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**WELLINGTON
SECONDARY
SCHOOLS**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Wellington Secondary Schools
WSSRU Life members
Wellington Rugby Football Union

FROM: Wellington Secondary Schools Rugby Union (WSSRU) Executive

DATE: 19 March 2020

RE: Game On Protocol

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. NZ Rugby have updated their Participation Framework, which includes the Game On Protocol that is required to be implemented nationally across all senior club rugby and secondary school competitions.
- 1.2. Game On allows rugby matches to be played for competition points if a team has less than 15 players and/or insufficient front rowers to commence the match.
- 1.3. At the Wellington Secondary Schools Rugby Union (WSSRU) AGM in February 2020, a Game On Paper was present for the delegates to discuss. The delegates asked that the WSSRU Executive to discuss the paper, and let the schools know the final protocol and what grades it applies too.
- 1.4. The WSSRU Executive have discussed the Game On Protocol and have noted that it should be applied to all grades, apart from the following:
 - Boys Premiership
 - Boys Premier 2
 - Boys Under 15 Division 1
- 1.5. The Game On Protocol will be applicable to the Boys Under 55kg grade in regards to playing numbers. However as this grade already allows uncontested scrums, this part of protocol is not applicable.

2. FURTHER INFORMATION – How is it applied on game day

2.1. NZ Rugby have produced a video outlining how this applied on game day:

<https://youtu.be/2N-2sqGPv 4>

2.2. Agreement must be reached between teams and match officials prior to the match starting. Teams are encouraged to agree on the Game On options in the days leading up to match day, where possible.

2.3. The designated match official will follow the below process:

2.3.1. Team Size

- Agreement between 10 - 15 a side. In the event of no agreement between both teams, the decision defers to team with smallest number of available players.
- Teams who reduce numbers are allowed to maintain substitute players. For example, a team with 13 players are able to play 10-a-side and utilise three substitute players.
- If additional players arrive after the match has started, the conditions agreed to before kick-off remain.

2.3.2. Contested or uncontested scrums

- Where possible, games to be played with contested scrums subject to availability of a minimum three qualified front rowers in each team, irrespective of the size of each team. There is no requirement to have players named as front row replacements.

2.3.3. Scrum formation

In the event the Game On protocol is used, scrum formations are:

- 10/11 a side: 3-2 formation, i.e. no loose forwards
- 12/13 a side: 3-2-1 formation, i.e. no flankers
- 14 a side: 3-4 formation, i.e. no No8
- 15 a side: normal 3-4-1 formation

2.3.4. Match length

If there is no agreement between the teams, then the following match lengths based on team size are used:

- 10 a side: 2 x 20 min halves, 40 min max.
- 11 a side: 2 x 25 min halves, 50 min max.
- 12/13 a side: 2 x 30 min halves, 60 min max.
- 14 a side: 2 x 35 min halves, 70 min max.
- 15 a side: 2 x 35 min halves, 70 min max.

2.3.5. Competition Points

To ensure meaningful competition between teams, all matches played under Game On are for full competition points.

2.4. Communication

2.4.1. Teams that use the Game On protocol must, through their Rugby Administrator, let College Sport Wellington know that the protocol was used.

2.4.2. The designated match official will also complete a Game On match report which will record the reasons and variations used. To download the Game On match report resource [click here](#).

2.5. Game rules

Apart from those variations above, all Game On matches will be played under the current Laws of Rugby.

More information can be found at: <http://www.nzrugby.co.nz/game-on>

3. SCHOOLS ACTION

3.1. Schools are to ensure that your coaches, managers, parents, and players are aware of the Game On Protocol.

If you have any questions concerning the memorandum, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

David Fa'atafa
Secretary
Wellington Secondary Schools Rugby Union