

Suomen Rugbyliitto

# 2022 COMPETITION REGULATIONS



## Foreword

These regulations have been written to be as comprehensive as possible, but it is inevitable that situations will arise that are not covered by the precise wording of this document. Where possible, solutions to these events should be inferred from the current regulations as outlined and/or by common practice. It is also important to remember that SRL is a member of external organisation's whose regulations may also apply to the governance of Finnish rugby.

It is hoped that following these regulations will give Finnish rugby the balance it needs between development and growth of rugby up and down the country on one hand, and the need for well-governed competition on the other.

## Abbreviations

FRRA	Finland Rugby Referees Association
NLCM	National league and competitions manager
NT	National team
SRL	Suomen Rugbyliitto (Finnish Rugby Federation)
XVs	Fifteen-a-side
7s	Seven-a-side

## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Administration</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Acts contrary to the spirit of the game	1
1.2	Use of banned substances	1
1.3	Team eligibility	1
1.3.1	Entering competitions	1
1.3.2	Combined teams	1
1.3.3	Team sheets	2
1.4	Player eligibility	3
1.4.1	Licenses and insurances	3
1.4.2	Age restrictions	3
1.4.3	Investigation of eligibility and sanctions	4
1.5	Disciplinary matters	5
1.5.1	Principles	5
1.5.2	General obligations	5
1.5.3	Disciplinary panel	6
1.5.3.1	Formation and composition of the disciplinary panel	6
1.5.3.2	Use of video	6
1.5.3.3	Publication of reports	6
1.5.4	Red cards	7
1.5.5	Yellow cards	8
1.5.6	Citation	8
1.5.6.1	Foreword	8
1.5.6.2	Intention to cite	8
1.5.6.3	The citation	9
1.5.7	Incidents occurring outside of SRL competition	9
1.5.8	Lengths and type of suspension	10
1.5.9	Right of appeal	12
1.6	Interpretation, amendments and appeals	12
1.6.1	Interpretation of the regulations	12
1.6.2	Appealing regulatory decisions	12
1.6.3	Amending the regulations	12
<b>2</b>	<b>XV Competitions</b>	<b>14</b>
2.1	Foreword	14
2.2	Match structure	14

2.2.1	Squad size	14
2.2.2	Replacements	15
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>15</b>
2.3.1	Regular season	15
2.3.2	League points	15
2.3.3	Playoffs	16
2.3.3.1	Semi-finals	16
2.3.3.2	Finals	16
2.3.3.3	Drawn playoff matches	17
2.3.4	Promotion and relegation	17
2.3.4.1	Promotion and relegation in men's competitions	17
2.3.4.2	Promotion and relegation in women's competitions	18
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Forfeiting, abandoning or rescheduling matches</b>	<b>18</b>
2.4.1	Forfeits	18
2.4.2	Cancelling, rescheduling or delaying a match	18
2.4.3	Abandoning a match in progress	19
2.4.4	Withdrawal from a league	20
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Eligibility and loan players</b>	<b>20</b>
2.5.1	General	20
2.5.2	Loan players	21
2.5.3	Fielding National Team players	23
2.5.4	Fielding Championship players in 2 <sup>nd</sup> teams	23
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Responsibilities of the home team</b>	<b>24</b>
2.6.1	Pitch and match day requirements	24
2.6.2	Informing the visitors, match officials and FRRA	24
2.6.3	Non-appointed match officials	25
2.6.3.1	No match official appointed	25
2.6.3.2	No assistant referees appointed	25
<b>3</b>	<b>7s competitions</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Foreword</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Match structure</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>27</b>
3.3.1	General	27
3.3.2	Men's 7s series format	28
3.3.3	Women's 7s series format	28
3.3.4	Scoring	29

3.3.4.1	Scoring within an individual match	29
3.3.4.2	Scoring within an individual tournament	29
3.3.4.3	Scoring the 7s series	30
3.3.5	Playoffs	31
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Forfeits and abandoning a tournament</b>	<b>31</b>
3.4.1	Forfeits	31
3.4.2	Abandoning a tournament in progress	31
3.4.3	Withdrawal from a tournament	31
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Eligibility and loan players</b>	<b>32</b>
3.5.1	General	32
3.5.2	Loan players	33
3.5.3	Fielding more than one side and combined teams	33
<b>4</b>	<b>Contacts</b>	<b>34</b>
	<b>Appendix 1: XV MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>35</b>
	<b>Appendix 2: DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS</b>	<b>38</b>
	<b>Appendix 3: FRRA TIE BREAK PROTOCOL</b>	<b>40</b>
	<b>Appendix 4: GUIDE TO HOSTING A 7S TOURNAMENT</b>	<b>42</b>

# 1 Administration

## 1.1 Acts contrary to the spirit of the game

All parties involved in Finnish rugby will follow the spirit and values of the sport in their actions and behaviour, both on and off the rugby field and at any time where they may be construed as representing or being associated with rugby in Finland. Any individual or organisation deemed to have breached this general code of conduct or who has been found to have brought the game into disrepute may be subject to sanction by the SRL.

## 1.2 Use of banned substances

All who participate in SRL competitions agree to commit to follow both the Finnish Anti-Doping Code and World Rugby Anti-Doping Regulations. Participating clubs accept that the Finnish Anti-Doping Agency has full rights to perform doping tests in SRL competitions and that competition bans based on the guidelines of the aforementioned bodies may be imposed on those found to have breached these anti-doping codes.

## 1.3 Team eligibility

### *1.3.1 Entering competitions*

To enter teams into SRL competitions, the club must be a member of SRL, or otherwise have explicit permission from the SRL to enter the competitions.

