

## SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

### 12s RUGBY LEAGUE – RULES AND GUIDELINES

#### **“The Gary Balkin Cup” To be held annually in July/August**

1. These rules are to be read in conjunction with School Sport Australia rules for 12 Years & Under Championships and should be reprinted in the Championship program.  
Amended September 2016
2. Unless otherwise stated, the rules as set down by the Australian Rugby League (Mod Rules for 12 year olds) shall apply with the following exception:
  - a) Unlimited interchange shall be allowed.
3. The Championship shall extend over a minimum of seven (7) days and a maximum of nine (9) days.
4. Teams shall be limited to a maximum of seventeen (17) players. A player shall not be allowed to play in an age grade competition two years or more above the competition that he is naturally eligible to play (National Rugby League Policy Rule 2.13).  
Amended October 2017
5. Points allocation for a win, draw and loss will be as follows: win–(3), draw–(2) and loss–(1). After 3 rounds of competition teams will play Quarter Finals which are cross pool games. Rankings for the Quarter Finals will be determined as a result of place in each pool after first 3 days competition. If teams are on equal points after the 3<sup>rd</sup> game, the ranking will be based on the head to head game. In the result of a draw in the head to head game, the team scoring the first try will be ranked higher. If there was no try in the head to head game, the ranking will be based on point differential.

The winners of the Quarter Finals will move on to the Semi Finals.

The **draw** shall be as follows:

a) **For 7 competing states/territories**

Pool placing to be determined over the last 4 years of competition as is presently the case. i.e. 2 Pools are established with rankings based on the addition of each team's finishing position from the previous 4 years' Championships with the lowest score ranking highest. Where scores are equal, the team with the highest finishing position in the previous year's competition will be awarded the higher ranking. **(Until 2018 when a full 4-year cycle is reached: The results of the 2014 Championship be used to seed teams in 2015. The results from subsequent championships with no age dispensation, will then be used to seed teams until a complete 4-year cycle can be achieved.)** An invitation team will be invited to fill the bye. This team will be ranked using the same criteria as every other team in the Championship, regardless of which state the invitation team comes from.

**Pool A:**

Team 1  
Team 2  
Team 3  
Team 4

**Pool B:**

Team 5  
Team 6  
Team 7  
Team 8

**Sunday:**

**Pool A:**

1v2  
3v4

**Pool B:**

5v6  
7v8

**Monday:**

**Pool A:**

**Pool B:**

1v3                    5v7  
2v4                    6v8

**Tuesday:**

**Pool A:**                **Pool B:**  
1v4                    5v8  
2v3                    6v7

**Wednesday:**

**Quarter Finals:**

After 3 days of competition teams will play Quarter Finals which are cross pool games. The winners of the Quarter Finals will move on to the Semi Finals. Rankings for the Quarter Finals will be determined as a result of place in each pool after the first 3 days competition.

QF 1: 1<sup>st</sup> Pool A v 4<sup>th</sup> Pool B  
QF 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> Pool A v 3<sup>rd</sup> Pool B  
QF 3: 3<sup>rd</sup> Pool A v 2<sup>nd</sup> Pool B  
QF 4: 4<sup>th</sup> Pool A v 1<sup>st</sup> Pool B

**Drawn Quarter Final:**

In the event of a drawn quarter final, 5 minutes each way, extra time will be played under the golden point rule, where the first scorer will immediately be determined the winner. If the scores are still equal after extra time, the first try scorer will determine the winner. If there was no score, the team from the higher pool (Pool A) will be determined the winner.

Amended November 2019

**Thursday:**

Educational Excursion

**Friday: Semi Finals Day**

**Semi Final 1:**                    Winner QF1 v Winner QF4

**Semi Final 2:**                    Winner QF2 v Winner QF3

**Ian Duncan Qualifying Final 1:** Loser QF2 v Loser QF3

**Ian Duncan Qualifying Final 2:** Loser QF1 v Loser QF4

**Drawn Semi Final:**

In the event of a drawn semi final, 5 minutes each way, extra time will be played under the golden point rule, where the first scorer will immediately be determined the winner. If the scores are still equal after extra time, the first try scorer will determine the winner. If the score is still nil all after 5 minutes each way extra time, the team from the higher pool (Pool A) will be determined the winner.

If both teams are from the same pool:

- The team which finished highest in the pool after Day 3 will be determined the winner.
- If both teams finished equal on their pool the winner of their head to head game in the pool will be determined the winner.
- Should there have been a draw between the two teams in their head to head pool game, point differential in the pool games will decide the winner.

Amended November 2019

**Saturday: Finals Day**

Loser Ian Duncan Qualifying Final 1 v Loser Ian Duncan Qualifying Final 2

Winner Ian Duncan Qualifying Final 1 v Winner Ian Duncan Qualifying Final 2 (Ian Duncan Shield)

Loser Semi 1 v Loser Semi 2 (Graham Johnson Shield)

Winner Semi 1 v Winner Semi 2 (Gary Balkin Cup)

b) **For 6 competing states/territories**

A round robin competition - 5 games for all teams followed by

1 v 2 - *NRL Development Pool*

3 v 4 - *Graham Johnston Pool*

5 v 6 - *Ian Duncan Pool*

Amended September 2016

c) **For 5 competing states/territories**

The host state to enter an invitational team - a round robin competition as for 5(a).

d) **For 4 competing states/territories**

Teams will play two rounds followed by

1 v 2 - *NRL Development Pool*

3 v 4 - *Graham Johnston Pool*

Amended September 2016

e) Teams will be programmed to play one match per day.

