



2020 Club Competition Rules

1. OFFICIAL FORMS – all forms are on the BOPRU website

<https://www.boprugby.co.nz/community-rugby/senior-club-rugby/club-forms--documents/>

- a) Entry Form (Form A)
- b) Club Contact Update Form (Form B)
- c) Referee Request Form (Form C)
- d) Serious Injury Report Form (Form D)
- e) Notification of change to fixture (Form E)
- f) Player transfer Process and FAQ's
- g) Post-game Evaluation Form (Form F)
- h) International player clearance (G)
- i) Consent Form – Request to Play Senior Womens Rugby (Form I)
- j) Consent Form – Parent Consent Form to Play Senior Mens Rugby (J)

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- c) Helping to Understand the Rugby Disciplinary Process
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PROMOTION/RELEGATION

There will be no promotion/relegation for the 2020 season. 2019 standings will be used to formulate the 2021 draw.

2. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

a) COMPULSORY RUGBY SMART & SMALL BLACK COURSES

All coaches are required to attend Rugby Smart with a minimum of 2 Rugby Smart accredited coaches per team. Teams that do not comply will be unable to participate in the competition until those coach/assistants are accredited.

All course dates and information can be found on the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union website <http://www.boprugby.co.nz/community-rugby/coach-development/>

b) CODE OF RESPONSIBILITY

A Code of Responsibility has been adopted by the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union and upon entering into the club competition the Club president/Chairman completes an online form agreeing to abide by the Code of Responsibility. By agreeing, that person takes responsibility to ensure all coaches, managers, players and administrators understand and adhere to the rules. Failure to adhere to the Code of Responsibility may result in sanctions.

c) CLUB HEALTH AND SAFETY – COMPULSORY FOR ALL CLUBS

Health and Safety legislations place responsibilities on all clubs, and this differs depending on if you employ people or not. In order for a club to be entered into the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Competitions, clubs are now required to have a current operational Health and Safety Plan prior to the Club Competition commencing. To help ensure your club is up to date with this please visit our website for resources including templates.

<https://www.boprugby.co.nz/community-rugby/senior-club-rugby/club-forms--documents/>

3. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

a) PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

Players are required to complete a NZRU Registration Form online via Sporty before being eligible to play.

b) PLAYING CONTRACTED STEAMERS

This rule refers to Contracted **Steamers** Players only.

No Club can include more than 4 (four) contracted Steamers in its playing 22 for a match in the Club Competition who, as at 5pm on the Friday before the first club match in the 2020 Club Competition were employed on a Provincial Union Contract by the BOPRU (“Contracted Players”);

The playing 22 in Rule 7 will be as submitted on the team sheet submitted to the BOPRU in respect of any match in the Club Competition; Rule 7 will apply in each succeeding year with the cut-off date for players being employed on a Provincial Union Contract being 5pm on the Friday prior to the first Club Competition match in each year;

In the event that a Club includes more than 4 Contracted Players in its playing 22 for any match in the Club Competition in a year, that Club will be liable to a fine of up to \$1000 and/or loss of points for that match or each match in which this has occurred.

Definitions: "Provincial Union Contract" means a Provincial Union Contract as set out in Appendix 10 of the 2013 Collective Employment Agreement and as set out in any replacement to that Collective Employment Agreement.

c) WOMENS RULES SPECIFIC TO BLACK FERN HONOURS

No more than 2 full time Black Ferns 7's players can be listed in the playing 22.

d) INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCES

Players who last played rugby overseas **must** complete the International Clearance form before they are able to register and play for a New Zealand club. The form (FORM G) is available online via the BOPRU website or can be collected from the office.

www.boprugby.co.nz/community-rugby/senior-club-rugby/international-clearance/

e) AGE TO PLAY SENIOR MENS RUGBY

As per the New Zealand Rugby NRP Policy #8 AGE TO PLAY SENIOR RUGBY all senior rugby is classed as Under 19 and above. Subject to Provincial Union right to withhold approval if a safety issue exists, 16 year olds at 1 January can play senior rugby in the backs only.