### *1.3.2 Combined teams*

Combined teams consisting of representatives of one or more clubs, may enter SRL competitions if they have explicit permission to do so from the NLCM. In such cases, the name of the team must be such that it is clearly differentiated from any single existing club.

### ***1.3.3 Team sheets***

Each club will ensure completion of their team sheet in full. All players and pitch-side personnel need to have their license numbers on the team sheet. Team sheets need to be delivered to the match official at least 15 minutes before kick-off. Failure to do so will result in the kick-off being delayed and, when kick-off does occur, the non-offending team will be awarded a penalty on the halfway mark. If non-submission of the team sheet delays the scheduled kick-off by more than fifteen minutes, then the non-offending team will be entitled to claim a forfeit win if they choose to do so.

Team sheets must be sent to [teamsheets@finland.rugby](mailto:teamsheets@finland.rugby) at least one day before the XV competition match or 7s competition tournament begins (i.e. before 23:59 on Friday if the match will be played on Saturday) for the purpose of administration and any potential disciplinary matters. In case any changes are made to the team sheet after it has been sent by email by the club, the match official must send the same team sheet to [teamsheets@finland.rugby](mailto:teamsheets@finland.rugby) for the purpose of administration and any potential disciplinary matters.

By naming a player on the team sheet, the club acknowledges that the information provided is accurate, that all players are fully SRL licensed, have health-insurance that covers them in the event of possible injury during the match, commit to following the Anti-Doping legislation, and are eligible to be fielded in the match and competition under the current version of these regulations.

Clubs should take special note of and comply with the different regulations regarding the use of loan players in each competition and division. Teams must clearly indicate on the team sheet if they are fielding players licensed to other clubs.

In XV competitions, teams must clearly note their front-row and front-row replacement players on the team sheet.

## **1.4 Player eligibility**

### ***1.4.1 Licenses and insurances***

Unless otherwise stated in these regulations or explicit permission has been granted by the NLCM, a club may only field players licensed to them in SRL competitions.

All players fielded in any SRL competition must be fully licensed and insured for the match in question. By entering the field of play, a player acknowledges that they have a valid license and the required level of insurance. By naming a player on the team sheet, a club acknowledges that they have checked and validated this claim. Any player or club unclear of what constitutes a valid license or necessary level of insurance should contact the SRL technical director. The SRL, members of the SRL board, the NLCM or match officials cannot be held accountable for any legal or medical repercussions if a player and/or club disregard this regulation and/or for the consequences of participating in any rugby activities.

If a player wishes to change their club after already purchasing a license, they may send a request to the NLCM to have their license transferred. Such requests will only be granted where a valid need for the transfer can be shown (i.e. a player has moved to a new city, as opposed to simply desiring to play for a new team, or a player wishes to transfer teams between seasons). In situations where a player holds two valid licenses, the license that was first purchased will be considered the sole valid license until its expiration.

### ***1.4.2 Age restrictions***

A player is considered an adult on their 18th birthday. An adult may play senior rugby in all SRL competitions. Male players who have reached their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday and female players that have reached their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday may play with adults provided that they are considered competent to do so by their club, the relevant club coach has provided a written summary of the player that clearly highlights their ability to play senior rugby, and the club has obtained written permission from the player's parent(s) or guardian(s) for them to participate. Such written assessment and approval must be sent to the NLCM and the SRL before the player takes part in competitions.



When playing or training with adults, a player who has not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday (male or female) may not play or train in the front row of the scrum, regardless of any permission granted.

No players of an age below those outlined above may play senior rugby, regardless of any other mitigating circumstances. In all cases where documentation is necessary it is the responsibility of the player's club to organise, collect, and archive such paperwork.

### ***1.4.3 Investigation of eligibility and sanctions***

Any request that SRL checks a player's eligibility must be sent to the NLCM by 23:59 of the day in which the match was played. The request to investigate eligibility must clearly be referring to a specific player or players. The request may be submitted by the opposition club via the club's official @finland.rugby email address or by a match official appointed to the match in question. No sanctions will be imposed if this process has not been followed.

If a club is found to have fielded an ineligible player, provided that the procedure outlined above has been followed, the non-offending team will be given the option of either accepting the result of the match as played or claiming a forfeit win.

Repeated or deliberate offenses may result in additional sanctions against the club at the discretion of the SRL disciplinary panel. An ineligible player may also be subject to a personal sanction if the SRL disciplinary panel considers they knew, or should have known, that they were ineligible. The entry-level suspension for this form of offense is a one-week ban (see Appendix 2 for further details of the time period for bans).

In addition to the above, SRL reserves the right to independently check, randomly or otherwise, the eligibility of all players involved in any match at any time and to impose relevant sanctions, if clubs or player(s) have been found to be in breach.

## 1.5 Disciplinary matters

### 1.5.1 Principles

World Rugby Regulation 17\* provides the foundation for the procedures for the handling of the following disciplinary matters:

1. When a player is sent off (“red card”)
2. When a player is cited for an act or acts of foul play
3. Where a player has been cautioned and suspended (“yellow card”) three times in the same season

All red cards, citing requests and accumulated yellow cards will be automatically referred to the disciplinary panel.

Other disciplinary issues may be referred to the panel by SRL administration (for example, see regulation 1.1).

### 1.5.2 General obligations

Participating clubs are responsible and accountable for the conduct of their players, team members and other persons in attendance in any official capacity during SRL competitions and must ensure that their conduct is of the highest standard in accordance with the World Rugby code of conduct† and that matches are played in accordance with disciplined and sporting behaviour.

Each participating club and team member agrees to be bound by and comply with the provisions and requirements of the SRL disciplinary regulations and any decisions made.

