



PACIFIC RUGBY FESTIVAL - SENIORS

COMPETITION RULES 2025

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Pacific Rugby Festival Process and Procedures

1. Sanctioning

1.1 Pacific Rugby Festival is a sanctioned event via Rugby Australia and QRU

1.2 Pacific Rugby Festival follows the Laws of Rugby outlined in the IRB Laws of the game: <https://passport.world.rugby/media/g21aixlp/2507en-world-rugby-laws-july-update-compressed.pdf>

2. Insurance

2.1 Pacific Rugby Festival is a Rugby AU & QRU Sanctioned Special Event.

<https://australia.rugby/participate/rugby-administration/insurance>

2.2 Team entry fees includes Special Event Insurance coverage for all participants and team personnel.

2.3 What is covered? [Rugby Australia](#) | [AJG Australia](#)

3. Rugby AU Code of Conduct

3.1 [Rugby AU Code of Conduct By-Laws](#) binds all participants in attendance at Pacific Rugby Festival 2025.

3.1.2 <https://australia.rugby/about/codes-and-policies/integrity/code-of-conduct>

3.2 Reporting a Code of Conduct complaint. If a person has a complaint regarding a Code of Conduct they must complete the below and submit to the Pacific Rugby Festival Competition Manager and Rugby Australia Rugby AU Code of Conduct By-Laws binds all participants in attendance at Pacific Rugby Festival 2025.

3.3 Match Official Abuse cases are classed as a Mid-Level or High-Level breach of the Rugby Australia Code of Conduct guidelines and will be reported accordingly.

3.4 Pacific Rugby Festival Event Director, Competition Manager and PRF Representatives are responsible in ensuring the Code of Conduct is adhered to and respected at all times, by all participating, both on field and off field.

3.4.1 Should the Event Director, Competition Manager or a PRF Representative believe a Code of Conduct violation occurs the appropriate steps will be taken to report the incident.

3.4.2 The Event Director, Competition Manager and PRF Representatives reserve the right to remove any persons from the field/venue that are in breach of the RA or PRF Code of Conduct.

4. Pacific Rugby Festival Code of Conduct

4.1 Each participating Nation/Team must have a nominated Code of Conduct officer.

4.2 Pacific Rugby Festival must be notified in writing, of a Nation/Teams Code of Conduct Officer 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the festival. This includes officers full name, contact details and Rugby Xplorer ID.

4.3 Nation committee/leadership and participating teams are responsible for behaviour and conduct of players.

4.3.1 Nation committee/leadership and participating teams are responsible for behaviour and conduct of all teams staff. This includes but is not limited to Coaches, Managers, Trainers and volunteers.

4.3.2 Nation committee/leadership and participating teams are responsible for behaviour and conduct of ALL supporters.

4.4 Please ensure your teams understand the standards of behavior expected at Pacific Rugby Festival 2025. If these standards are not met, then consequences will be implemented according to the competition judiciary process. (Please see judiciary process for further details).

4.5 "Ignorance is not an excuse"

4.6 Participant/s or Team/s found in breach of the Code will not be permitted to participate until the matter has been dealt with by the Competition Manager and/or Judiciary.





5. Match Officials

5.1 QRRA will provide qualified Referees for the duration of the festival.

5.2 QRRA will provide qualified Assistant Referees on all games.

5.3 Pacific Rugby Festival has a zero tolerance for ANY Match Official abuse. The festival is a sanctioned event under the Rugby Australia Special Event sanctioning and therefore adhere to the Directive for all Rugby Organisations and Participants; Match Official Abuse issued by Rugby Australia in June 2023.

5.3.1 Match Official abuse is considered both onfield and off-field behaviour.

5.3.2 Match Official abuse can be described as any behaviour that is directed towards a MO which is not inline with the core values of our game: discipline, respect, integrity, passion and team work.

5.3.3 Match Official abuse includes but is not limited to; harassment or verbal or physical abuse, dissent, intimidation, threatening behaviour, verbal sledging/swearing, harmful behaviour or disrespect.

5.4 Any person, on field or off field, deemed to be engaging/instigating any Match Official Abuse will be removed from the field of play and/or venue.

5.4.1 Should the person in breach not comply with this request a formal Rugby Australia breach will be made: <https://australia.rugby/about/codes-and-policies/reporting-a-concern/rugby-case?nc=match-official-abuse>

5.4.2 The competition manager has the right to enforce a Competition Ban for the duration of Pacific Rugby Festival should this be decided by the Competition Manager.