Subject to Provincial Union right to withhold approval if a safety issue exists, 17 year olds at 1 January can play senior rugby in the forwards

Players 15 years old or younger at 1 January cannot play senior rugby

Any player that fits into any of the above must have their parent/guardian sign a Parent Consent Form to Play Senior Mens Rugby (FORM J).

www.boprugby.co.nz/community-rugby/senior-club-rugby/forms-rulings-and-policies/

f) AGE TO PLAY SENIOR WOMEN'S RUGBY

As per the New Zealand Rugby NRP Policy #8B Age to Play Senior Women's Rugby a player must be at least 16 years of age as at the first match of the competition they are being selected for in order to participate in a senior women's rugby match. That player must obtain prior written approval from the Provincial Union before they can participate in a senior women's rugby match.

A front row player who is under 19 years of age as at the first match of the competition they are being selected for must obtain prior written approval from the Provincial Union before they can participate in a senior women's rugby match.

All 16 and 17 year old players who wish to participate in a senior women's rugby match and

all 18 year old front row players who wish to participate in a senior women's rugby match must complete a Consent Form – Request to play Senior Womens Rugby form and submit to clubadmin@boprugby.co.nz for approval.

<https://www.boprugby.co.nz/community-rugby/senior-club-rugby/forms-for-senior-clubs/>

g) PLAYER TRANSFERS

Players can only be registered with one club in New Zealand at any one time. During the competition window, player transfers are completed by clubs via sporty.

A 7 day stand down applies after **ALL** transfer applications.

Please refer to your sub-union rules regarding cut-offs for player transfers for semi's and finals.

The cut-off date for player transfers for the Premier Womens grade is Friday 17th July.

5. GROUND & HOSTING REQUIREMENTS

a) REFEREE PRE-MATCH BRIEFING

A club official (designated host/home club) must make themselves known to the referee and visiting team at a convenient time to all parties before the official game start time.

a) FIRST AIDER

As part of the Health and Safety obligations, all clubs hosting games are strongly encouraged to have a current First Aider on site that is responsible for dealing with serious injuries.

b) SERIOUS INJURY REPORTING

It's important that all serious injuries are reported immediately to ensure that New Zealand Rugby Foundation and the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union can provide co-ordinated support to the injured player and their whanau, and communications support to all affected parties.

The definition of a serious injury is:

- A head or spinal injury that results in the player being **admitted to hospital**
- An injury or event (e.g. a heart attack) that results in the **death** of a player during match play or rugby training
- An injury that is expected to result in some **permanent disability** (e.g. loss of use of a limb, loss of an eye)

To report a serious injury, managers are required to visit www.nzrugby.co.nz/serious-injury and fill in the required details. Once we are notified of a serious injury, NZR will act to ensure the player and their whanau receive the appropriate assistance.

Please note Blue cards should still be communicated with the Blue Card Administrator in your Union.

c) EVENT MANAGER

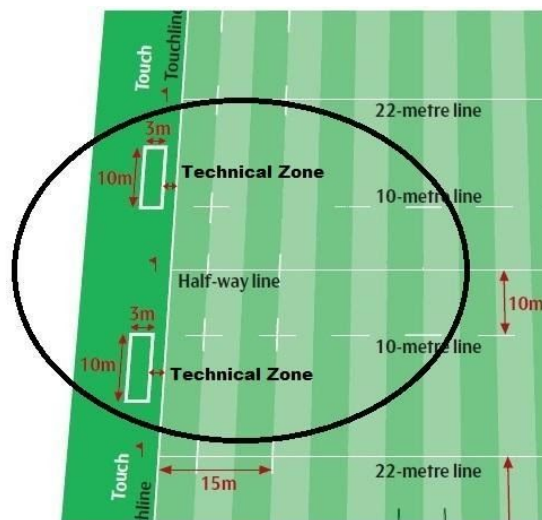
As per Bay of Plenty Rugby's Code of Responsibility, all clubs shall be responsible for appointing an Event Manager(s) for all rugby matches. Event Managers are usually the Club Captain or a committee person that holds respect within the club environment and will ensure;