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\* World Rugby Regulation 17 (Discipline - foul play):  
<https://www.world.rugby/organisation/governance/regulations/reg-17>

† World Rugby Regulation 18 Appendix 1:  
<https://www.world.rugby/organisation/governance/regulations/reg-18#APPENDIX1CODEOFCONDUCT>

### ***1.5.3 Disciplinary panel***

#### *1.5.3.1 Formation and composition of the disciplinary panel*

A disciplinary panel is formed when a disciplinary case calls for it and is specific to a single case.

The panel will consist of the disciplinary officer, and two other members who are either:

1. Minimum qualified level 2 match officials or equivalent, with at least three years of experience in SRL competition
2. A Rugby Europe qualified match commissioner

It is the responsibility and right of the disciplinary officer to form the panel. No member of the disciplinary panel shall have taken any official part in the match where the citing took place, nor have any conflict of interest. If the disciplinary officer played any official part in the match in question or has a conflict of interest, then they must recuse themselves and appoint a suitable alternative.

#### *1.5.3.2 Use of video*

When reviewing video evidence against the specific player(s), the disciplinary panel may only consider evidence from one minute before the incident and only until the incident and any immediate reaction to it has finished. Any additional players found to have committed foul play during this period may be cited by the disciplinary panel. If the disciplinary panel elects to make any additional citing(s), proceedings against those additional player(s) will begin, and clubs will be given two days from the notification of citing to submit any evidence that they wish the disciplinary panel to consider when hearing that case.

#### *1.5.3.3 Publication of reports*

The disciplinary panel will write a report on all incidents referred to it, clearly outlining the basis behind the decision and the length of suspension awarded.

The publication of reports allows for SRL compliance with World Rugby Regulation 17.4.6\*.

Disciplinary reports under World Rugby Regulation 17 will be made publicly available for all and these reports are available at SRL website†. Disciplinary reports under any other World Rugby Regulation will be made available to all when asked from the SRL.

#### **1.5.4 Red cards**

A player being shown a red card must leave the playing area including the technical area. All red cards received during a match will automatically be referred to a disciplinary panel.

The team which the player sent off belongs to must have submitted all the evidence they wish the disciplinary panel to consider to the disciplinary officer by the end of the second day after the match (i.e. before 23:59 on Monday if the match was played on Saturday). The submission is done via email to [discipline@finland.rugby](mailto:discipline@finland.rugby). The email must originate from the club's official @finland.rugby email address. If a video of the match was taken by the club (or club member, or affiliated individual) then an **unedited** version of the video must be submitted by this deadline. Clubs that do not submit such video in their possession may be subject to separate sanction unless a valid reason for its delay is provided.

Once the deadline for submission of material has passed, the disciplinary officer will form a disciplinary panel.

Any player that receives a red card in a 7s tournament will be suspended from the next two matches in that tournament. If there is only one match left in such tournament, the player receiving the red card will be prevented from playing in the next match in the next

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\* World Rugby Regulation 17 (Discipline - foul play):  
<https://www.world.rugby/organisation/governance/regulations/reg-17>

† <https://www.finland.rugby/page/kurinpito-87924>

7s tournament they participate in. Any player, who receives a direct red card, may also be subject to subsequent disciplinary procedures based on the red card report submitted by the officiating match official.

### ***1.5.5 Yellow cards***

All yellow cards received during a XV match or 7s tournament will automatically be referred to the disciplinary officer for record-keeping purposes. The purpose of this is to track all disciplinary matters and to create a record of player disciplinary history. Should a citing take place in relation to a yellow card, the usual citing procedure shall be followed.

### ***1.5.6 Citation***

#### *1.5.6.1 Foreword*

Citing requests will only be accepted from either of the two clubs on the field when the incident occurred. There are two relevant deadlines that clubs must be aware of: announcing the intention to cite and submitting the citation. Both steps must be followed by the club submitting the citation for it to be considered by the disciplinary officer.

#### *1.5.6.2 Intention to cite*

Any club wishing to initiate a citing must send an intention to cite to the disciplinary officer by 23:59 of the day of the match. The email must originate from the club's official @finland.rugby email address. A copy must also be sent to the official @finland.rugby email address (cc'd) of the club to which the player being cited is registered. This email must include:

1. Details about the match in which the incident occurred
2. The identity of the player(s) being cited
3. Specific reason for requesting disciplinary action be taken against the player being cited referencing the applicable law\*

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\* Sanctions in Appendix 2 to these competition regulations may be of assistance in determining relevant offence.

4. A receipt demonstrating a successful deposit of 200 € to the SRL account (amount to be refunded should the citing complaint be upheld, i.e. if the citing is accepted and referred to the disciplinary panel and the disciplinary panel agrees with the citing)

If the above details are not provided, then the citation will be immediately dismissed by the disciplinary officer and the deposit shall be forfeited to the SRL.

#### *1.5.6.3 The citation*

Both the team requesting the citation and the team of the cited player must have submitted all evidence that they wish the disciplinary panel to consider by the end of the second day after the match (i.e. before 23:59 on Monday if the match was played on Saturday). This typically consists of player statements and video/photographic evidence. If the club that sent the initial citation request does not meet this deadline then the citing procedure will be terminated.

The video/photographic evidence taken by a club (or club member, or affiliated individual) must be submitted **unedited**. If a club indicates that they have video evidence, but fail to submit it in time, a 50 € fine payable to the SRL may be imposed for every day the video is not submitted (subject to a maximum of 250 €) without a valid reason for the delay in the video being submitted.

Once the deadline for submission of material has passed, the disciplinary officer will form a disciplinary panel.