Amended September 2016

f) In the event of a draw in any Final, joint winners will be declared.

g) The competition shall be conducted on a points for/points against format, not percentages.

6. The Australian Rugby League Referees Association Coordinator will appoint referees for all matches.
7. All match balls are to be supplied by the host School Sport Australia member body.  
Added September 2016
8. All matches will be of 2 x 20 minute halves with a 5 minute interval.
9. An official time-keeper/scorer shall be appointed by the host state.
10. No team official or spectator shall coach a team from the sideline whether by voice, signal or any other method while the game is in progress.
11. Team officials may only encroach onto the field in the event of injury to a player or if called upon to do so by a referee or Championship official. In the event of injury a designated team official may enter the field of play to treat a player. If the official requires assistance from qualified medical personnel he will signal by raising one arm. Play will continue in this instance. After 1 minute of injury time has elapsed, to commence from when the referee whistles injury time, the clock stops. Extra time shall be allowed for stoppages to play where the designated medical officials signals for further medical assistance. Otherwise, no extra time will be played.
12. In the case of head injury sustained during a game the practices and procedures in the NRL's "Management of Concussion in Rugby League" will be adopted and implemented.

*\*\* Section of the NRL's "Management of Concussion in Rugby League" policy, which is recommended to be published in the Championship Program:*

### **Follow-up Management**

- ◇ *A player who has sustained a concussion MUST NOT be allowed to return to school or play before getting a medical clearance.*
- ◇ *Return to learning and school should take precedence over return to sport.*
- ◇ *The decision regarding the timing of return to training should always be made by a medical practitioner.*
- ◇ *In cases of uncertainty about the player's recovery always adopt a more conservative approach---"if in doubt sit them out".*

### **RETURN TO PLAY**

- ◇ *Players should not return to play until they have returned to school/ learning without worsening symptoms.*
- ◇ *Return to training/ play should be gradual.*

◇ *Rehabilitation after a concussion should be supervised by a medical practitioner and should follow stepwise symptom limited progression. A rehabilitation program can look like the following:*

- **Rest until symptom free—includes physical and mental rest.**
- **Light aerobic activity can be started 24-48 hours after symptoms have ceased.**
- **Light, non-contact training drills.**
- **Non-contact training drills with some resistance training.**
- **Full contact training—after medical clearance only.**
- **Return to competition.**

*Each stage should be a minimum of 24 hours duration.*

*If symptoms return then the player should drop back to the previous symptom free stage.*

**Reference:**

*<sup>1</sup> McCrory P, Meeuwisse W, Aubry MK, Cantu B, et al. Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport: the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Concussion in Sport held in Zurich, November 2012. Br J Sports Med. 2013 April; 47 Suppl. 5; 250-267*

13. Results of all matches shall be handed to the Championship organiser or such other person designated at the Pre-Championship Meeting, on the official form provided, not later than thirty (30) minutes after the close of play.
14. A judiciary is to be formed at the Pre-Championship meeting and consist of the championship Convener, National Secretary (Chairperson) and an independent team official who is a current teacher. The judiciary will only meet to investigate an incident on receipt of an On-Field Incident Report. The player (along with his Team Manager) will have the opportunity to address the Judiciary. The player has the right of appeal on any penalty and if so, an additional independent person will be included to hear the appeal.
15. **Protests**
  - a) Protests must be lodged, in writing, by the team management, with the Championship convener within forty-five (45) minutes of the conclusion of the game in question. Officials of the team subject to a protest are to be informed immediately.
  - b) At the Pre-Championship meeting a protest committee of three (3), consisting of the Championship convener (Chairperson), the National Secretary and an elected state representative, will be appointed. When the National Secretary is not in attendance, the position will be filled by a second state representative.
16. **Laundry of Playing Uniform**

The Host State or Territory shall offer competing teams to have their entire playing strip (jersey, shorts and socks) laundered after each playing day.

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| <b>SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS</b> |
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| <b>NAME</b>     | <b>STATE</b> | <b>YEAR</b> |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Ian Duncan      | NT           | 2002        |
| Kevin Corcoran  | NSW          | 2003        |
| Gary Murtha     | ACT          | 2006        |
| Glyn Sargent    | ACT          | 2010        |
| David Cohen     | SA           | 2011        |
| Jonathon Tucker | ACT          | 2016        |
| Paul Crate      | SA           | 2019        |

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| <b>SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA ECLECTIC SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS</b> |
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| <b>NAME</b>  | <b>STATE</b> | <b>YEAR</b> | <b>SPORTS</b>                      |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Sharyn Smith | NT           | 2006        | Rugby League / Australian Football |