1. *Visiting teams and match officials are met.*
2. *The event manager is clearly identified by wearing a High Vis or something that clearly identifies them as such.*
3. *Team and referee changing rooms are open and secure.*
4. *The technical zones and ground set up is as per the Bay of Plenty Rugby Club rules.*
5. *Policing of all people to ensure they remain behind the safety ropes and teams are in allocated areas.*

6. Any side line abuse or unruly behaviour of referees and/or players is immediately addressed and offenders appropriately dealt with.
7. No alcohol is being consumed within the playing enclosure (within 5 metres of the field outer markings).
8. There is a visiting crowd control official appointed to each game who will control the visiting team's supporter's behaviour.

d) CROWD CONTROL/ TECHNICAL ZONES

For all club rugby games from Baywide Premier to Under 11, technical zones are to be prominently marked with either control barriers, ropes, painted lines or cones. These technical zones are to consist of 2 x 10 m x 3 m rectangular boxes located on ONE side of the field, one for each team. They are to be situated at least 3 metres and no more than 7 metres back from the touch line with one of its edges in line with the 10 metre line and the other near the half way line. (See diagram)

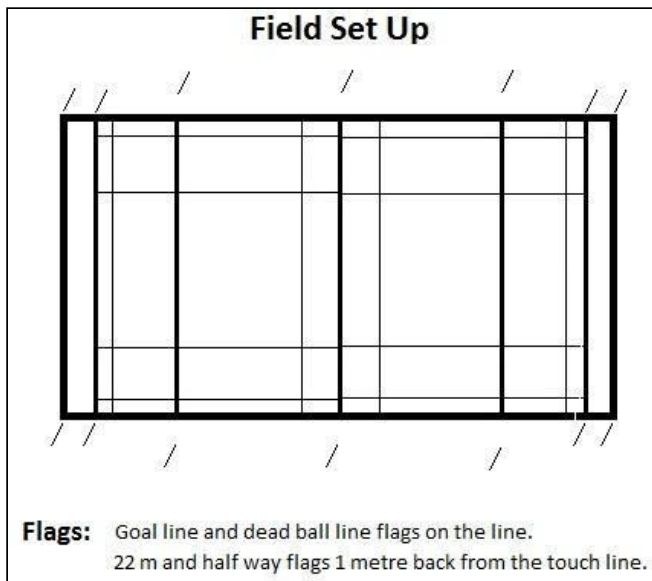


Where clubs have games operating on two fields simultaneously side by side and where the space between the fields prevent 10 metres of clear distance between the touch lines and the control barriers, the two technical zones are to be erected on the outside edges of the fields and the area between the two fields is to be roped off to ensure **NO PERSONS** can access this area to watch the games. (See diagram 2 Fields Set Up)

Clubs **MUST** erect control barriers across both touch lines of each field in operation.

All team reserves, coaches, managers and water carriers must remain within the confines of the technical zone during the match. Medics and water carriers must be clearly identified and are the only personnel permitted to enter onto the field of play during stoppages (tries, injuries, other stoppages). Referees must confirm that prior to game start each of the two teams three side line officials/assistants have official bibs available to allow them on the field. **No bibs, no entry to field of play allowed by referee.**

All Media personnel (club or otherwise) wearing suitably identifiable reflectorised bibs are permitted inside the playing enclosure but outside the playing area and technical zones with their camera or video equipment for the purposes of performing their media duties.



d) GROUND SET UP & COMPLIANCE

It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that all grounds under the jurisdiction meet the required standards as prescribed in the International Rugby Board Laws of the game, prior to the commencement of the season and the Health and Safety Act. Healthy and safety resources for your club can be found on the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union website

<http://www.boprugby.co.nz/community-rugby>

Failure of clubs to fulfil requirements of above shall result in the home team venue being reviewed. Home games may be reallocated to a neutral venue at the discretion of the BOPRU Baywide Competition and Emergency Committee.

e) REFEREE MATCH REPORTS

Referees are to note on their match reports any stoppages for inappropriate crowd behaviour, if an Event Manager does not make him or herself known before the start of the game and any other non-compliance by teams/clubs must be noted.

