

## GENERAL INFORMATION\*

|                       |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lead Area:            | RUGBY SERVICES                   |
| Lead Procedure Title: | MERCY RULE – Junior Competitions |
| Date last modified:   | April 2024                       |

## SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The policies herein are intended to bring focus to the participation nature of community Rugby Union in South Australia.

The Junior Competition will focus on competing until a points differential is reached.

All Clubs and Teams in the Junior competitions are responsible for adhering to these policies, and upholding the premise of participation in our community game.

## JUNIOR COMPETITION MERCY RULE

This policy is introduced to standardise the process of points capping within the RUSA Junior Competition (specifically U12, U14, U16 and U18) during the regular competition rounds.

| STEP | DESCRIPTION OF ACTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | RESPONSIBLE                      |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1    | The referee will call full-time if the score reaches a points difference of 60 or in the process of reaching the 60 point differential.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Referee                          |
| 2    | If the points differential in one act of scoring exceeds 60 points the score will stand accordingly (a 66-point differential is the maximum that can be attained).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Referee/<br>managers/<br>coaches |
| 3    | The Match shall be declared a victory to the winning team - with the appropriate competition points and for and against points awarded to both teams accordingly.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Referee/<br>managers             |
| 4    | Once the points differential is 60 points (Maximum 66 points) - competition scoring ceases.<br><b>To be specific – No further scoring should be recorded on Public Scoreboards or recorded in the Rugby Xplorer Match Day app.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Referee/ team<br>managers        |
| 5    | When the referee has called full-time and enacted this mercy rule policy, the opposing coaches, in consultation with the referee, will decide if the game will continue in the same format (same teams), or in a modified format (mixed teams) “friendly match” initiative. Any option taken will now be non-competition points.<br><b>In any case – the maximum allotted game time must be used</b>                                                         | Referee/<br>coaches              |
| 6    | During any modified format/friendly match initiative or non-competition game-play (i.e., after the Mercy Rule has been enacted), yellow, red and blue cards are still valid and hold as much value and consequences as in regular competition formats.<br><b>For this reason, the match must remain “live” in Rugby Xplorer Match Day until the conclusion of the allotted game time. HOWEVER – per 4 above, no further match scores should be recorded.</b> | Referee/<br>manager/<br>coaches  |

\* 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.