

**HUNTER JUNIOR RUGBY UNION
REPRESENTATIVE
BY-LAWS/RULES**



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Hunter Junior Rugby Union (HJRU)

Representative Level Rugby By-Laws

Introduction

These By-Laws govern all aspects of Representative Level Rugby within the Hunter Junior Rugby Union (HJRU) and must be adhered to by all players, coaches, officials, and affiliated clubs. This includes Wildfires XVs teams, sevens teams and other teams that would normally fall under a Representative banner.

These By -Laws are to be read in conjunction with Rugby Australia (RA), NSW Junior Rugby Union (NSWJRU) and NSW Junior Country Rugby Union regulations.

Reward

The HJRU Wildfires aims to reward those players who have shown a true commitment to our game and their respective clubs, and not just those committed to playing the mandatory number of games under “club participation rules” and then made themselves unavailable.

This is a pre-emptive measure by the HJRU Wildfires to select players who have demonstrated commitment to the game of rugby.

This is aimed at club players playing week in/week out and being recognised for their commitment to the game, and rewarded with an opportunity to be selected in a Wildfires 2025 Squad

Allows players to be observed in ‘real time’ as to on field performance and gamesmanship.

By-Law 1 Eligibility & Selection Criteria

By-Law 1.1

The Representative Coordinator/ HJRU Executive may arrange a Representative Selection Day/s as required or select players from an expression of Interest form by watching them over a number of weeks in either competition games or by attending an Academy.

By-Law 1.2

All Players must have a Primary Player Registration with an HJRU affiliated club in the current season before they are able to nominate or attend selection days for 15 A Side, 7's rugby or a development team.

By-Law 1.3

All players must submit a Nomination for Consideration. This can be collected via JotForm over the nomination period and include:

- Terms and conditions
- Name
- D.O.B
- Club
- Current Team

By-Law 1.4

Players must meet age-grade requirements as per Rugby Australia's Participation Policy.

By-Law 1.5

A player cannot weigh down for a representative team. A player cannot be considered for a representative or Development team if they have submitted and/or been assessed to play down an age group in the normal competition.

By-Law 1.6

All Players that nominate for a Representative Team **MUST** have had a Primary Player Registration with a Hunter Junior Rugby Union Club the previous year and played 50% or more of all Matches played (excluding byes) or won on forfeit for their particular Team in the Regular Season.

By-Law 1.7

All Player must have played 50% or more of all matches played or won on forfeit leading up to the NSW CJRU & NSW State Championships for their registered HJRU club the player must also continue to play a further 4 matches after the Country and State Champs otherwise they will not be eligible for selection in a Rep team the following year. This includes competition games only and does not include finals.

By-Law 1.8

Where a player has been injured and cannot fulfil the game requirement for the Selection Day and or attend any trial days set by HJRU, the HJRU Executive shall review the player's application for Dispensation. A medical certificate must accompany the Dispensation (the medical certificate must specify the period the Registered Player was not able to play on medical grounds) and related to a consultation at or around the time the injury/sickness occurred.

A medical certificate will be the only document accepted, a letter from a parent will not be considered. Players will still be expected to attend the selection day/s even if they can't participate. The Dispensation form can be found under resources on the website.

By-Law 1.9

Injured players – If a player has a significant injury (such as a break) and they will not be able to participate/train for maximum 4 weeks they will not be considered for Selection in the final team. A player must have a return to contact sport letter from their medical practitioner before they return to train.

By-Law 1.10

Training – Must be available for all training sessions designated by HJRU and the Team Coach.

By-Law 1.11

All players must be available for all trial games and competition games as required and attend all days over the duration of the carnival.

By-Law 1.12

Rigorous screening for wild cards must be passed by the majority vote of the HJRU Executive with final approval by way of the HJRU bylaws.

By-Law 1.13

It is at the full HJRUs Executive discretion to make an exception for a player that does not fulfil the Eligibility Criteria.

By-Law 2 Representative Team Structure

By-Law 2.1

HJRU Representative Teams will start from the following age groups U12's to U18's.

By-Law 2.2

HJRU Development Teams will start from the following age groups U10's to U12's.

By-Law 2.3

HJRU may develop an U10's/U11's/12's Development Squad to participate in the NSW State Championship Gala days. A player selection day/s will be held for both the age groups on a date set by the HJRU Executive or Rep Co-ordinator.

By-Law 2.4

Players must attend all mandatory training sessions unless excused by the Head Coach or HJRU Representative Coordinator.

By-Law 2.5

Team officials, including coaches and managers, must be accredited through Rugby Australia's Rugby Learning Centre and comply with all safety and coaching requirements.

By-Law 2.6

Players must wear official HJRU Representative Team uniforms and adhere to team conduct guidelines.

By-Law 2.7

Representative teams must play in Jerseys provided by HJRU.

By-Law 2.8

Injured players that are replaced in the squad are not permitted to travel with the team to the Country and State Championships unless accompanied by an adult.

By-Law 2.9

Any such player unavailable for a representative game, even if dispensation has been granted, is not eligible to play in club matches, or club trials on that weekend. In the event that such player does play in a Club match or trial, both Club and player will be subject to sanction by the Executive.

By-Law 3 Representative Player Conduct

By-Law 3.1

Players selected in a Representative Squad must sign a commitment agreement outlining their availability for training, matches, and adherence to HJRU's Code of Conduct.

By-Law 3.2

Players must wear official HJRU Representative Team uniforms and adhere to team conduct guidelines.

