medal games, there will be two (2) five (5) minute halves played with ten (10) a -side (five forwards and five backs) with two (2) minutes between halves. The ten (10) players must be selected from the players on the pitch at the end of the regulation time. The remaining players shall be directed to the end zone outside the dead ball line until the completion of the overtime. These players can be selected to kick at the end of the overtime period. If the teams are still tied at the end of two (2) five (5) minute halves, the game shall proceed to kicks.
- (ii) Teams shall have a coin toss to select the right to kick or choice of end prior to the start of the overtime period, or kick.
- (iii) Fifteen (15) aside laws shall be followed in the overtime period.
- (iv) Kicks: Each team shall select up to three (3) players, from among the players on the field at the end of the regulation period. These players shall be organized to kick from designated spots with the wind at their backs. A best of three format shall be used. Kicks may be a drop kick or a place kick. The kicks shall be in the following sequence from the 22 m line:
  - Midway between sidelines and 22 metre line
  - Left 15 metre line and 22 metre line intersection
  - Right 15 metre line and 22 metre line intersection
- (v) If still tied after the three (3) kicks, single sudden victory kicks shall be attempted by a player from each team that was on the field at the end of the tied game. These sudden victory kicks shall be taken in the same progression and location as in (iv) above.
- (vi) On days when teams play more than one (1) game in the day, the teams will go directly to kicks as outlined in (ii) and (iv) above to break the tie.

**(b) Tie Breaking for Standings in Pool Play**

- (i) Tied games in pool play shall stand.
- (ii) All pool matches carry three (3) points for a win; two (2) points for a draw; one(1) point for a loss by less than five (5) points; and zero for a loss of five points or greater. The team with the highest point total after pool play shall win the pool.
- (iii) If two (2) teams are tied for pool standing at the end of pool play, the following tie-breaking procedures shall be used in the following order:
  1. The winner of the match in which the tied teams played.
  2. The team with the best defensive record (least number of points allowed in all pool games).
  3. The team which scored the most tries in the head-to-head match between the two teams
  4. The team that scored the most tries in all its pool matches

5. Total points scored by each team in all pool matches divided by the total points scored against, and the team with the higher quotient shall be the winner

6. The team which scored the greatest number of converts on their tries

7. The team which had the least number of players ordered off the field throughout the tournament

8. Coin toss.

(iv) If three (3) teams tie in standings after pool play the following tie-breakers shall be used in the following order:

1. The team allowing the fewest points during pool play

2. The team which scored the most tries in all pool matches

3. The total points scored by each team in all pools games shall be divided by the total points scored against and the team with the highest quotient shall be the winner

4. The team which had the least number of players ordered off the field throughout the tournament

5. Coin toss.

## 7. Uniforms and Equipment:

### (a) *General*

(i) All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's/Association's name, colours and logos.

(ii) No sport club insignia on uniforms shall be permitted. A sport club is defined as a community, provincially or nationally based organization whose primary purpose is participation in organized competition in single or multi sport programs.

(iii) Sponsorship recognition is permitted to be visible but must conform with the placement guidelines outlined in By-Law 6, Section 2(h).

(iv) Student-athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate team uniform in the competition area, AND use the designated locker room or change area to change to and from competition attire.

(v) The above criteria must be met both on and in the immediate vicinity of the competitive area and during the awards' ceremonies. Incidents of non-compliance shall be forwarded to the Protest Committee for resolution.

### (b) *Sport Specific*

(i) Players must wear full fit interior mouth guards at all times during play.

(ii) Uniforms, protective equipment and appropriate footwear must conform to **laws of World Rugby**

Players shall wear identical rugby numbered jerseys (colour and style), rugby type shorts, and socks.

(iii) Teams must provide a second set of uniforms or pinnies in case of a colour conflict. A coin toss shall decide which team changes.

(iv) All uniforms must be intact at the start of each game.

(v) Any braces must comply with the **laws of World Rugby** and must be approved by the head

official at the coaches meeting prior to the start of the Championship. Players must not wear items containing buckles, clips, rings, zippers, screws, bolts, rigid material, or protection not otherwise permitted by law.

**8. Awards:**

- (a) OFSAA gold, silver, bronze and antique bronze medallions thirty four (34) shall be presented to the members of the top four (4) teams in each Championship.
- (b) The school represented by the Championship teams shall receive an OFSAA banner to be retained by the school.
- (c) The winner of the Consolation round shall receive a plaque to be retained by the school.

