



BAY OF PLENTY SECONDARY SCHOOLS RUGBY HALF GAME RULE

The Half Game Rule:

Teenagers are leaving rugby because they aren't getting enough game time – they just want to play. The Half Game Rule is a fair solution that will make a difference for many players who may be considering hanging up their boots. Rugby is the only team sport in New Zealand where every player has the opportunity to play at least half a game very week.

What it is:

A solution that puts players first.

Ensures all players every week play at least half a game of rugby.

A fair solution that will make a real difference to players.

A rule players have asked for.

An incentive for players to maintain their fitness throughout the season.

A rule that applies to both teams.

An opportunity for coaches to develop their selection skills.

An opportunity for teenagers' family and supporters to see them play.

A rule that helps all teens improve their game as they all have the opportunity for game time.

What it isn't

Rolling substitutions – this solution didn't give players an opportunity to play enough of the game.

An option to be negotiated between coaches.

Finding a suitable sanction for breaking team rules

Some coaches may be reluctant to apply the Half Game Rule in situations where players haven't turned up to training during the week of the game. This is because not being allowed to play is seen as a suitable sanction for breaking team rules.

The Half Game Rule means being prohibited from playing can no longer be a sanction and alternatives are required.

If a player isn't turning up to training:

1. Ask why? The answer may not be due to lack of commitment but factors beyond their control such as transportation, family issues, problems with teammates, or dissatisfaction with coaching.
2. Find a solution that either solves the problem and/or agree on an alternative sanction befitting the situation e.g. Apology to team, extra training (if fitness is an issue), extra team duties

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