By-Law 3.3

Red Cards within the current season for a 'Breach of the Code of Conduct' or, 'Player Misconduct', may preclude inclusion in Squads, or as a 'Coaches Consideration' player.

Whilst not possible to provide a definitive and exhaustive list of inappropriate behaviours, acts of violence, intimidation and other forms of abuse will not be tolerated and is in no case acceptable.

Any player bringing the game into disrepute through misconduct or a breach of the Code of Conduct, will be required to show cause for consideration.

By-Law 3.4

If a player does not prioritise Rugby ahead of competing sports (i.e. asking for dispensation to play other sports), then the nominating player/squad member may not be prioritised by HJRU and risk forfeiting their position to another suitable participant.

By-Law 3.5

Lodging false dispensation forms is a serious offence and constitutes 'Non-attendance' of training and/or games, thereby impacting the minimum attendance rule.

A player will receive a written warning if it is found they have breached this dispensation rule

A second infringement will result in an immediate expulsion from the Wildfires Program.

By-Law 3.6

Mandatory attendance of Squad Training sessions is required.

By-Law 4 Player Transfers & Club Registrations

By-law 4.1

A player registered with an HJRU-affiliated club is eligible for selection in the Representative Squad.

By-Law 4.3

The HJRU Executive shall have the sole right to approve or reject applications from players in respect of their availability to attend representative trial games with other zones. Applications shall not be determined by any other party other than the full Executive.

By-Law 4.4

Players who are unsuccessful in gaining selection in a Wildfires team, may request a clearance to play for another Zone. Clearances will not be granted until all trials and training sessions for Wildfires teams are completed. Players will only be cleared to play for other Zones if they have nominated for the player pool which is provided by NSWRU

By-Law 4.5

A player transferring mid-season between clubs must obtain clearance from their original club and approval from the HJRU Executive before being considered for Representative selection.

By-Law 4.6

Representative players must notify HJRU in writing of any club transfer before the start of the Representative season.

By-Law 4.7

Once a player has been selected for a representative team or squad, they are unable to weigh down for a club team.

By-Law 5 Coaching & Development

By-Law 5.1

Applications for Representative positions are to be received by the HJRU on the prescribed form as distributed by the Office of the HJRU. All applicants must be suitably qualified. All Applicants if selected can only hold the position for a term of 3 years. Applications will not be considered unless the applicants hold the following qualifications:

- Coaches must have Smart Rugby, Season Ready and Level 1 Coaching qualification or higher.
- Assistant Coach must have Smart Rugby and Season Ready.
- Managers must have Smart Rugby and Rugby Xplorer Team Manager Program accreditation.
- Trainers must have a current First Aid Certificate or be a qualified Level 1 Sports Trainer
- ALL Team Staff must have completed and passed a working with children check and have had it verified by HJRU before they are able to participate in any team training.

By-Law 5.2

No person shall undertake any position or role, whether official or unofficial, associated with an HJRU Representative Team without the approval of the full HJRU Executive.

By-Law 5.3

HJRU shall facilitate additional development programs, including strength and conditioning sessions and specialist coaching clinics.

By-Law 5.4

A structured feedback process shall be implemented for players, with individual performance evaluations provided for post-competition.

By-Law 6 Representative Fee

By-Law 6.1

Representative Squad members will pay a representative levy which is set each year by the HJRU Executive. This is to be paid prior to the date set by the HJRU Executive or an acceptable payment system arranged, or the player will not be eligible to participate in the Representative Program.

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By-Law 6.2

If a Development Squad and/or Rep player's levy is not fully paid by the end of the regular season (unless by arrangement with the HJRU Executive) the player will be ineligible for the Finals Series, Club games the following season and HJRU Representative program selection.

By-Law 7 Discipline & Judiciary

By-Law 7.1

Representative players and officials must adhere to the Rugby Australia Code of Conduct.

By-Law 7.2

Any player receiving a red card in a Representative match shall be subject to an automatic review by the HJRU Judiciary Committee.

By-Law 7.3

Judiciary matters shall be handled in accordance with Rugby Australia disciplinary processes.

By-Law 7.4

Any misconduct during Representative duties that bring HJRU into disrepute may result in suspension or removal from the squad.

By-Law 8 Safety & Welfare

By-law 8.1

All Representative matches must comply with RA's safety policies, including concussion management and first aid protocols. Managers must report all suspected cases of concussion through the correct protocols.

By-Law 8.2

A designated first aid officer must be present at all training sessions and matches.

By-Law 8.3

Players suspected of concussion must follow RA's "Blue Card" protocol and obtain medical clearance before returning to play.

By-Law 9 Administration & Appeals

By-Law 9.1

The HJRU Executive Committee shall oversee the administration of Representative Level Rugby.

By-Laws 9.2

The HJRU Executive shall have the sole right to approve or reject applications from players in respect of their availability to attend representative trial games with other zones. Applications shall not be determined by any other party other than the full Executive.

By-law 9.3

Any disputes regarding selection, discipline, or eligibility may be appealed in writing to the HJRU Representative Coordinator within 48 hours of notification.

By-Law 9.5

Appeals shall be reviewed by an independent panel comprising members of the HJRU Executive.

By-Law 10 Amendments & Review

By-Law 10.1

These By-Laws shall be reviewed annually by the HJRU Executive Committee to ensure alignment with Rugby Australia/NSWJRU/NSW Country Junior Rugby Union policies.

By-Law 10.2

Amendments shall be communicated to all clubs, players, and officials before the commencement of the Representative season.