



NATIONAL UNDER 85KG COLLEGE RUGBY FESTIVAL CUP HANDBOOK

2 SEPTEMBER - 5 SEPTEMBER 2024
FRASER PARK, AVALON



WELCOME

Welcome to the 2024 National Under 85kg College Rugby Festival! Organised by the Wellington Rugby Football Union and New Zealand Rugby, we are thrilled to once again host this exciting event in the Hutt Valley region.

This handbook contains essential information about the festival and it is crucial that all team management familiarise themselves with these guidelines.

This festival offers a fantastic opportunity for participants to compete in an emerging grade, where they can play against peers of similar size and skill level. We aim to foster an environment where everyone can enjoy the game and create lasting memories.

We extend a warm welcome to team members, their families, friends, and supporters from across New Zealand. Enjoy the festival, and may it be a memorable and enjoyable experience for all!

Regards,

Emma Paisley
Head of Operations - Community Rugby
Wellington Rugby Football Union

CONTACT DETAILS

Emma Paisley
Festival Director - Wellington Rugby
022 090 0701, emma.paisley@wrfu.co.nz

PROGRAMME

Please note all times are subject to change depending on number of teams entered, but the days will not commence any earlier than stated below.

Teams will play matches in both the morning and afternoon sessions, but adherence to NZR maximum playing times for teenagers will be achieved.

MON 2 SEPT

- 9:30am** Team Manager's Meeting
- 9:45am** Team Schedule Weigh-ins
- 10:15am** **SCRUM CLINICS COMMENCE**
- 11:00am** Round Robin Matches
- 12:00pm** Round Robin Matches
- 1:00pm** Round Robin Matches
- 2:00pm** Round Robin Matches
- 4:00pm** Laundry Due
Teams' Own Time

TUE 3 SEPT

- 10:15am** Captain's Photo
- 11:00am** Round Robin Matches
- 12:00pm** Round Robin Matches
- 1:00pm** Round Robin Matches
- 2:00pm** Round Robin Matches
- 4:00pm** Laundry Due
Teams' Own Time

WED 4 SEPT

- 11:00am** Round Robin Matches
- 12:00pm** Round Robin Matches
- 1:00pm** Round Robin Matches
- 2:00pm** Round Robin Matches
- 4:00pm** Laundry Due
Teams' Own Time

THU 5 SEPT

- 10:00am** Round Robin Matches
- 11:00am** Round Robin Matches
- 12:00pm** Finals Matches
- 1:00pm** Finals Matches
- 2:00pm** Closing Ceremony, Presentations
& Farewell

ENTRY FEES

Entry fees are \$500 per team

DRAW STRUCTURE

Please see below for the proposed draw structure.

If required, this will be amended upon confirmation of team entries.

ONE POOL - 9 TEAMS

All teams will play each other once in round robin play.

Teams will have a maximum of three games per day and a minimum of one.

Each team will play 8 round robin games with one bye.

Teams will play in a round robin stage, with each match being 40 mins (2 x 20 min halves)

Playoff stages for final day is based on seedings.

Premiership Final

Teams that finish 1st and 2nd in the round robin will play in the Premiership Final at 1pm on the last day.

Cup Final

Teams that finish 3rd and 4th in the round robin will play in the Cup Final at 1pm on the last day.

Plate Final

Teams that finish 5th and 6th in the round robin will play in the Plate Final at 12:00pm on the last day.

Bowl Final

Teams that finish 7th and 8th in the round robin will play in the Bowl Final at 12:00pm on the last day.

9th Place - Round Robin

The team that places 9th in the round robin will not play in the finals.

RULES & REGULATIONS

This festival is being run at the School Sport NZ (SSNZ) 'Cup' level. As this festival is in its third year and is being run as a pilot, the eligibility criteria is relatively light. Colleges are asked to adhere to the spirit of the festival by adopting a "leap and learn" approach and one where this is not seen as a, "winning is everything" type event.

