

GENERAL INFORMATION

Lead Area:	RUGBY SERVICES
Lead Policy Title:	FINALS ELIGIBILITY POLICY
Date last modified:	April 2024

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The following provides clarity on the structure and eligibility requirements for Clubs, Teams and Players participating in the 2024 Finals Series.

Any Club, Team or Player who is financially indebted to RUSA for any reason, and that debt is not being serviced, will not be eligible to participate in any Match in a Finals Series.

The Finals Series Structure (i.e., number of finals matches, matches to be played etc) will be communicated to all Clubs during the Minor Rounds.

FINALS ELIGIBILITY:

1. To be eligible to play in the Finals Series, players must meet the following criteria:

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
1.1	A player who registers for a Club on or before 1 June 2024 (Round 9) will not be eligible for clearance to another Club in the RUSA Competition for the remainder of the 2024 season, unless considered by RUSA under exceptional circumstances.	Team Manager
1.2	A player may only play a finals match where the player has been registered for and played in at least a third (33.33...%) of the Eligible Minor Rounds in the relevant RUSA Competition, unless considered by RUSA under exceptional circumstances.	Team Manager
1.3	Games played will be recorded from team sheets that have been submitted in Rugby Xplorer for each minor round match. There is a maximum of 23 players which can be listed to a team sheet. Any players exceeding the first 23 players listed will not be counted for Finals Eligibility.	Team Manager
1.4	Players will be recorded as playing <u>only</u> for the highest team on that day where they were a starting run-on player. OR Should the player only have acted as a reserve they will be <u>only</u> recorded against the highest team that they were a reserve for on that day where the substitution movement is added against the player in the Rugby Match Day app . See appendix	Competition Manager

2. To be eligible to play for:

- a) A particular Club (where a player has been registered to 2 or more Clubs in a season); and
- b) A particular Team within a Club (i.e. Senior Grades)

players must meet the following criteria:

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
2.1	A player may only play a finals match in the club and grade/team where the player has played at least 50% of their matches during the current minor round. Players may play a finals match for their eligible Club in a grade higher than which they are eligible for based on participation in the minor rounds.	Club
2.2	If a club has more than one (1) team playing in the finals series in numerically consecutive grades on the same day , selection of players for those teams is the responsibility of the club proposing to play those players to ensure that they meet the criteria under Ref 1. (1) Premier Grade (2) Reserve Grade (3) Third Grade	Club

For worked examples of the Senior Grade Eligibility process, see the Appendix

* 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.

3. Dispensated Players must meet the following criteria to become eligible for finals:

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
3.1	<p>A Permanent dispensated player may <u>only</u> play in the finals series for the grade which they have been dispensated up or down to.</p> <p>A standby dispensated player may continue to stand by during finals for the grade to which the individual was dispensated into as a stand-by player. However, to ensure a fair and even competition, this 'stand by' individual must have 'stood by' for at least a third (33.33...%) of matches during the minor rounds as either a run-on starting player or reserve player, and a team may only have a maximum of four (4) stand-by players in any match.</p>	Club

4. Finals Dispensation Application

Where a player is unable to meet the qualification for eligibility requirements under Ref 1 of this policy:

due to injury or illness,

OR

was required to play in the **front row** in a higher grade during the season due to a **front row** player in that grade having suffered an injury or illness

the club should follow the following steps.

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
4.1	<p>Where a player is unable to meet the qualification for eligibility requirements under Ref 1 of this policy due to injury or illness,</p> <p>OR</p> <p>was required to play in the front row in a higher grade during the season due to a front row player in that grade having suffered an injury or illness, the club should follow the following steps.</p>	Club Secretary
4.2	<p>Any application for finals dispensation must be submitted on the <u>Player Finals Dispensation Form</u> to RUSA by COB Monday, 19 days prior to Finals Commencing. Applications will <u>only</u> be considered with supporting documentation issued and signed by a medical professional.</p> <p>A decision to grant a player exemption from the requirements of this is at the absolute discretion of the Finals Eligibility Committee</p> <p>NOTE – All players being considered for Finals Dispensation due to injury/illness must have been registered for and otherwise available to play in the requested matches had it not been for injury/illness.</p>	Club Secretary
4.3	<p>Members of the Finals Eligibility Committee will meet on before COB Monday, 5 days prior to Finals Commencing to determine the eligibility of all players and reserves for the finals series of all grades and consider any exemptions sought for situations that do not meet the eligibility criteria as stipulated in the Competition Rules.</p>	Finals Eligibility Committee
4.4	<p>Acquittal Application</p> <p>In extreme and/or special circumstances, the Finals Eligibility Committee will consider acquittal requests outside of injury dispensation. The Finals Eligibility Committee will have the sole discretion on applications, and any decision made will be final.</p> <p>All Acquittal Applications must be received by COB Monday, 26 days prior to Finals Commencing (1 week earlier than the injury dispensation requests).</p>	Finals Eligibility Committee

