



New Zealand Schools' Rugby Union

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MOASCAR CUP RULES

1. The Moascar Cup is under the jurisdiction of the New Zealand Schools' Rugby Union (NZSRU) and is played for in fixtures between New Zealand based 1st XV's only. Players must be in the school that the 1st XV represents. Composite Schools Teams as defined by School Sport NZ (formerly NZSSC), are ineligible to challenge for the Cup.
2. NZSRU's position is that within the challenge requirements, the Moascar Cup will be played for in as many games as possible in a season – see notes 10-20 below.
3. The winner of any challenge match should advise the Moascar Cup Coordinator the match result/score by email within 48 hours of the match.

Playing Rules

4. All Games will be played under New Zealand Rugby (NZR) rules as per the Under-19 Domestic Law Variations. Note that "extra time" is not permitted under these Law Variations. To win the Moascar Cup trophy, the challenger has to beat the holder.
5. While the New Zealand Rugby protocol known as "Blue Cards" will be followed, the "Half-Game" and "Game On" protocols will NOT be followed.
6. The 2022 Experimental Domestic Safety Laws (EDSLVS) may be used, if agreed to by both teams in writing. If no agreement can be met, then the rules of National 1st XV Championship shall be followed in relation to the EDSLVS, such that:
 - (i) 2022 Experimental Domestic Safety Law Variations that are optional for 1st XV grades (Tackle height, high ball contest, offside at the scrum), will not be played.

Eligibility

7. All players in a team must satisfy School Sport NZ Eligibility Criteria, including being Under 18 as at 1 January in the year in which any games are played and be current bona fide students at the school they represent. <http://www.nzsssc.org.nz/Sport-1/Events/Eligibility-Regulations>.

Note: The new to school quota has reduced from five students, to four for 2021 onwards.

8. All players in a team must satisfy NZR's National Policy "Age Bands for Age Grade Rugby". For the full policy, refer to <https://www.nzrugby.co.nz/get-involved/national-rugby-policies/>. For Moascar Cup games, this means:
 - (i) Boys who are 14 years old (under 15) on 1 January in the year of the competition must be cleared to play and the school must provide their completed exception circumstances forms with the NZSRU Moascar Cup Official Team List.
 - (ii) Boys who are 13 years old (under 14) or younger on 1 January in the year of the competition, are NOT permitted to take part.

Team Lists

9. All teams playing for the Moascar Cup are required to provide a completed NZSRU Moascar Cup Official Team List, signed by the principal, to the Moascar Cup Coordinator 48 hours prior to kick off.
10. Any changes to the team list must be notified to the Moascar Cup Coordinator immediately and at least one hour prior to kick off. Changes must be due to the genuine non-availability of a player or players.

Current Cup Holder

11. It is required that a school holding the Moascar Cup (the “holder”) at the start of any calendar year, advises the Moascar Cup Coordinator by 1 April, a minimum of seven scheduled challenge matches for that year; noting that:
 - (i) All home games, or games played at a venue where the holder is deemed to be the home team, must be Moascar Cup challenges, subject to Rule 11 below.
 - (ii) At least one challenge, of the holder’s choice, shall be against a team from outside of the holder’s Provincial Union, as those boundaries exist at the time.
 - (iii) In the event that the holder does not have the required number of home matches, they will need to choose additional matches from their schedule that fits the criteria of Rules 11 and 12.
 - (iv) In the event that a scheduled challenge match is cancelled, the NZSRU will determine if another challenge match needs to be played by the holder.
12. This schedule shall exclude pre-season matches (those prior to that teams normal competition schedule) and matches against overseas teams.
13. Where the holder does not at 1 April nominate a challenge from out of their Provincial Union, then any match by the holder at the completion of their own regular season against a New Zealand team from outside of their Provincial Union, be it at ‘home’ or ‘away’ shall automatically become a mandatory challenge match.

New Cup Holder

14. When there is a change in holder during the season, the new holder must within one week, provide the Moascar Cup Coordinator with:
 - (i) Their schedule of remaining ‘home’ games which all then become mandatory challenges (as defined in Rule 10 i).
 - (ii) A nominated ‘out of Provincial Union’ game (as defined in Rule 10 ii).
 - (iii) If the cup is won after the end of Term 2, then the out of Provincial Union game requirement will be waived for that year.

Provincial Union and Inter Provincial Unions Competition Semi-Finals and Finals

15. A Provincial Union or an Inter Provincial Union Competition semi-final will be regarded as a Moascar Cup challenge, if the semi-final is played at the home venue of the holder.
16. A Provincial Union or an Inter Provincial Union Competition Final is a mandatory Moascar Cup challenge, regardless of the venue for the match.

Top 4 Pathway Matches

17. All matches deemed to be play-off matches in which the winner advances to the NZSRU National 1st XV Championship, are mandatory challenge regardless of the venue for the match.
18. If the school holding the Moascar Cup is a participant in the NZSRU National 1st XV Championship, then the Moascar Cup shall be played for in all games involving the holder.
19. The NZSRU will not be responsible for any of the costs incurred in staging fixtures for the Moascar Cup (apart from when the holder is a participant in the NZSRU National 1st XV Championship, where normal funding support will apply to all teams participating in that event).
20. NZSRU reserves the right to make any game the current Moascar Cup holder is playing, a challenge. Where a situation presents which is not covered by these rules, the NZSRU reserves the right to uphold the notion of Rule 2.

Complaints

21. Any complaint should in the first instance be directed to the NZSRU's appointed Moascar Cup Coordinator, who may rule or refer to the NZSRU's Disputes Committee for ultimate determination.

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