

**GENERAL INFORMATION\***

Lead Area:	Community & Game Development
Lead Policy Title:	<b>FINALS ELIGIBILITY &amp; DISPENSATION POLICY</b>
Policy Reference No:	<b>RWA18</b>
Adapted by:	JS
Date last modified:	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2020

**SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY**

- The underpinning philosophy of this Policy 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:

Step	Policy	Responsible
1	QUALIFICATION: A player is registered with the club and has competed for the club in at least <b>one third</b> of matches during the home/away rounds in the regular season. (i.e. if 18 rounds, they must have played 6 matches in separate rounds). This includes all scheduled round matches (does not include General Byes).	Player Team Manager Club Official
1.1	In the event a player has played across numerous grades, the grade qualified for will be determined by RugbyWA based on the average of the total games and the grades played. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A player plays 1<sup>st</sup> grade – 6 matches, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 6 matches, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – 6 matches. Player is graded to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.</li> <li>b. A player plays 1<sup>st</sup> grade – 9 matches, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 9 matches. Player is graded to 1<sup>st</sup> grade.</li> <li>c. A player plays 1<sup>st</sup> grade – 7 matches, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 5 matches, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – 4 matches. Player is graded to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.</li> </ul>	RWA
1.2	Contracted Western Force (WF) players, may qualify for finals if they have played a minimum of four (4) matches through the regular home and away season. Notwithstanding this clause, the availability of WF contracted players will remain the responsibility of the Western Force staff to determine.	WF Staff SCM
1.3	Furthermore, for the purpose of Step 1, any player unable to play for their club due to state, provincial or other representative commitments required under the auspices of RugbyWA, 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.	SCM

\* 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.

2	<p><b>MATCH GRADING:</b> If a player plays more than one match as a starting player in any competition round, they shall be graded for the purposes of Step 1 according to one match only, which shall be the match of the highest grade in which they played as a starting player during that round. For this purpose, the order of grading shall be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Premiership Premier grade</li> <li>2. Premiership Reserve grade</li> <li>3. Premiership 3<sup>rd</sup> grade</li> <li>4. Community grade</li> <li>5. Any other competition(s)</li> </ol>	Team Managers Club Officials
2.1	<p>If a player does not take the field as a starting player in any match but nonetheless takes the field in one or more matches in a competition round as a permanent replacement or substitute, they shall be graded for the purposes of Step 1 according to one match only, which shall be the match of the highest grade in which they participated as a permanent replacement or substitute during that round.</p> <p>For this purpose, the order of grading shall be as if the player was a starting player:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Premiership Premier grade</li> <li>2. Premiership Reserve grade</li> <li>3. Premiership 3<sup>rd</sup> grade</li> <li>4. Community grade</li> <li>5. Any other competition(s)</li> </ol>	Team Managers Club Officials
3	<p><b>“OPEN SELECTION”:</b> Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this policy, a club with teams playing in successive grades in finals series matches, may select starting players and reserves for each such team from all of its players that are graded as eligible to play for any of those teams.</p>	Club Director of Rugby
3.1	<p>Once “Open Selection” is broken during the course of finals, a player can continue to play in the grade he last played in, or higher. He may only be selected for a lower grade if he is eligible as per Steps 1, 2, 4.</p>	Club Director of Rugby
4	<p>Games played will only be based on information that has been loaded onto Rugby Xplorer in accordance with <i>RWA10–Match Results Procedure</i>..</p>	Team Manager
5	<p><b>UNREGISTERED PLAYERS:</b> Playing an unregistered or ineligible player in any finals match automatically disqualifies the offending team.</p>	SCM

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- DISPENSATIONS

Ref	Description of action	Responsible
6	<p>Clubs seeking dispensation for players to participate in a finals match in a team that they would, pursuant to the competition rules, be otherwise ineligible to play for, <b>must apply in writing to the SCM for that dispensation by 12 Noon on the Tuesday prior to the match concerned.</b></p> <p>Clubs that make a timely application for such a dispensation will be advised as to the result of their application (and of the conditions (if any) on which any such dispensation have been granted) by 5pm on the Thursday prior to the match concerned. <b><i>[Application for dispensation that fall outside the prescribed submission deadline will be considered by the SCM only in the most exceptional circumstances].</i></b></p>	Club
6.1	<p>Dispensations will only be granted under Step 6 for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purposes of safety – this is restricted to ensuring there are 6 suitably trained front rowers being available to any squad.</li> <li>2. Through injury to players for the duration of the finals series.</li> <li>3. Player(s) returning from long term injury (LTI). Suitable medical records identifying nature of injury and necessary time out of the game to recover from such injury will be required to substantiate any possible granting of dispensation under this clause.</li> </ol>	SCM
6.2	<p>Breaches of the conditions (if any) under which a dispensation has, pursuant to this policy, been granted by the SCM, or the provision of false information to the SCM for the purpose of securing such a dispensation, will automatically disqualify the offending team from all finals matches.</p>	SCM

#### OTHER INFORMATION:

- The stipulated qualification for finals is based on one third participation in the regular season.
- A forfeit is still classified as a regular round fixture for the ‘non-forfeiting team’.
- **No player is eligible for finals if they are financially indebted to their club or Rugby AU/RWA.**