- WRFU reserve the right to adjust these regulations as required at any point
- The draw will ensure all teams play against unfamiliar opponents. Results from Day 1 and 2 will determine seedings for play-off matches
- Schools with an Under 85kg team must field their regular players unless they have written approval from WRFU/NZR. Schools without an Under 85kg team can include players from any team, but it should not effectively be a 1st XV team
- Players must be Year 11-13, unless written approval is granted by WRFU/NZR prior to the festival
- Schools can register up to 26 players and play a maximum of 22 in a match
- New Zealand Rugby half-match policy states that for all rugby below First XV, it is compulsory for all players to play a minimum half match. Thus all students on your match day team card must play minimum of half a match. If upon a formal, substantiated protest, the offending school risks defaulting the match in question
- Only seven (7) substitutions are allowed per match, with no rolling subs permitted
- Three players must be capable of playing in the front row as per NZ Rugby Domestic Safety Laws
- All matches will adhere to NZ Rugby Domestic Law and compulsory EDSL V Rules
- Match length is to be 40 minutes across the three days
- All players must be bona fide secondary school students either of the school they are representing, or the school which forms part of a composite team
- Disciplinary procedures will follow Wellington Rugby Football Union protocol. In the event of a judicial hearing needing to occur, two independent coaches/managers will be asked to sit on a panel with a WRFU Representative or their appointee as the Judicial Chair
- In the event of a jersey colour clash, WRFU/NZR will have alternate sets available. For the avoidance of doubt, it will be the team identified second on the draw who will be required to wear an alternate jersey

SSNZ Eligibility Rules

Composite Team Template



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MATCH CARDS

Each team manager must complete an Official Team Card with all players' INITIAL & SURNAME and hand it to the referee before play starts. It is not acceptable to use players' nicknames or only Christian names on these cards. Cards will be sent to each team prior to the festival and made available from the Festival HQ.

MATCH BALLS

R80 is the official rugby ball supplier to WRFU. All balls to be used during the Under 85kg Festival need to be R80 branded. WRFU will be providing two R80 balls to every team and these will be given out at the Team Manager's briefing on day one.

MATCH POINTS

- 4 points for a win
- 2 points for a draw
- 1 point for a loss of 7 points or less
- 1 point for 4 or more tries being scored in a match

SPECTATORS & COACHES

In most cases, fields will be roped off to provide a safe environment for the players and officials. All spectators must remain behind the ropes. All coaches and reserves **MUST** stand behind the dead ball line during the match. This will be strictly enforced.

COMMUNICATIONS

All team managers and coaches will be well informed of progress and developments.

This information will be readily available to your school and wider rugby community. Please encourage them to access it to celebrate your team's success.

Information will be accessible from:

- wrfu.co.nz
- Wellington Rugby's Facebook and Instagram pages
- Images from the event will be available on the above social media channels
- Text message to all team managers and coaches at the end of each day to include:
 - Summary of results
 - Serious injury report
 - Any alterations for the following day
 - Any other additional information



TIED TEAMS - POOL PLAY

1. Where two teams are equal on points, the team that won the round robin match between the two teams will be afforded the higher ranking. If the match was drawn or cancelled, the team with the higher point's differential shall be afforded the higher ranking;
2. If more than two teams are equal on points, then the team with the higher point's differential shall be afforded the higher ranking;
3. If in point 2, teams are still tied, then the team having scored the most tries will be afforded the higher ranking. After that it will be a coin toss;
4. Any disputes relative to the application of the above shall be referred to the Festival Director for final determination;
5. There shall be no extra time in any match. If in any post pool progression match, the scores are tied at the end of normal time, then the winner shall be determined by the rule below

DRAWN SEMIFINALS & FINALS

In all semi-final and final matches, if the scores are tied at the end of normal time, there is no extra-time (World Rugby Under 19 rule).

Accordingly, the procedures to determine the winner shall be:

1. The team scoring the most tries in the match;
2. The team scoring the first try in the match;
3. The team scoring the first points in the match;
4. If still equal, then a coin toss

SERVICES & OTHER

LAUNDRY

A free laundry service is provided to all participating schools, covering a full gear bag laundry service (playing jerseys, socks and shorts only) overnight on days one, two, and three of the festival.

Gear bags must be clearly labelled with the school name and ready for collection from Festival HQ by the specified time each afternoon (refer to the festival program on page 4 for timings).

Laundry will be ready for collection at **9.00am** the following day from the Festival HQ.

Any additional items will incur charges billed to the school post-event, along with an administration fee if applicable.

FIRST AID & MEDICAL

WRFU will have first aid trained staff on-site. Physio services will also be available, with Hutt Hospital less than 10 minutes away.

POOLS

Huia Pool	Huia Street, Lower Hutt	(04) 570-6655
Stokes Valley Pool	Bowsers Street, Stokes Valley	(04) 562-9030

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment Centre	399 Hutt Road, Lower Hutt	(04) 568-3168
Te Papa Tongarewa	Cable Street, Wellington	(04) 381-7000
Wellington Zoo	200 Daniell Street, Wellington	(04) 381-6755
Daytona (Brewtown)	Blenheim St, Maidstone, Upper Hutt	021 350 873



SITE MAP

WRFU staff will be located at the Festival HQ in the Ricoh Centre.

All matches will be played on Rugby 1, 2 and 3.

