

NZR RugbySmart Education Regulation

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What this Regulation is about

RugbySmart is NZR's injury prevention programme for *Referees* and *Coaches*, aimed at reducing rugby-related injuries and supporting player welfare.

This Regulation sets out the requirements for these *Participants*, referred to as *Captured Participants*, to complete the *RugbySmart* course each year as a requirement to participate in *Rugby*. Participating while not *Accredited* may lead to restrictions on participation being imposed.

NZR and *Affiliated Unions* also have responsibilities in relation to delivering and maintaining the education and accreditation process for *RugbySmart*. *Affiliated Unions* failing to meet their responsibilities or allowing someone to participate while not *Accredited* may lead to sanctions or penalties being imposed.

Regulations for RugbySmart Accreditation

How this Regulation applies

1. This Regulation applies to NZR, *Affiliated Unions* and *Captured Participants*.
2. Words or phrases that are in *italics* have a specific meaning which is set out under the heading "Definitions and Interpretation of Regulation".
3. This Regulation may be amended by NZR from time to time.

Certain Participants in Rugby must attain RugbySmart accreditation.

4. A person that wishes to participate in *Rugby*, in one of the following capacities (a *Captured Participant*), must be *Accredited* for *RugbySmart*:
 - (a) If they are intending to fulfil the role of a *Coach* for *Players* aged 13 years or above;
 - (b) If they are intending to fulfil the role of *Referee* for *Players* aged 13 years or above; or
 - (c) A *Player* that is a member of a *Social Team* that has been designated by their team as their "player/coach".
5. The following persons are not a *Captured Participant* for the purposes of clause 4:
 - (a) *Coaches* of teams where the team they coach is either:
 - (i) competing in a *Senior Representative Competition*; or

- (ii) a *Representative Team*.
- (b) Referees who regularly and routinely are appointed to matches in *Senior Representative Competitions* or involving *Representative Teams*.
- 6. A *Captured Participant* must complete the *Accreditation Process*:
 - (a) in each calendar year in which they wish to participate in *Rugby* before commencing participation and no later than the commencement of the season in which they are participating; and
 - (b) as an eligibility requirement to *Register* as a *Coach* or *Referee* in accordance with the [NZR Registration Regulations](#).

The Accreditation Process

- 7. A *Captured Participant* will be *Accredited* when:
 - (a) they have completed a *RugbySmart* course that has been delivered in a manner approved by *NZR*; and
 - (b) a record is created, either by the *Affiliated Union* or *NZR* as appropriate, that reflects that the *Captured Participant* has completed the *RugbySmart* course.
- 8. A person's *Accreditation* starts on the date they are *Accredited* and is current for a period of 13 months after the date they are *Accredited*.
- 9. The record created in clause 7(b) can be relied upon to prove a *Participant's Accreditation* status for any particular date.

Consequences for participating in Rugby without RugbySmart accreditation

- 10. It is the *Captured Participant's* responsibility to obtain *Accreditation*. The *Accreditation* process is set out in clause 7.
- 11. If a *Captured Participant* participates in *Rugby* without an *Accreditation* for *RugbySmart* then:
 - (a) where they are a *Coach*:
 - (i) they must be stood down from all coaching activity by the *Affiliated Union* or *Club* that they are *Registered* with until they are *Accredited*; and
 - (ii) any team that they participate with as a *Coach* will be suspended from participating in any form of *Rugby* until they are *Accredited* unless another *Coach*, who is *Accredited*, participates with that team.
 - (b) where they are a referee, they must not be appointed as a referee to any match under the jurisdiction of the *Affiliated Union* that they are *Registered* with until they are *Accredited*;
 - (c) where they are designated "player/coach" of a *Social Team*:
 - (i) they must be stood down from all participation activity by the *Affiliated Union* or *Club* that they are *Registered* with until they are *Accredited*; and
 - (ii) any team that they participate with will be suspended from participating in any form of *Rugby* until they are *Accredited* unless another *Player*, who is *Accredited*, participates with that team;
- 12. In addition to clause 11, in accordance with clause 26 of the [NZR Registration Regulations](#), *NZR* or an *Affiliated Union* may suspend or cancel a *Participant's Registration* at any time for any reason, which could include failure to comply with this Regulation.