**9. Supervision:** (Reference By-Law 6, Section 1)

*A teacher is defined as a member of the Ontario College of Teachers or a holder of an Ontario Teacher's Certificate or equivalent.*

- (a) For team sports ("A team consists of all athletes from the same school who qualify for Federation competition as a unit..." {reference By-Law 5, Section 3}), a teacher from the same school, or a retired teacher, as approved by the principal of the school, must accompany and be responsible for the team.
- (b) For all sports, where the teacher, as indicated above, is not of the same sex as the athletes, and where the athletes are required or might be required to stay overnight, a supervisory adult, as approved by the principal of the school, of the same sex as the athletes, must be present and available at the accommodation site for the duration of their stay in the accommodation.

**10. Deportment:** (Reference By-Law 6, Section 2)

(a) Definitions:

- (i) A team is defined as, "All participants representing the same school at an OFSAA Championship event".
- (ii) A participant is defined as, "Anyone who has been granted proper authorization to enter a restricted area." "Restricted area" includes "those areas occupied by athletes and to which access by the general public is restricted or prohibited."

(b) Codes of Behaviour

- (i) All participants are expected to abide by the, "Rules of Behaviour for Participants to OFSAA Championships". (see Appendix to By-Laws)
- (ii) Supervising adults are responsible for the behaviour of participants for the duration of the Championships.
- (iii) Teams are open to censure for failure of its participants to abide by the "Rules of Behaviour".
- (iv) All coaches are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics for Coaches to OFSAA Championships. (See Appendix II)

- (v) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Statement of Principle on Recruiting. (See Appendix IV)
- (vi) Spectators are expected to adhere to the Code of Behaviour for Spectators. (See Appendix III)
- (vii) All coaches are expected to adhere to the "Return to Play Guidelines". (See Appendix VI)
- (viii) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Policy on dispensing drugs, medication and food supplements. (See Appendix IX)

(c) No artificial noisemakers are permitted at OFSAA Championship events.

**11. Social:**

- (a) If a special event is arranged all team members and coaches must attend.
- (b) Participants are expected to wear 'dress casual' attire. No jeans, shorts, tank tops, or hats are permitted.
- (c) Should there be an instance of improper attire, the Protest Committee shall deal with the matter and forward a report to the Board of Reference-Sanctions.

**12. Medical:**

- (a) Qualified sports therapist(s) or other medical personnel and equipment must be available for each Championship site(s).
- (b) Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (e.g. tape, band aids, ice packs) for their athletes.

**13. Protest Committee**

All disputes during an OFSAA Championship/Festival shall be directed to the Protest Committee for resolution.

- (a) The Protest Committee shall consist of three (3) individuals; the chairperson of the Sport Advisory Committee or designate, a tournament committee member, and one other member appointed by the Championship convenor. The Head official in some cases, may serve as a member of the Protest Committee. Members of the Protest Committee must not have any conflict of interest relevant to the incident under protest.
- (b) All protests must be submitted in writing to the Championship convenor or designate, shall fully outline the incident under protest, and shall be accompanied by a \$50.00 fee (refundable if protest is upheld).
- (c) A protest must be submitted within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the game/event in which the incident under protest occurred, or within thirty minutes of the occurrence if protesting an incident outside the field of play.
- (d) In the event of foul play (red card), video evidence may be submitted to the Protest Committee within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the game. Full game footage must be provided. Incidents dealt with by officials on the field may not be submitted for review.
- (e) The following areas may not be protested at a Championship/Festival:

Q - 8

- Officials' decisions
- Eligibility of transfer students

(f) Any disputes or protests re: tournament structure and procedure must be addressed no later than the coaches' meeting.

(g) The Protest Committee shall be the body empowered to delay/modify/cancel an event due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. weather conditions) at the site(s).

(h) Decisions of the Protest Committee shall be final.

A report of all appeals and decisions shall be forwarded to the OFSAA Board of Reference – Sanctions, who may determine that additional sanctions are necessary.

*All Federation Championships are non-smoking events.*

*This includes the use of all tobacco related products.*

*Participants must obey the Ministry of Education's Code of Conduct*

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**SPORT SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES**

**1. Championship Structure and Procedure:**

- (a) Convenors, whenever possible, should ensure that all participating teams are rotated throughout all Championship sites during the preliminary rounds of competition.
- (b) Semi-final games shall be run concurrently whenever possible.
- (c) Each pool shall play a round robin series with all pool games taking place on the first day of competition, except for the boys' 16-team draw which is a single elimination format with a consolation round.

