

GENERAL INFORMATION*

Lead Area:	Rugby Operations
Lead Policy Title:	Finals Eligibility Policy
Policy Reference No:	SA 15
Authors:	Codey Atkinson
Date last modified:	14 October 2016

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

- The underpinning philosophy of this process is to ensure each team playing in the finals series is a true reflection of that team throughout the season, as well as allowing players who do not qualify due to injury/illness the opportunity to provide evidence to obtain finals eligibility dispensation.

Policy

- To be eligible to play in the Finals Series players must meet the following criteria:

Ref	Policy	Responsible
1	A player may only play a finals match where the player has played the minimum of 30% of matches in a particular grade during the current minor round. This includes all scheduled minor round matches (does not include byes or Women's 7's matches).	Team Manager
1.1	Games played will be recorded from team sheets that have been submitted on a weekly basis in accordance with SA5 - Team Sheet Procedure. http://www.sarugby.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/SA5-Team-Sheet-Procedure2.pdf	Team Manager
1.2	Players will be recorded as playing <u>only</u> for the highest team on that day where they were a starting run on player. Or; Should the player only have acted as a reserve they will be <u>only</u> recorded against the highest team that they were a reserve for on that day.	Competition Manager
1.3	Furthermore, for the purpose of Ref 1, any player unable to play for their club due to state, provincial or other representative commitments required under the auspices of the SARU, will have been deemed to have played a match for the most senior team (applicable to their age group) in their club during the relevant period for which they were unable to play due to those commitments.	Competition Manager
1.4	As per the SA23 - Co-Joined Clubs Policy, players that play for another club under this policy are eligible to play for the co-joined club in the final series providing they meet the requirements of SA 15 - Finals Eligibility Policy. Clubs will not be able to apply for dispensation due to injury/illness for the inclusion of a player in a final series from a co-joined club.	Team Manager

* This procedure has the effect of a Rule under the Competition Rules issued by the Union and terms used in this procedure and defined in the Competition Rules have the same meaning in this procedure and the rule of interpretation set out in the Competition Rules also apply to this procedure.

To be eligible to play in a Particular Senior Grade of the Finals Series players must meet the following criteria:

Ref	Description of action	Responsible
2	A player may only play a finals match in the grade where the player has played at least 50% of their matches during the current minor round. (see ref 1.2) Players may play a finals match in a grade higher than which they played during the current minor rounds.	Club
2.1	If a club has more than one (1) team playing in the finals series in numerically consecutive grades on the same day, selection of players for those teams is the responsibility of the club proposing to play those players to ensure that they meet the criteria under Ref 1. (1) Premier Grade (2) Premier Reserve (3) Division 1 (4) Division 1 Reserve (5) Over 35s	Club

- Dispensated Players (playing juniors) must meet the following criteria to become eligible for finals:

Ref	Description of action	Responsible
3	A Permanent dispensated player may <u>only</u> play in the finals series for the grade which they have been dispensated up or down to. A standby dispensated player may continue to stand by during finals for the grade to which the individual was dispensated into as a stand by player. However, to ensure a fair and even competition, this 'stand by' individual must have 'stood by' for at least 5 games during the minor rounds as either a run on starting player or reserve player. Note: no Junior and Youth Player under the age of 18 is permitted to play for a combined total of greater than ninety (90) minutes in any consecutive twenty four (24) hour period.	Club

Where a player is unable to meet the qualification for eligibility requirements under Ref 1 of this policy due to injury or illness, or was required to play in a higher grade during the season due to a player in that grade having suffered an injury or illness the club should follow the procedural step 3.1:

Step	Application to play in the finals series	Responsible
3	Email: codey.atkison@sarugby.com.au by:10am Tuesday 15 August 2017. All clubs competing in finals in both Juniors and Seniors grades must submit a squad of 23 for each grade competing in finals by the above date at the absolute latest. Failure to submit a team sheet by the date stated above will result in a \$100 fine for each grade un-submitted. http://www.sarugby.com.au/resources/rules-procedures/ Form < Finals Eligibility Form	Club Secretary
3.1	Apply in writing to SARU, accompanied by supporting documentation, an application to grant a player an exemption from the requirements of step 1 in its absolute discretion and on such terms and conditions as SARU may impose.	Club

	<p>Any application for finals dispensation must be submitted on the <u>Player Finals Dispensation Form</u> to SA Rugby by 10am 11 August.</p> <p>Applications will <u>only</u> be considered with supporting documentation issued and signed by a medical professional.</p>	
3.2	<p>Members of SARU will meet on Tuesday August 15 to determine the eligibility of all players and reserves for the finals series of all grades and consider any exemptions sought for situations that do not meet the eligibility criteria as stipulated in the Competition Rules.</p>	<p>Finals Eligibility Committee</p>

OTHER INFORMATION:

- The stipulated qualification for finals is based on 30% participation in the minor season.
- A forfeit is still classified as a minor round fixture for the 'non forfeiting team' as long as team sheets are submitted as per SA5 -Team Sheet Procedure.
- No player will be eligible for finals if they are financially indebted to their club or SARU.