6. PLAYING RULES

a) REFEREE INSPECTION

All teams are to be available at least 20 minutes before a game commencing for team inspection by the referee.

b) LAWS OF THE GAME

All rugby in the Bay of Plenty shall be played under the International Laws of the Game, except where NZ Rugby has approved a number of Domestic Safety Law Variations. A copy of the 2019 Laws of the game and DSLV's can be found on the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Rugby Website.

c) GAME-ON RULING - ADDED

Game-on ruling will be introduced in 2020 to certain grades in the Senior Club Competition.

Game-on will be used for the following competitions:

- Baywide Premier Women Competition
- At all levels **below** Premier for the Western Bay of Plenty Senior Competitions
- Development grade only of the Central Bay of Plenty Senior Competition
- Eastern Bay of Plenty -all grades

Information including Team size, rolling subs, contested/uncontested scrums, match length and competition points can be found on the GAME-ON website.

Please visit

<https://www.boprugby.co.nz/game-on/>

<https://www.nzrugby.co.nz/get-involved/participation-changes/game-on/>

d) ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE

The referee has the right to send off any player he suspects to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

e) MATCH BALLS

When made available the official match ball for all BOP Rugby Competitions shall be used for all fixtures.

f) CLASH OF JERSEY COLOUR

In the event of team colour clashes, the home team shall make the jersey (colour) changes to clearly distinguish players/teams.

g) BLUE CARD CONCUSSION

All information around the Blue Card Concussion process can be found on the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union website.

<http://www.boprugby.co.nz/community-rugby/blue-card-concussion-initiative/>

7. TEAM & PLAYER NUMBERS (for grades where game-on rule does not apply)

h) MINIMUM PLAYING NUMBERS

As detailed in NZ DSLV's, Teams must have a **minimum of 15** players before taking the field. Where a team is unable to provide 15 players (including 3 trained front rowers) to start the match, this team shall forfeit the match and the competition points. The match may still be played.

i) MAXIMUM PLAYING NUMBERS

A maximum of 22 players may be presented ready for play/replacement or substitution at the commencement of the match. These maximum 22 players may be the players entered in the original team sheet available prior to game time. The NZRU rules regarding nomination of players for replacement/substitution, injured players and the replacement and substituted players (i.e. Rule no's 5 to 13) will be strictly adhered to by referees and appointed officials.

8. TEAM SHEETS

a) TEAM SHEET PROCEDURES

Both team managers must complete their team sheet via the MY RUGBY APP. Team sheets will open 48 hours prior to a game.

The game is NOT to start until the team sheet is shown to the referee prior to the start of the match (refer to rule 9.b regarding delayed starts 15min). Referees must comply with the team sheet rule as above, prior to game start.

Team sheet submission opens at any time, but a countdown clock starts 23hours, 45mins hours before the fixture start time, indicating scorers have this amount of time left to submit the team sheet.

Team Sheet submission closes 15mins after the game starts

Note: you will not be able to submit the team sheet after this time as the Myrugby App will lock this section.

<https://www.boprugby.co.nz/community-rugby/senior-club-rugby/my-rugby-app/>

b) SUBMITTING RESULTS

At the conclusion of the game, the managers of both teams are to confer with each other and the referee and confirm the score and all relevant details are correct.

Each manager then submits the confirmed score via the APP. Final scores can be viewed on the "Played" tab. Points for Bay of Plenty Rugby Union competitions will be collated immediately when the results are submitted from both

Results must be submitted by the end of the game for all matches sanctioned by BOPRU.

Once submitted the only way to change scores is to contact clubadmin@boprugby.co.nz. These changes will not be made until Monday. Changes after scores have been submitted can not be made in the MYRUGBY App.

Failure by clubs to adhere to rules in this section (8.0) may result in clubs;

- Receiving a written warning followed by a fine of \$50 and/or loss of competition points

c) FALSE NAMES

Any player playing under a false name may be banned for the remainder of the season. Any club playing a player under a false name will be dealt with by the BOPRU Competition and Emergency Committee.