#### ***1.5.7 Incidents occurring outside of SRL competition***

In the event that a red/ yellow card or grounds for a citing occur outside of an SRL competition, the disciplinary panel may also convene provided that the incident in question occurred in Finland. In such cases, the regulations with regard to timings and other fixed procedures will be applied with more flexibility in the reasonable discretion of the disciplinary officer, but all parties will be expected to act in a timely manner.

In the event that a player is found guilty of the alleged offence, a ban will only be imposed if the severity of the offence is deemed to be high-end or if the type of offence is sensitive in nature.

### ***1.5.8 Lengths and type of suspension***

Imposed lengths of suspension where red cards are upheld or awarded retrospectively will be determined by using the World Rugby model modified to Finland, given that the Finnish season is typically much shorter than average. These guidelines are viewable in Appendix 2.

Any player receiving 3 yellow cards in the season, including playoff matches, will receive an automatic 1-week ban, carried over to the following season where appropriate.

All suspensions will be given in weeks and will bar the player under suspension from competing in any competition during this time. The suspension period will begin the day before the next match any team of the player's club is due to play for which the player would be eligible. A player waiting for a suspension period to start may not represent any other club in competition during this time. The relevant dates will be included in the report of the disciplinary panel. Suspensions may carry across seasons if necessary.

With respect to cancelled or postponed matches, the following application of playing suspensions shall be applied:

Match schedule	Disciplinary panel action	Sanction
Match schedule unknown/unclear on date of suspension – e.g. league suspended and return to play date not yet known	Disciplinary panel should express the sanction in weeks (e.g. a 3 week suspension), note that the schedule is unknown and require an update from the player/his club/Union and tournament organiser once matches scheduled.	Sanction applies as normal when play resumes (e.g. the first 3 matches on return to play).
Match schedule known on date of suspension but matches subsequently postponed/cancelled	Disciplinary panel should express the sanction as clearly as possible (i.e. set out the scheduled matches) but noting that where any of the scheduled matches are cancelled/postponed, the panel must be notified and the sanction will be adjusted accordingly.	<p><b>Match postponed:</b> sanction adjusted to apply to the matches that are played next in time rather than to the postponed matches.</p> <p><b>Match cancelled and points awarded:</b> match was scheduled to take place at time of sanction and for the purposes of the tournament in question, has “taken place” in that points were awarded. The match can therefore count towards the player’s suspension.</p> <p><b>Match cancelled but no points awarded (e.g. standalone warm-up match):</b> match was scheduled to take place at time of sanction but has not “taken place” for the purposes of the team, tournament or otherwise so cannot count towards player’s suspension.</p>

The disciplinary panel has the authority and autonomy to evaluate how suspensions should be managed in exceptional circumstances. These include but are not limited to suspensions carrying across seasons, and suspensions incurred in XV's competitions affecting 7s and vice versa.

Suspensions incurred within SRL competition also apply to international fixtures.



### ***1.5.9 Right of appeal***

The disciplinary panel will not accept new evidence or re-hear the same incident unless exceptional new evidence is brought to light with a clear reason why it was not provided by the deadline. Barring the introduction of such evidence, the disciplinary panel's decision is final although further appeals may be made to the governing body of sport in Finland and be heard under the rules of that association.

## **1.6 Interpretation, amendments and appeals**

### ***1.6.1 Interpretation of the regulations***

In case of ambiguities in this document, or disagreement about the interpretation of these regulations, the NLCM will be the sole adjudicator whose interpretation is final.

The request for interpretation must be submitted in writing to the NLCM using the official @finland.rugby email addresses.

### ***1.6.2 Appealing regulatory decisions***

Only clubs registered to the SRL, FRRA and SRL board members may lodge a complaint about regulatory decisions made based on these regulations.

All appeals will be handled case by case. After a complaint has been lodged, a panel will be formed by the NLCM to review the case. The panel will consist of the NLCM, assigned SRL board member and possible other parties such as the FRRA.

The complaint must be submitted in writing to the NLCM using the official @finland.rugby email addresses.

### ***1.6.3 Amending the regulations***

NLCM may make amendments to these regulations, such as clarifications and addition of current common practices.

Amendments to these regulations may be proposed by the NLCM, clubs registered to the SRL, FRRA, SRL board members, and the disciplinary officer. Proposed amendments will first be discussed at an SRL board meeting. SRL board may:

- reject the proposal
- return the proposal for further refinement
- accept the proposal to be added to the competition regulations
- accept the proposal to be discussed and voted on at an SRL general meeting

Proposed amendments may be further refined with the help of the NLCM and/or SRL into a format compatible with these regulations and to check for contradictions with any other existing regulation.

The amendment proposals must be submitted in writing to the NLCM using the official @finland.rugby email addresses.

## 2 XV Competitions

### 2.1 Foreword

This section pertains to Men's Finnish Championship, Women's Finnish Championship, Men's Division 1, Men's Division 2 and Women's Division 1. Unless otherwise stated later in this section, the separate XV competitions referred to herein follow the same regulations.

Men's Division 2 and Women's Division 1 are not bound to these regulations as strictly as the other competitions in order to maximise the number of matches in these divisions. If both teams in any match are happy for any part of these regulations to be waived, then sides may be permitted to do so at the discretion of the NLCM, provided it does not create a safety risk.

### 2.2 Match structure

#### 2.2.1 *Squad size*

Unless otherwise stated, every match shall be played XV-a-side and teams may name up to 23 players in their match day squad provided that World Rugby Law 3.8\* is adhered to.