5. Eligibility Communication and Team Selection for Finals

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
5.1	<p>by: 9am Wednesday prior to Finals Commencing</p> <p>All clubs competing in finals in both Juniors and Seniors grades will receive an 'Eligibility Spreadsheet'. This will include a breakdown of all players eligible for finals and the grade which they are eligible for.</p>	Competition Manager
5.2	<p>by: 5pm Wednesday prior to each Finals Weekend</p> <p>All Clubs must submit their eligible team of 23 via Rugby Xplorer, selected from the 'Eligibility Spreadsheet'.</p> <p>Failure to submit a team sheet by this date may result in finals eligibility requests being unable to be considered and/or granted.</p>	Club
5.3	<p>by: 3pm Friday prior to each Finals Weekend</p> <p>Clubs may make their last changes to their submitted team via Rugby Xplorer and communicate any changes via email.</p>	Club

OTHER INFORMATION:

- A forfeit is still classified as a minor round fixture for the 'non forfeiting team' as long as team sheets are submitted, and team sheet has a minimum of 11 players and maximum of 23 players listed.

* 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

APPENDIX – Competition Management Reports based on 16 round competition

Player & Team Official History: Shows history of player and team officials selected on the team list, including ID, participant name, team name, competition, appearances (total of games played in the starting time list and games played as a reserve). Key is:

- P = player selected in the starting team list,
- R = selected as a reserve in the starting team list,
- S = substitution movement added against the player in the Rugby Match Day app,

Example 1

Per 1.1 and 1.2 : Player has played at least 1/3 eligible matches in the season and complies with player clearance date if applicable

Per 1.3: Highlighted cells indicate the Grade that the player is counted for in that Round

Per 2.1: Player has played at least 50% in Third Grade, therefore eligible to play Third Grade and up.

Player Name	Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	# of Highlighted Games	# of Eligible Games	% of Games	Meet 50% Threshold?
Max Powers	First Grade	P	P	P			S	R	R	R	R				R			4			No
Max Powers	Reserve Grade					R	R	R	R	P	P	R						2			No
Max Powers	Third Grade	P				P		P	P			P	S		P	S		7			Yes

Example 2

Per 1.1 and 1.2 : Player has played at least 1/3 eligible matches in the season and complies with player clearance date if applicable

Per 1.3: Highlighted cells indicate the Grade that the player is counted for in that Round

Per 2.1: Player has played at least 50% in Reserve Grade, therefore eligible to play Reserve Grade up.

Player Name	Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	# of Highlighted Games	# of Eligible Games	% of Games	Meet 50% Threshold?
Alex Smith	First Grade	R	R	R	P	R	S	S	R	R	R				R			3			No
Alex Smith	Reserve Grade	P				P	R	R	S	P	P	R		P			P	7			Yes
Alex Smith	Third Grade	P						R	S			P	S		P	S		4			No

Example 3

Per 1.1 and 1.2 : Player has played at least 1/3 eligible matches in the season and complies with player clearance date if applicable

Per 1.3: Highlighted cells indicate the Grade that the player is counted for in that Round

Per 2.1: Player has played at least 50% in First Grade, therefore eligible to play First Grade.

Player Name	Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	# of Highlighted Games	# of Eligible Games	% of Games	Meet 50% Threshold?
Charlie Tock	First Grade	P	P	P	P			R				R	P		P		P	7			Yes
Charlie Tock	Reserve Grade						R	P	P	S	P	P			R			5			No
Charlie Tock	Third Grade						P			R	R							1			No