9. GAME TIME AND CHANGES

a) START TIMES

Provided the ground is clear, the referee is to commence time running at the appointed time.

Game start times (all regions)

First Game 1:00pm

Second Game 2:45pm

Womens Game 1:00pm

b) DELAYS

From the appointed time teams have **five minutes** for local teams to be on the field before a no match is declared by the referee on that team OR **fifteen minutes** for a visiting team to be on the field before a no match is declared by the referee.

Clubs have the right to protest. Refer Rule 14 for procedure and the BOPRU Competitions & Emergency Committee will make the decision regarding “no match” replays.

For ‘no match’ replays and postponed fixtures, the host Club has until 10am Wednesday following to suggest in writing alternative fixture details to BOPRU Office. Final decisions will be made by the BOPRU Baywide Competition and Emergency Committee.

c) CHANGING GAME TIMES

Alternative **times** may be used at the discretion of regions, but both the visiting team and the referee must be notified by noon, 4 days prior to the game.

Alternative **days/ times** applied for by one club must be mutually agreed upon by the opposing club and the request must be on the **Notification Change of Fixture Online Form (FORM E)** and received by the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union office by noon, 7 days prior to the game. It is the host clubs responsibility for submitting this online form.

d) NIGHT GAMES

The option of playing night games at Baywide level is available to clubs providing that the lights meet the required minimum lighting levels for Clubs (160 lux) and that the required **Notification Change of Fixture Online Form (FORM E)** is completed 7 days prior to the game. If a night game is stopped due to player safety, weather or light failure, that game must be 75% completed before a result can be achieved.

If a night game is stopped due to player safety, weather or light failure, that game must be 75% completed before a result can be achieved.

e) MATCHES CALLED OFF BY THE REFEREE

Any games called off by the referee or postponed (excluding disciplinary incidents), the BOPRU Baywide Competition and Emergency Committee will deal with the outcome.

If a match is called off by the referee as a result of persistent or serious foul play and/or persistent or serious misconduct (Rule 46 NZR Disciplinary Rules) by players or team officials, the referee shall report the matter to the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union within 48 hours of the completion of the match. The Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Complaints Officer will review the report and decide if this matter will proceed to a hearing before the Judicial Committee.

f) LIGHTENING STANDARDS

You can view the world rugby lightning safety guidelines here
<http://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/?subsection=67>

10. POINTS

a) COMPETITION POINTS

Refer to your Sub-union rules for Competition Points system

Baywide Women

Win: 4 Points

Draw: 2 Points

Loss: 0 Points

Default: 4 Points

One bonus point for 4 tries.

One bonus point for a loss of 7 points or less.

All bonus points to be earned on the field of play. Senior local competitions, the use of bonus points may be optional/partial.

b) DETERMINING COMPETITION POSITION

Refer to your Sub-union rules for Competition Points system

Baywide Women

Points gained to date shall determine a team's position in the points table. If points level on the table then the higher team shall be determined by the following:

- Who beat who during the last match played in that competition where points are accumulating
- If who beat who is unable to determine competition position, then points for and against points against will apply.
- If still level: Toss a coin under the control of the BOPRU Baywide Competition and Emergency Committee.

Note: Points table will be published on the BOPRU website the following Thursday at the latest, clubs will have 14 days from the website published date to challenge points.

Final decision will be made by the BOPRU Baywide Competition and Emergency Committee

11. DEFAULTS

If a team defaults the fine may be a maximum of \$1,000.00 regardless and ineligible to play until the fine is paid to Bay of Plenty Rugby Union. Any further penalty will be at the discretion of the BOPRU Baywide Competition and Emergency Committee. Defaults are to be notified to the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union office no later than noon on the day preceding a match.

The defaulting team has the responsibility to notify the;

- The opposing club
- The union clubmadmin@boprugby.co.nz
- The Referee Manager pat@boprugby.co.nz

a) NOTIFIED DEFAULTS

Defaults where the union office has been notified no later than noon on the day preceding a match will be considered a “Notified Default”

Any club who fails to notify of their default within the scheduled time will be subject to a fine of \$200 plus GST plus any reimbursement of opposition team travel costs and catering (such costs to be supported by an invoice) if applicable. This fine will only be excused in the case of exceptional circumstances.

b) LATE DEFAULTS

Any default that has not been notified to the Union Office, or notified after noon on the day preceding the match will be considered a “late default”.