Teams may request the opposition to play a match with less than 15 players. However, there is no obligation on any team to agree to play a match with less than 15 players. If a team has 11 or less eligible players available for a XV-a-side match, then the opposing team will be given the option to declare a win by forfeit without the match being played. This option must be enforced before kick-off. If both teams have 11 or less players, then the match may be abandoned, and the score will be recorded as a 0 – 0 draw if the teams are unable to arrange a mutually agreed date for the match to be played.

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\* World Rugby Law 3 (Team): <https://www.world.rugby/the-game/laws/law/3>

### ***2.2.2 Replacements***

Replacements in a match are made in adherence to World Rugby Law 3\*.

In Men's Division 2 and Women's Division 1, a team can make 8 rolling tactical replacements in a match irrespective of the number of replacement players on the match day team sheet, as long as the team's total of interchanges does not exceed 12.

## **2.3 Format**

### ***2.3.1 Regular season***

NLCM prepares the official season schedule before the start of XV season. Clubs may agree on changes to the schedule until a set date. All clubs affected by the changes must be in agreement. Notification of the agreed upon changes must be made to the NLCM by e-mail from one of the clubs' official @finland.rugby email address with a copy sent to the official @finland.rugby email address (cc'd) of all the affected clubs.

Men's Finnish Championship, Women's Finnish Championship and Men's Division 1 will follow a round-robin league-style format where each team will play other teams in the division twice: once home and once away. At the end of the regular season, the top three teams will advance to the playoffs.

Men's Division 2 and Women's Division 1 will follow a round-robin league-style format where each team will play other teams in the division twice: once home and once away. At the end of the regular season, no playoffs will be played. If Women's Division 1 cannot be organised in such way, it will follow a tournament format.

### ***2.3.2 League points***

During regular season, teams will receive 4 points for a win, 2 points for a draw, and 0 points for a loss. Teams will also score a bonus point for scoring four or more tries in a match or by losing a match by seven points or less. A losing team may earn two bonus

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\* World Rugby Law 3 (Team): <https://www.world.rugby/the-game/laws/law/3>

points from one match. If two or more teams are tied on league points and points difference at the end of the regular season before any playoff matches are to be played, then the rankings will be decided as follows:

1. The results in matches played between the tied teams during the season
2. The number of tries scored by each of the tied teams throughout the season
3. The number of red cards received throughout the season
4. The number of yellow cards received throughout the season
5. A coin toss (or other random method supervised by the NLCM)

### **2.3.3 Playoffs**

#### *2.3.3.1 Semi-finals*

In Men's Finnish Championship, Women's Finnish Championship and Men's Division 1, the playoffs will be contested between the top three teams of the regular season. The first-ranked team will advance directly to the final, whereas the second-ranked side will host the third-ranked side in a single-leg semi-final. The winner of the semi-final will then play the final against the first-ranked team. In Men's Division 2 and Women's Division 1, no playoffs will be played.

#### *2.3.3.2 Finals*

All finals will be played in a predetermined venue on 'Finals Day'. If there is a promotion and relegation playoff match between divisions, the promotion and relegation playoff match will be played on the 'Finals Day' and the potential final of the lower division will be played before the 'Finals Day'.

Home side in a final match will be considered to be the team that finished higher than the other during the regular season (applicable only in competitions in which the two teams were scheduled to play against each other). However, the exception to this is that the higher ranked side will also be awarded the benefit of first choice of match day kit colours in case both teams might wear similar colours.

### *2.3.3.3 Drawn playoff matches*

If a playoff match finishes in a draw then a mandatory 10 minutes of extra-time will be played. In such case, all 10 minutes must be played, plus any additional stoppage-time incurred during this period. Whichever team scores the most points during this period will be declared the winner of the match. If the scores are still tied, then an additional 10 minutes of sudden death extra-time will be played with the first team to score being the winner. If neither team scores during this period then the winner of the match will be determined by a drop goal competition, the details of which shall be enforced by the match official using the FRRA tie break protocol\*.

## **2.3.4 Promotion and relegation**

### *2.3.4.1 Promotion and relegation in men's competitions*

All divisions in the men's competitions will be subject to promotion and relegation.

Promotion and relegation for the Championship and Division 1 is decided by a playoff match between the team finishing bottom of the Championship and the team finishing top of Division 1. However, if the team winning the Division 1 final does not want to be promoted to the Championship, then the team which lost the Division 1 final will be offered the chance to contest the playoff match and be promoted in the place of the team which won the Division 1 final. If the team which lost the Division 1 final confirms it is not willing to replace the team which won the Division 1 final, the playoff match will be cancelled and no promotion or relegation will occur.

Promotion and relegation between Division 1 and Division 2 will be automatic with no separate playoff match and, unless they decline promotion, the team finishing top of Division 2 will replace the team finishing bottom of Division 1.

A club which would be entitled to promotion must confirm to the NLCM via e-mail within 2 months of the end of the season that it will take its place in the higher division the following season. If a club declines promotion, its place in the higher division may be

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\* Appendix 3

offered to a club in the same division which would be willing to be promoted and, in the reasonable opinion of the NLCM, has the player numbers and performance to compete in the higher division.

Teams are eligible for promotion unless:

1. The team is a club's 2<sup>nd</sup> XV team and promotion would result in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV team being placed in the same division as the club's 1<sup>st</sup> XV team
2. The team has forfeited a match at any point during the season

If a team has cancelled two or more matches in a season or they request that 3 matches or more are played with less than 15 players, such team will be automatically relegated to the division below for the next season irrespective of such team's final league position. In such case, the promoted team from the lower division will replace that relegated team rather than the team that finished bottom in the higher division.

#### *2.3.4.2 Promotion and relegation in women's competitions*

Women's competitions are not subject to promotion and relegation due to Women's Division 1 being a development league. Any promotion or relegation will be handled separately case by case by the discretion of the NLCM and SRL.