Responsibilities of Rugby Entities enabling RugbySmart accreditation

- 13. It is the *Participant's* responsibility to obtain *Accreditation*. The *Accreditation* process is set out in clause 7.
- 14. *NZR* and *Affiliated Unions* have responsibility for managing the *Accreditation* process, set out in clause 7, as follows:
 - (a) *NZR* has the following responsibilities in relation to the *Accreditation* process:
 - (i) Annually, providing *RugbySmart* course content and materials to *Affiliated Unions*, including communication campaigns and related resources;

- (ii) Annually, providing training to course presenters of *Affiliated Unions*
 - (b) *Affiliated Unions* have the following responsibilities in relation to the *Accreditation* process:
 - (i) nominating course presenters, venues, and course timings;
 - (ii) keeping accurate records of teams in competitions and coaches involved, cross-referencing to attendance at *RugbySmart* courses.
 - (iii) monitoring compliance with the Regulation within their geographical area.
 - (c) Referee Associations that are *Rugby Entities*, in respect of their members, will assist the *Affiliated Union* they are affiliated with in achieving and monitoring compliance.
15. Clause 14(b)(iii) does not limit *NZR's* ability to undertake investigations or audits of any records relating to *RugbySmart* or this regulation held by an *Affiliated Union*.
16. If an *Affiliated Union* fails to comply with any aspect of this Regulation or allows a *Participant* to participate in *Rugby*.
- (a) when not *Accredited*; or
 - (b) without taking all reasonable steps to satisfy itself that the *Participant* is *Accredited*;
- then it may be subject to the sanctions or penalties contained in any applicable regulation, rule or policy or agreement relating to the *Affiliated Union*, including any *Relationship Agreement*.

Disputes about this Regulation

17. Subject to Rule 10 of the [NZR Constitution](#), any dispute as to:
- (a) the meaning or interpretation of this Regulation; or
 - (b) any matter or question relating to *RugbySmart* not provided for in this Regulation,
- will be determined by *NZR*.

Definitions and Interpretation of Regulation

1. For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:
 - (a) **Accreditation** (or **Accredited**) means a *Captured Participant* who has completed the *Accreditation Process*.
 - (b) **Accreditation Process** means the process in clause 7.
 - (c) **Affiliated Union** means a body so named in, or admitted pursuant to, the [NZR Constitution](#) as being an Affiliated Union;
 - (d) **Captured Participant** means a person defined by clause 4.
 - (e) **Club** means any club, entity, school, educational institution or other association that is a member or otherwise affiliated, directly or indirectly, with *NZR* or an *NZR Member* but does not include an *Entity Team*.
 - (f) **Coach** means the same *Registration Role* and *Registration Type* in accordance with the [NZR Registration Regulations](#).
 - (g) **NZR** means New Zealand Rugby Union Incorporated.
 - (h) **NZR Registration Form** means a form, approved by *NZR*, this is allowed to be used by a *Participant* in order to complete the Registration Process.
 - (i) **Participant** means *Player*, match official, selector, *Coach*, trainer, manager, team official, or an individual involved in the organisation, administration or promotion of *Rugby* including a director, officer or employee of a *Rugby Entity*.
 - (j) **Player** means a player of the game of *Rugby*.
 - (k) **Referee** means the same *Registration Role* and *Registration Type* in accordance with the [NZR Registration Regulations](#).
 - (l) **Registration** (or **Registered**) means a *Participant* who is completed the *Registration Process* for a specific *Registration Role* and *Registration Type* in accordance with the [NZR Registration Regulations](#).
 - (m) **Registration Role** means the registration option(s) available to a *Participant* as specified in Appendix 1 and included on the *NZR Registration Form*.
 - (n) **Registration Type** means the registration option(s) available for a *Registration Role* to reflect the form of *Rugby* offering available to that relevant *Registration Role* as specified in Appendix 1 and included on the *NZR Registration Form*.
 - (o) **Relationship Agreement** means an agreement in place between *NZR* and an *Affiliated Union* which reflects their relationship framework, including the respective roles, responsibilities, and investment arrangements supporting the delivery of agreed strategic outcomes for rugby in New Zealand.
 - (p) **Representative Team** means a national team (also known as a “Team in Black”) that has been chosen to represent New Zealand by *NZR*.
 - (q) **Rugby** means the game of rugby union football, governed by World Rugby of which *NZR* is a member.
 - (r) **RugbySmart** means *NZR*’s mandatory injury prevention programme for referees and coaches, aimed at reducing rugby-related injuries and supporting player welfare.
 - (s) **Rugby Entity** means *NZR*, a *NZR Member* or any *Club* in membership or affiliation with *NZR* or a *NZR Member*.
 - (t) **Senior Representative Competition** means either Super Rugby Pacific, Super Rugby Aupiki, the National Provincial Championship, the Farah Palmer Cup or the Heartland Championship.
 - (u) **Social Team** means a team that participates in *Rugby* but without a person that is *Registered* as a *Coach*.
2. In this Regulation, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - (a) headings are for reference only and are not a tool for interpretation; and

(b) references to any document (however described, including legislation) is a reference to that document as published from time to time.