Penalties for a late default will be subject to a fine of \$300 plus GST. In addition to the standard fine of \$300 the club will also be responsible reimbursement of opposition team travel costs catering (such costs to be supported by an invoice) and reimbursement of referee travel costs.

12. ABSENCE OF REFEREE

Referees will be appointed by 12pm every Friday during the competition window and clubs can view if a referee has been appointed online through the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Draws and Results website.

At times due to referee shortage, a referee may not be appointed to your game. If after checking the website if you still do not have a referee appointed to your game you can phone your appointment managers which is on our website via <http://www.boprugby.co.nz/community-rugby/referees/referee-appointments/>

If the appointed referee does not turn up to referee, for whatever reason, the two teams need to agree upon a replacement referee. If they cannot agree, the home team appoints a referee. (Law 6. 1 – World Rugby Laws of the Game). Please inform BOPRU by Monday following the game if an appointed referee does not turn up.

The following preference should be applied:

1. A current Registered Referee.
2. A current Associate Referee (An associate referee can referee any grade of rugby from Premier to under 11, however contested scrums can only be played up to and including under 19 and below).
3. If options 1 and 2 above are not possible then the game can proceed, however due to safety considerations contested scrums are not permitted.

13. PROTESTS & COMPLAINTS

a) PROTESTS

Where a cause for protest is known before a match the opposing team should be notified and if the complaint is remedied then no further action will be required by the protesting team. If the team protested against is unable or unwilling to remedy matters then the game should be played under protest (and a notification given to the referee).

Where the ground for protest (too many players on the field is NOT grounds for a protest, see Law 3.2) is discovered during or after the game, a protest can follow after the match and will be dealt with by the BOP Competitions & Emergency Committee.

A protest should be made within 48 hours of the completion of the match, in writing to the Competitions and Emergency Committee, and be accompanied by a cheque of \$200.00. This fee will be refunded unless the protest is deemed frivolous.

The protest hearing outcome may be subject to right of appeal by the affected Club to the Bay of Plenty Appeals committee. The appeal must be in writing and must be made within 7 days of receipt of protest result. The union may require a cheque of up to \$1000.00 to be paid within 48 hours of notice of this requirement.

b) POST-GAME EVALUATION FORMS (FORM F)

This Form ([Form F](#)) is to be completed by teams when the club feels it is necessary to notify the union that any club has not provided a safe environment for the game. This may include: comments on roping of field, field markings or facilities /conduct of players, referees, officials and supporters.

14. SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

a) PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Refer to your Sub-union Rules for the Senior Men's Competition

Premier Women All players shall need to have played in two (2) competition games prior to the final. The Pre-Season Competition is not considered competition games. This rule does not apply to players who have been either injured, pregnant or high performance athletes who have been called away to play for New Zealand at an international level and therefore have not been able to play the required games.

b) OVERTIME RULING

Refer to your Sub-union Rules for the Men's Competition

Women's Semi-Final Ruling

- a) 10 minutes extra time each way will be played.
- b) If no winner is found after this time the winner will be found by the team who has scored the most tries in the game.
- c) If no winner is found after this the winner will be the team who scored the first try in the match.
- d) If there is still no clear winner/decision the winner will be decided who finished higher on the points table at the end of the second round robin play.

Women's Finals Ruling

- a) 10 minutes extra time each way will be played.

- b) If no winner is found after this time the winner will be found by the team who has scored the most tries in the game.
- c) If no winner is found after this the trophy / title Will be shared

c) FINALS VENUE FORMAT

The venue for all Club Competition semi-finals and finals will be hosted by the highest qualifying club team/s after round robin play. The venue can be changed only by agreement of both teams.

16. DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

a) NZRU RULES FOR DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

The NZRU Rules for Disciplinary Hearings should be referred to regarding incidents where there is a yellow card, red card, complaints, misconduct or matches called off. This can be found on the BOP Rugby website. The Bay of Plenty Disciplinary Committee will generally hold hearings at the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Head office, **6pm on the Wednesday** following the incident unless otherwise notified.

b) RED AND YELLOW CARDS

All send off and temporary suspension reports are to be reported by the referee on the official form provided and informed to the Bay Office 48 hours from the end of the game.

Any player who receives a yellow card three times during the season, following written confirmation from BOPRU, shall take an automatic one week (equating to one playing day) stand down period, immediately after that fixture.

For any player who is Red Carded from the field, the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union has adopted the alternative two week stand down procedure as detailed in the NZRU Disciplinary Rules (page 8).

c) HELPING TO UNDERSTAND THE RUGBY DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

The Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Rugby Disciplinary process is in accordance with the New Zealand Rugby's Disciplinary Rules (known as the Black Book). Any judicial matter will be dealt with by the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Judicial Committee consisting of;

- Ian Spraggon
- John Mackay
- Matthew Shaw
- Kerry Beach
- Damian Eades

The committee is independent of the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union and have many years of experience in the judicial process.

What cases does the judicial committee hear?

The Judicial Committee can hear the following cases;

- Ordering Offs (Red Cards) and/or Misconduct* issued by a referee

- Yellow cards if the BOPRU Complaints Review officer deems this to be a higher offence than reported
- Match called off by a referee
- Citings issued by a person other than the referee (refer to the Poor Behaviour Report on our website)

*Misconduct means any conduct, behaviour, statements or practices on or off the playing enclosure during or in connection with a match that is unsporting, cheating, unruly, ill-disciplined or has the potential to bring the sport into disrepute.

Process

The process of preparing for a hearing is the same no matter whether the case is the result of a red card, misconduct, match called off or a complaint.

The Referee and/or Assistant referee will complete an online report to the BOPRU on or before the preceding Monday (or within 48 hours if the game is not played on a Sat.)

An "Ordering Off" (Red Card) automatically means the player is suspended from all rugby for 2 weeks as per clause 18 of the Black Book (two weeks equates to two competition matches). The club/school will either be notified of the standard two week suspension via email or will be required to attend a hearing. If you wish to challenge the automatic 2 week suspension you must attend a hearing on the Wednesday at the Bay Union and communicate this to clubadmin@boprugby.co.nz by Tuesday 12pm at the latest.

1. The BOPRU Club administrator will email reports/correspondence to the appropriate person within the club and to the TIC of the school. At this stage the club/school has the following choices
 - I. You can attend a judicial hearing. It is recommended that the player and a representative who can talk about the player's general conduct attend the hearing, as well as any relevant witnesses.
 - II. You can defer the hearing until the following week. The relevant player/s will be suspended from play until the hearing takes place
 - III. You may enter an early plea. This is where they are satisfied the player has committed the conduct and is guilty of the offence.
 - IV. You have the option of not attending a judicial hearing at all and leave it to the disciplinary panel to decide on the outcome.
2. If you attend a hearing any evidence/photos/reports/videos etc. that you wish to have presented at the hearing should be emailed to clubadmin@boprugby.co.nz before 12pm the Wednesday of the hearing so this can be passed onto the disciplinary panel.
3. In some cases, a hearing is postponed to the following week in order for clubs/schools to gather more information. In this instance the player or person involved is suspended from all forms of rugby until the hearing has taken place.

Purpose of a hearing and what it looks like

A disciplinary hearing provides a forum to discuss the incident and the judicial committee has the responsibility of hearing and determining all matters that comes before it within the Unions jurisdiction. In the end, the committee looks to reach a reasoned decision in accordance with the Black Book.