## **2.4 Forfeiting, abandoning or rescheduling matches**

### ***2.4.1 Forfeits***

In the case of a forfeit, the non-forfeiting team will be awarded a 70 – 0 win and the team that forfeited will be deducted one league point and charged a 250 € fee payable to the FRRRA. No bonus points will be awarded for a forfeit win.

### ***2.4.2 Cancelling, rescheduling or delaying a match***

If any side reschedules a match after the set date for season schedule changes, they will be liable to pay a fine of 250 € payable to the FRRRA.

If any side cancels a match after the set date for season schedule changes, the opposing side will be awarded a forfeit win. If any side cancels a match before the set date for season schedule changes, the opposing side will be awarded a forfeit win but the cancelling side will not be charged the forfeit fee. In Women's Division 1, if any side cancels a match 2 weeks before the match (i.e. before 23:59 on Saturday 2 weeks prior the match to be played on Saturday), the opposing side will be awarded a forfeit win but the cancelling side will not be charged the forfeit fee.

If a team is unable to fulfil a fixture then they must notify their opposition, all appointed match officials and [teamsheets@finland.rugby](mailto:teamsheets@finland.rugby) as soon as possible. If a team does not turn up for a scheduled match or does not notify their opponents of cancellation at least five days prior to kick-off (i.e. before 23:59 on Monday if the match is to be played on Saturday), then said club will be responsible for reimbursing the costs of the opposing team related to the cancellation. Such costs include, but are not limited to, pitch reservation and travel.

A team which cancels a scheduled match without an agreement from the opposing team to postpone the scheduled match to an alternative date will forfeit such match.

If a team is unable to arrive in time for the scheduled kick-off due to factors outside of their control (as agreed by the NLCM) then there is no forfeit provided that they contact the opposing team once the delay is realised, give the reason for the delay, and keep them informed of their estimated time of arrival. If possible, the match should be played after the delayed team's arrival, otherwise a replay will be organised on a date mutually agreed by both teams. If no new date can be found, the result will be recorded as a draw.

### ***2.4.3 Abandoning a match in progress***

If a match is abandoned while in progress, then the outcome is dependent on when and why it was abandoned. If play is halted due to circumstances out of the control of either team or the first half has already ended, then the score at the time of stoppage will stand



as the final result. If play is halted during the first half due to circumstances out of the control of either team, then the match will be ruled incomplete and a replay ordered on a date mutually agreed by both teams. If the teams cannot agree on a date, then the NLCM will consult with both teams to achieve a reasonable solution but in the event of disagreement, will make a final and binding decision.

If a match is abandoned due to reasons that either team should have been able to foresee and prevent (as adjudged by the NLCM), then the final outcome will be decided by the NLCM based on the merits of the incident.

#### ***2.4.4 Withdrawal from a league***

If a team chooses to withdraw from a competition after the set date for season schedule changes, they may apply for permission to do so from the NLCM. If granted, they will immediately be removed from the calendar and the results of any previously scheduled matches will be erased. If the withdrawal would have significant bearings on a league table toward the end of the regular season, an alternative scenario may be enforced by the NLCM. Any team that withdraws from any competition during a season will not be entitled to a refund of any fees previously paid (e.g. FRRA fees).

Players of that withdrawn team will be eligible to play for other clubs, provided that eligibility and loan player regulations are adhered to. Such players will be considered registered to the first club that they represent for the remainder of the season.

## **2.5 Eligibility and loan players**

### ***2.5.1 General***

Championship teams may field players registered to their club without restriction.

Men's Division 1 and Men's Division 2 teams that are the only male team representing their club in an SRL XV competition may field players licensed to them without

restriction. Restrictions regarding men's second teams in XV competition are outlined later in this section.

Women's Division 1 teams may field players licensed to their club without restriction. Teams may additionally field players licensed to any other SRL-registered club with restrictions to fielding national team players outlined later in this section. If players are fielded from other clubs, there is no need to be an official combined team with a name differentiated from other clubs.

Male and female players that are registered to an SRL-registered club with no team competing in men's or women's XV competitions covered by these regulations, respectively, may also represent a club to which they are not registered. Any player making use of this exemption will be considered registered to the first club they play for in the XV competition by default and may therefore not represent another club unless permitted to do so under the relevant XV competition regulations outlined in this document. Any such player wishing to be considered registered to a different club should contact the NLCM.

Clubs are expected to use the loan player system in the spirit of the game and with the intention of all clubs fulfilling fixtures and playing as much rugby as possible to further the development of rugby in Finland.

Any issues or disputes regarding player eligibility and loan players are to be referred to and resolved by the NCLM.

### ***2.5.2 Loan players***

This section pertains to Men's Finnish Championship, Women's Finnish Championship, Men's Division 1 and Men's Division 2.

In Men's Division 2, the NLCM will be more accommodating in the use of loan players than for the higher divisions in order to maximise the number of matches played in the division.

Any club may name up to five players per gender from another club or clubs to be designated loan players available to the specific other club to which they are registered as loan players. These players may not play as loan players for a team in the same division as the team they usually play for.

In any individual match, a maximum of three of these named loan players may be fielded. However, if a team agrees to any opposing team fielding more than the maximum 3 loan players to avoid a match being cancelled, then clubs may agree to waive this maximum in relation to any specific match. In such circumstances the relevant clubs should notify the NCLM accordingly confirming the number and identity of all loan players it has been agreed in the relevant match. However, there is no obligation on any team to agree to the use of extra loan players by the opposing team.