6. Injury Protocol

6.1 Each field will have a qualified medical personal in attendance for duration of the festival.

6.2 Assist First Aid is the medical providers for Pacific Rugby Festival 2025.

6.2.1 Assist First Aid will have an onsite Paramedic to assess any Serious Injuries.

6.3 ALL injuries, Minor or Serious, are to be reported to medic in attendance.

6.4 Pacific Rugby Festival Head Medic will be the point of contact for ALL serious injuries.

6.4.1 A Serious Injury Report must be completed within 48hrs of the injury occurring

6.4.2 A serious injury is;

6.4.2 a) any head or neck injury that results in player being treated at an emergency department, hospital or after-hours medical centre

6.4.2 b) Any injury that results in the admission of a player into hospital.

NB: This does not include players taken to Emergency Department and allowed home from there. <https://australia.rugby/about/codes-and-policies/safety-and-welfare/injuries/report>

6.5 Team Management Responsibilities

6.5.1 Phone Pacific Rugby Festival Head Medic TBA in the event of a Serious Injury (i.e. suspected spinal injury or fatality), who in turn notifies Festival Director who in turn notifies Rugby AU.

6.5.2 Accurately record any details and persons associated with the injury.

6.5.3 Notify next of kin in the case of serious injury to a player/s head or neck.

6.5.4 Complete the Serious Injury Report within 48hrs of the time of injury occurring.

6.5.5 Complete the Rugby AU Injury Claim Form for all insurance claims.

6.6 Blue Card - Concussion

6.6.1 As per the Rugby Australia guidelines, a player who shows any signs or symptoms of a suspected concussion will be issued a blue card.

6.6.2 All Blue Cards issued must be reported to the Competition Manager, as well as reported in line with the Rugby Australia Concussion Management.

6.6.3 If a Blue Card is issued, the player will be ruled out for 19days

6.6.4 The Team official must supply the player, who has been issued a Blue Card, with a Referral & Return Form and Head Injury Fact Sheet

6.7 Injury Delay / Time

6.7.1 No injury time; an injured/hurt player must be rotated immediately from the field, providing it is safe to do so.

6.7.2 Game time will continue despite breaks in play.

6.7.3 It is at the discretion of the PRF representatives and Match Officials to determine if game time can be stopped due to a Serious Injury. (This will be evaluated on a case by case scenario).

6.7.4 Should a Serious Injury occur during a game and the game not be able to continue scores will be taken at time of injury.

6.7.5 Should the game be a draw at time of injury, points will be awarded to the first points scorer of the game.

NEW TACKLE LAW EXPLAINED

Above the shoulders
• Penalty, may result in red or yellow card



Above the sternum
• Penalty, with repeated infringements potentially leading to a yellow card



Aim to tackle below the base of the sternum



Risk of concussion is 4.2 times lower when the tacklers head is below the height of the sternum



Important Game Play Guidelines

7. Substitutions

7.1 Pacific Rugby Festival has a rolling substitution process.

7.2 Unlimited player substitutions can be made within a game.

7.3 Making a Substitution

7.3.1 The player making the substitution must not take the field until the player being substituted is off the field.

7.3.2 There must be only 15 players on the field at any one time.

7.3.3 The player wanting to make a substitution must report to the Assistant Referee. The Assistant Referee will then instruct the player when they are authorised to take the field of play.

8. Scrums

8.1 All age divisions will play contested scrums.

8.2 8 players, per team, to engage in a contested scrum.

8.2.1 Each team is to ensure there is a minimum of at least 6 front row designated players (2 in each position).

8.2.2 There are certain circumstances when a team is NOT required to drop a player

i. Blood bin

ii. Blue Card

iii. Injuries as a direct result of foul play committed by the opposition.

8.3 Uncontested scrums:

8.3.1 A team can only elect to conduct an uncontested scrum due to player welfare and safety. The team must have medical reasons, that apply directly, to the nominated front row players.

8.3.2 If a team elects an uncontested scrum in a round game, they must drop a player. The Coach of the team electing the uncontested scrum, will nominate a player to leave the field of play once the call 'uncontested' has been made. Only when the scrums return to 'contested' can the team return to the full contingent of players.