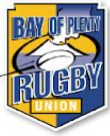
The hearing will almost always take place at the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Head office, 52 Miro Street, Mount Maunganui on a Wednesday night. Generally, there is more than one hearing per night so it is important you arrive on time. The first hearings generally start at 6pm and are then scheduled one after the other. The following gives you a rough idea of what a disciplinary hearing looks like;

- The judicial Chairman will first ask whether the red card was properly awarded. If you wish to defend on this question, the only thing that can be argued is that the player did not do what is alleged, or that it is a case of mistaken identity.
- Everything else is mitigation and does not come under the Chairman's first questions, for example "the punch wasn't that hard" or "I was provoked" or "Hes a really good club man, no prior record etc". All of this will come under the mitigation section which will eventually conclude with the length of the suspension.
- The chairman will usually give the decision orally at the end of the evening, but sometimes they need to discuss the sanction further.
- The decision or sanction will be in writing via email to the club/school by the Friday.

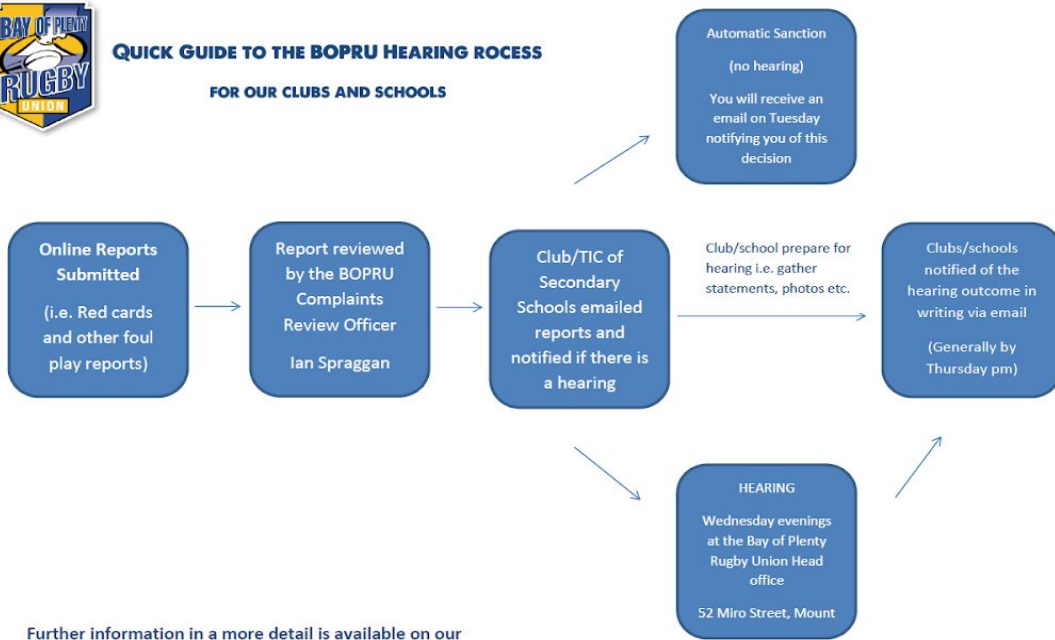
d) RIGHT OF APPEAL

If the player/person wishes to appeal the decision of the Judicial committee he/she can do so to the BOPRU Appeals Committee but the appeal must be lodged within a period of 7 days after the date on which the written decision was issued and be accompanied with a \$1000.00 appeals deposit. The appeal must include a detailed letter explaining the grounds of why you are appealing. If after the appeals committee has reviewed the letter, and provided feedback as to whether there is valid grounds for an appeal, the player still wishes to continue with an appeal hearing there will be a meeting scheduled. Please note, the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union has the right to retain part or the entire \$1000 bond.

BOPRU Disciplinary Committee and the Competitions and Emergency Committees decisions on fines and infringements are binding. The above Committees may impose further Disciplinary actions besides fines or stand downs on Clubs/ Persons appearing. All outcomes subject to Appeal.



QUICK GUIDE TO THE BOPRU HEARING PROCESS
FOR OUR CLUBS AND SCHOOLS



e) REFEREE ABUSE

A nil tolerance policy is in place for referee abuse from players, officials and club supporters.

Note: All incidents reported by Referees/Match officials of abuse to Referees/Match officials by Club Players/Management will be referred directly to the Disciplinary Committee.

Supporter and other abuse reported by Referee/match Officials will be referred to Complaints review officer and maybe later referred to the Disciplinary Committee