Loan players will be notified by the club to which they will be loaned as early as possible in the season, but by no later than 23:59 on July 15<sup>th</sup> in each season\*, after which time no additional loan players can be made. Notification must be made to both the technical director and the NLCM by e-mail from the club's official @finland.rugby email address.

Any club wishing to field a loan player must inform both the technical director and NLCM at least 3 days prior to the match in which such loan player will play.

Loan players cannot play for another club in the same division on any occasion unless written consent from the NLCM has been obtained in advance in exceptional circumstances.

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\* Assuming a normal season between May/June and September/October.

### ***2.5.3 Fielding National Team players***

In men's competitions, players who have played for a national team in the previous 24 months cannot play in a match in the division below compared to the division in which they primarily play. However, there is no restriction on such national team players playing in a match in the division above.

In women's competitions, a team may field national team players licensed to their club without restriction. A player who has played 3 or more times for a national team in the previous 24 months cannot play in a match in Women's Division 1 for teams of clubs they are not licensed to.

A player is considered to have played for a national team if they have been chosen for the XV match day squad and have been fielded in official or friendly matches between nations as an official national team. Being chosen for a 7s tournament squad for a national team counts as one playing event in this context.

Exceptions to the national team ruling above will only be granted by the NLCM if it can be proven that the player currently is not of a Championship standard, such as returning from long injury. If this exception is applied, the team fielding the player must notify the opponents prior to kick-off, note this on the match report card and obtain the opposing captain's signature to show that the opponents have been notified.

Any disagreements on a player's eligibility under this exception above should be mediated by the match official or the NLCM prior to kick-off. If no agreement can be reached before kick-off, the player will not be considered eligible to play.

### ***2.5.4 Fielding Championship players in 2<sup>nd</sup> teams***

Division 1 and Division 2 teams from clubs that also field a Championship team may field players licensed to them subject to the following restrictions:

- A player cannot be in the starting XV in a Championship match if they are to play in multiple matches during the same weekend.
- A player can only play a total of 80 minutes during the same weekend even if they are named in a squad for more than 1 match.

## 2.6 Responsibilities of the home team

### *2.6.1 Pitch and match day requirements*

The home club is responsible for reserving a pitch that conforms as close as possible to the standards set by World Rugby. A pitch below this standard may also be used if they have either been accepted by SRL or is accepted by the match official (provided it is safe to play on). Any disputes on match day should be settled by the match official. If the pitch is below the standard required to play on, then the home team will forfeit the match. Disputes in advance of match day should be mediated by the NLCM.

In Men's Championship, Women's Championship and Men's Division 1, clubs should also conform to the match day requirements set out in Appendix 1 (goal posts, goal post protection, pitch flags, scoreboard, benches for substitutes, technical zones, and Championship level match commentator).

### *2.6.2 Informing the visitors, match officials and FRRA*

The home club is responsible for informing the visiting team, the match official(s) and the FRRA of the time and place of the match at least **five** days prior to the day of the match (i.e. before 23:59 on Monday if the match is to be played on Saturday).

If the information is not provided to the visiting team and the visiting team is unable to contact the hosting team after reasonable efforts to do so, then the visiting team will be entitled to request that the NLCM award a forfeit win via the club's official @finland.rugby email address.

If the information is not provided to the match official(s) or the FRRA, the match official(s) or the FRRA will inform the NLCM. If the NLCM is unable to contact the hosting team after reasonable efforts to do so, then the visiting team will be awarded a forfeit win by the NLCM. Repeated or deliberate negligence regarding informing the match official(s) or FRRA may result in additional sanctions against the club at the discretion of the NLCM and SRL.

### ***2.6.3 Non-appointed match officials***

#### *2.6.3.1 No match official appointed*

In the event that no match official has been appointed by FRRA, it is the responsibility of both clubs to provide a suitable alternative. Such a match official may be a member of either club. In the event that more than one match official is nominated, and teams cannot agree on which should officiate, the dispute should be settled by the NLCM, a senior FRRA representative, or suitable alternative. If no match official is provided, then teams will be given the opportunity to postpone the match to a mutually agreed date. If no date can be found, the match will be marked as a draw.

The home team will be responsible for collecting the team sheets from both clubs and forwarding them to [teamsheets@finland.rugby](mailto:teamsheets@finland.rugby) within two hours of the final whistle.

#### *2.6.3.2 No assistant referees appointed*

If one assistant referee has been appointed by FRRA, it is the responsibility of the home side to provide one assistant referee or touch judge. If the home side cannot find an assistant referee or a touch judge, then the away side will be given the opportunity to provide one. If neither side can find an assistant referee or a touch judge, then the match will be played with just the one FRRA appointed assistant referee.

If no assistant referees have been appointed by FRRA, it is the responsibility of both clubs to provide one assistant referee or touch judge per side. If the sides cannot find

assistant referees or touch judges, then the match will be played without assistant referees or touch judges.

## **3 7s competitions**

### **3.1 Foreword**

This section pertains to men's 7s series and women's 7s series. Unless otherwise stated later in this section, the separate 7s competitions referred to herein follow the same regulations.

The individual tournaments in the 7s series are hosted by clubs. A guide for hosting the 7s tournaments is set out in Appendix 4.

### **3.2 Match structure**

Unless otherwise stated, every match shall be played 7-a-side and teams may name up to 12 players in their tournament day squad.

A team can make a total of 5 replacements in a match irrespective of the number of replacement players on the match day team sheet.

### **3.3 Format**

#### ***3.3.1 General***

Clubs can enter teams to the 7s series. Clubs can also enter teams to individual tournaments if there is an open position.

The number and location of tournaments within the 7s series will be decided in advance of the season. There is no minimum or maximum number of tournaments that teams registered in the 7s series must compete in to be included in the series.