8.3.3 Should a team elect an uncontested scrum in a finals round, the above clause 8.3.2 will be implemented.

9. Technical Zone

9.1 Technical Zones will be distinguished on each playing field.

9.2 Inside the technical zone there is permitted to be 1x water runner and 1x trainer. They must both be wearing appropriate bibs.

9.3 All player reserves need to be seated at all times within the "Dug Out/Bunker". A reserve player is not permitted to enter the field of play for any try celebrations during the game.

9.4 COACH - A coach is NOT permitted to be positioned within the playing enclosure, nor are they to reside within the designated Technical Zone.

9.5 MANAGER - A manager is NOT permitted to be positioned within the playing enclosure, nor are they to reside within the designated Technical Zone.

9.6 PRF REPRESENTATIVE - A PRF representative is authorised to halt a game or breach a coach/manager should they not abide by the above clause. The game clock will not be stopped should this need to occur.

9.7 MATCH OFFICIAL - A Match Official is authorised to halt a game if there are any unauthorised persons within the playing enclosure. The game clock will not be stopped should this need to occur. www.world.rugby/the-game/laws/law/6



10. Scoring & Match Day Manager

All Teams participating in Pacific Rugby Festival are required to use the Rugby Australia Match Day Manager app for scoring and team lists.

10.1 Team list Requirements - 25 players per team ONLY.

10.1.1 When submitting a team list via Match Day, a coach and manager must be nominated

10.1.2 Team lists are to be submitted 30mins prior to the kick off of each game.

10.1.3 The team manager is required to nominated the teams front row for that game.

Rugby Match Day App – Entering Squad List Video ([xplorer.rugby](https://www.xplorer.rugby))

10.1.4 All players that take the field, must be recorded on the Match Day App. A player that is not named in Match Day and appears on the field will be deemed an “unregistered player” and will results in a game forfeit.

10.2 Scoring

10.2.1 Each Team Manager must score only for their own team via the Match Day app.

10.2.2 If a Team Manager is required to score for the opposing team, this must be approved by the PRF Ground Marshall on the designated field.

10.2.3 Under the "Movements" tab, Managers are required to enter any movements that occur within a game.

10.2.4 All cards (yellow/red or blue) must be recorded during the game.

Rugby Match Day App – Live Scoring Video ([xplorer.rugby](https://www.xplorer.rugby))

10.3 Points

10.3.1 Try = 5 points

10.3.2 Conversions = 2 points

11. Points Table

11.1 Win = 4 points

11.2 Lose = 0 points

11.3 Draw = 2 points per team

11.4 Competition Ladder

11.4.1 Total match points

11.4.2 Points difference

12. Yellow Card

- 12.1 A player who receives a yellow card must remove themselves immediately from the field of play for a 10 minute period.
- 12.2 The 10 minute timer will not start until the player is seated in the Match Officials tech zone. A chair will be provided for the player.
- 12.3 The player must stay seated for the duration of the 10 minutes. The player can however start their warm up in the remaining minute.
- 12.4 The player cannot move up & down the sideline.
- 12.5 When returning back to the field, the player must report to the Assistant Referee before re-entering the field of play.

13. Red Card

The player receiving the Red Card must exit the field immediately and is not permitted to return.

- 13.1 Red Card – any incidents when a Red Card is issued will be dealt with by the judiciary process.
- 13.2 Sanctions may include suspensions from one or more games. Sanctions will be decided by the onsite judiciary committee.
- 13.3 The Judiciary Committee will follow the Rugby Australia Disciplinary Rules.

14. Judiciary Committee

- 14.1 The Judiciary Committee will consist of a PRF representative, a Match Official/QRRA representative (not the referee involved in the incident) and a Head of Nation member.
- 14.2 The judiciary committee can include more personnel should it be deemed necessary by the competition manager. This will be assessed in a case by case scenario. [Australian Rugby Disciplinary Rules | Rugby Australia](#)

14. Complaints

- 15.1 All protests and complaints must be lodged in writing to the Pacific Rugby Festival's Complaints Officer, located in the PRF HQ.
- 15.2 Protests/Complaints must be lodged within 30 minutes of the incident or game it occurred in.
- 15.3 Pacific Rugby Festival Complaints Manager will endeavour to resolve the complaint/protest within a timely manner.
- 15.4 The person making the complaint/protest will be informed of the outcome via email.