**2. BOYS' TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURE**

**(i) Boys' 16 Team Tournament Draw**

16 Team Boys' Rugby Draw								
Day3	Day 3	Day 2	Day 2	Day 1	Day 2	Day 2	Day 3	Day 3
			L1	1	W1			
			13		9	W9		
		W13						
			L2	2	W2	17		
							W17	
	W19	19						
			L3	3	W3			
			14		10	W10		
		W14						
			L4	4	W4		23	
Consolation	21							Gold/Silver
			L5	5	W5			
			15		11	W11		
		W15						
			L6	6	W6	18		
							W18	
	W20	20						L17
			L7	7	W7			22
			16		12	W12		L18
		W16						Bronze
			L8	8	W8			

**(ii) Boys' 12 Team Playoff Structure**

The first and second place teams in each pool shall advance into the quarter-finals.

**12 Team/4 Pool Draw**

A	B	C	D
1 <sup>st</sup> seed	2 <sup>nd</sup> seed	3 <sup>rd</sup> seed	4 <sup>th</sup> seed
8 <sup>th</sup> seed	7 <sup>th</sup> seed	6 <sup>th</sup> seed	5 <sup>th</sup> seed
Random	Random	Random	Random

**(iii) Boys' 18 Team Playoff Structure**

The first place team in each pool and the two (2) best wild cards shall advance to the quarterfinals.

Playoffs - six (6) pools

Quarter finals

- #1 A1 vs. Wild Card A ]  
 #2 B1 vs. Wild Card B ]  
 #3 C1 vs. F1 ] 2<sup>nd</sup> day  
 #4 D1 vs. E1 ]

Semi finals

- #5 Winner #1 vs. #4 ]  
 #6 Winner #2 vs. #3 ] 2<sup>nd</sup> day

Finals

- Bronze finals - losers #5 vs. #6 ]  
 Gold finals - winners #5 vs. #6 ] 3<sup>rd</sup> day

**18 Team/6 Pool Draw**

A	B	C	D	E	F
1 <sup>st</sup> seed	2 <sup>nd</sup> seed	3 <sup>rd</sup> seed	4 <sup>th</sup> seed	5 <sup>th</sup> seed	6 <sup>th</sup> seed
Random	Random	Random	Random	8 <sup>th</sup> seed	7 <sup>th</sup> seed
Random	Random	Random	Random	Random	Random

**3. GIRLS' 16 TEAM TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE**

Day 3	Day 3	Day 2	Day 2	Day 1	Day 2	Day 2	Day 3
				<b>G1</b>			
			LG1	1 vs 16	WG1		
		WG13					
			<b>G13</b>	<b>G2</b>	<b>G9</b>	WG9	
			LG2	8 vs 9	WG2		
	WG19	<b>G19</b>					
		LG12		<b>G3</b>		<b>G17</b>	WG17
WG25				5 vs 12	WG3		
	<b>G25</b>	WG14	LG3				
			<b>G14</b>	<b>G4</b>	<b>G10</b>	WG10	
		<b>G20</b>	LG4	4 vs 13	WG4		
	WG20	LG11					
				<b>G5</b>			
			LG5	3 vs 14	WG5		
<b>Consolation</b>		WG15					<b>Gold</b>
<b>G27</b>			<b>G15</b>	<b>G6</b>	<b>G11</b>	WG11	<b>G29</b>
		<b>G21</b>	LG6	6 vs 11	WG6		
	WG21						
		LG10		<b>G7</b>		<b>G18</b>	WG18
	<b>G26</b>		LG7	7 vs 10	WG7		
WG26		WG17					
			<b>G16</b>	<b>G8</b>	<b>G12</b>	WG12	
	WG22	<b>G22</b>	LG8	15 vs 2	WG8		
		LG9					LG17
							<b>Bronze</b>
							LG18
		LG13					
		<b>G23</b>	<b>Friendly</b>				
		LG16					
		LG14					
		<b>G24</b>	<b>Friendly</b>				
		LG15					

**4. Officials:**

- (a) Members of the championship committee and the head official will consult with each other prior to and during the championship in deciding referee selections and game assignments.
- (b) The head official must attend the coaches' meeting, and is encouraged to hold an officials' meeting prior to the start of the first game, when possible. Otherwise the head official is responsible for communicating the information to all officials participating.
- (c) Beyond the preliminary round on the championship side, assistant referees/linesmen (if available), shall be Level I certification and all referees shall be Level II certification for OFSAA championship games.

**5. Facilities and equipment:** The Tournament Convenor shall provide match quality game balls for the Championship.

**6. Medical:**

- (a) Provision shall be made by the Convenor to have a medical doctor in attendance or readily available and to follow appropriate hygienic precautions with regard to bodily fluids and communicable diseases. (See Appendix IV to the By-Laws.)
- (b) Qualified sports therapist(s) and equipment must be present at each of the Championship site(s).

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