



Implementation of weight restricted grades from 2018 season.

As passed by Western Bay Junior Rugby Committee weight restrictions will be introduced from 2018 season.

This is for various reasons including -

- General Health & Safety – large players vs small players causing injury
- Loss of players – smaller players leaving the game due to fear of injury or playing against much larger players

It was agreed that no player shall be required to move up more than one grade, and would not be eligible to move down more than one grade.

All clubs will hold registration / weigh in's during a two week period in March where an independent delegate will be on hand to check & verify player weights. This will also greatly assist with the completion of player cards.

Players who are eligible to play down a grade due to their weight will have the option of staying in their correct grade should they wish. It is highly advised that the parents are involved in this decision.

Females will have one year dispensation as they have had previously, however they must still be within the weight restriction for that particular grade, with an allowance of 5kgs.

For the under 8 – Under 12 players will register, be weighed & placed into the appropriate grade. Clubs can then assemble their teams.

The under 13's will effectively be played as an unrestricted grade, however those players exceeding the maximum weight will have playing restrictions, they will not be able to –

- a. play in the front row of the scrum,
- b. take the ball off the back of a scrum if playing at No: 8,
- c. when a penalty or free-kick is awarded, tap and run with the ball, or receive a pass within 5 meters of the spot, at penalty time.
- d. be used as a "battering ram" during general play.

Players will need to be easily identifiable by the referee so that these rules can be adhered to. To enable this all players within this category must –

- Wear yellow socks
- Be identified to the opposition coach as part of pre-game procedure eg: exchanging of player cards.

No team shall have more than 3 players in this category on the field at any one time. Please note the minimum ½ game rule still applies to these players. In the very unlikely event that a team has more than 6 players in this category it must be discussed and agreed between the coaches and referee prior to kick-off.

Attached is a schedule of the weight limits for each grade.

A full WBOP Junior Rugby Handbook will be prepared and made available prior to commencement 2018 season.



Western Bay Junior Rugby Weight grading

| Grade | Age | weight limit | Age | weight limit | age | weight limit |
|----------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| under 6 | | | 5 & under | open | | |
| under 7 | | | 6 | open | | |
| under 8 | 6 | open | 7 | 35 | 8 | 25 |
| Under 9 | 7 | open | 8 | 40 | 9 | 30 |
| under 10 | 8 | open | 9 | 45 | 10 | 35 |
| Under 11 | 9 | open | 10 | 55 | 11 | 40 |
| under 12 | 10 | open | 11 | 60 | 12 | 45 |
| under 13 | 11 | open | 12 | 75 | 13 | 55 |
| | <i>(under age)</i> | | <i>(expected age)</i> | | <i>(over age)</i> | |

(ages as at 1st January)

In summary

| | |
|---|--|
| Under 6 | 5 years old & younger, open weight |
| Under 7 | 6 years old, open weight |
| Under 8 | 7 years old under 35kgs, 8 years old under 25kgs |
| Under 9 | 7 years old open weight, 8 years old under 40kgs, 9 years old under 30kgs |
| Under 10 | 8 years old open weight, 9 years old under 45kgs, 10 years old under 35kgs |
| Under 11 | 9 years old open weight, 10 years old under 55kgs, 11 years old under 40kgs |
| Under 12 | 10 years old open weight, 11 years old under 60kgs, 12 years old under 45kgs |
| Under 13 | 11 years old open weight, 12 years old under 75kgs**, 13 years old under 55kgs |
| ** if over 75kgs still eligible but playing restrictions will apply. | |