The men's or women's 7s rugby coordinator will be responsible for deciding the number of pools and the draw for each men's or women's 7s rugby tournament, respectively. The host club together with the 7s rugby coordinator will be responsible for determining the order of play in the tournament hosted by them.



Any disputes on match day should be settled by the match official. Disputes in advance of match day should be mediated by the NLCM.

### ***3.3.2 Men's 7s series format***

In men's 7s series, the tournaments will be organised regionally. Teams are divided into 3 regions and the separate regions will compete in tournaments during regular season. The best team from every region and 3 next best teams overall will advance into a finals tournament. The team that wins the finals tournament will win the Men's 7s Finnish Championship.

### ***3.3.3 Women's 7s series format***

In women's 7s series, there are two divisions: Women's 7s Finnish Championship and Women's 7s Division 1. Teams will collect series points based on their rankings at each Championship tournament and the team with the most cumulative points over the series will win the Women's 7s Finnish Championship.

Promotion and relegation between the two divisions will take place after each tournament. Team finishing bottom of the Championship tournament is relegated to Division 1. In determining relegation, if a team drops out of a tournament, they are considered to have placed last in said tournament. Promotion is offered to the team finishing top of Division 1 tournament. However, if the team winning the Division 1 tournament does not want to be promoted to the Championship, then the team which came second in the Division 1 tournament will be offered the chance to be promoted in the place of the team which won the Division 1 tournament. If the team which came second in the Division 1 tournament confirms it is not willing to replace the team which won the Division 1 tournament, no promotion or relegation will occur.

### **3.3.4 Scoring**

#### *3.3.4.1 Scoring within an individual match*

If the tournament venue has goal posts, scoring will follow the Sevens variations of World Rugby Law 8\*.

If the tournament venue is missing goal posts, scoring methods and points value of scoring are:

- 7 points from a try scored in the middle of the in-goal area, width of this area is the same as the football field's goal box (18.32 m)
- 5 points from a try scored on other areas of the in-goal area
- No conversions, penalty goals or dropped goals

#### *3.3.4.2 Scoring within an individual tournament*

During the pool phase of a tournament, teams will receive four points for a win, two points for a draw, and zero points for a loss. There will be no bonus point system. After the pool phase of a tournament, playoff matches may be played to determine the final rankings within the tournament.

If two teams are tied on points at the end of a tournament then the rankings will be decided as follows:

1. The points difference throughout the tournament
2. The results in matches played between the tied teams during the tournament
3. The number of tries scored by each of the tied teams throughout the tournament
4. The number of red cards received throughout the tournament
5. A coin toss (or other random method supervised by the NLCM)

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\* World Rugby Law 8 (Scoring) – Sevens variations:  
<https://www.world.rugby/the-game/laws/variations/8/sevens/>

If more than two teams are tied, then the above criteria are used until one team is 'the winner'. The criterion then starts again from number 1 for the remaining teams.

### *3.3.4.3 Scoring the 7s series*

In Men's and Women's 7s Finnish Championship, teams will score ten points for a Championship tournament win, eight points for coming second, six points for coming third, four points for coming fourth, three points for coming fifth, two points for coming sixth, one point for coming seventh, and zero points for finishing eighth and lower. Where an insufficient number of playoff matches are held to make these distinctions, teams may be tied for a place and be awarded the corresponding points, e.g. if 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> places are not contested both teams will score three points.

In Men's 7s Finnish Championship, in cases where a region has had less tournaments, the series points of the teams in that region will be scaled by dividing the total score of a team by the amount of the tournaments played in that region and multiplying this with the highest amount of tournaments in the other regions during the regular season (i.e.  $[X/Y]*Z$  where X is the series points of the team, Y is the number of tournaments in the team's region, and Z is the highest number of tournaments in the other regions). However, the points of a team will not be scaled if the team has withdrawn from any tournament during the regular season.

No points are scored in the Women's 7s Division 1 tournaments.

If two teams are tied on series points, then the rankings will be decided as follows:

1. The results in matches played between the tied teams during the tournaments
2. The number of tries scored by each of the tied teams throughout the tournaments
3. The number of red cards received throughout the tournaments
4. A coin toss (or other random method supervised by the NLCM)

If more than two teams are tied, then the above criteria are used until one team is 'the winner'. The criterion then starts again from number 1 for the remaining teams.

### ***3.3.5 Playoffs***

Playoff matches may be played after the pool phase of a tournament to determine the final rankings within the tournament.

If a playoff match finishes in a draw then a maximum of two, five-minute periods of sudden-death extra-time will be played. If the scores are still tied, then the winner of the match will be determined by a drop-kick competition, the details of which shall be enforced by the match official using the FRRRA tie break protocol\*.

## **3.4 Forfeits and abandoning a tournament**

### ***3.4.1 Forfeits***

In the case of a forfeit, the non-forfeiting team will be awarded a 21 – 0 win. No financial penalty will be imposed and no competition point will be deducted. A team that forfeits a match may continue to play in the rest of the tournament.

### ***3.4.2 Abandoning a tournament in progress***

If a team abandons a tournament in progress, all of their remaining matches will be forfeited. In such case, tournament organisers will be responsible for assessing the impact of abandonment to the tournament schedule and make adjustments, as the time constraints placed on tournament events require flexibility.

### ***3.4.3 Withdrawal from a tournament***

A team is not obligated to attend all tournaments within a series.

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\* Appendix 3

Teams that are due to compete at a tournament but withdraw within 2 weeks of the event (i.e. after 23:59 on Saturday 2 weeks prior the tournament to be played on Saturday), will be liable to pay a fee of 60 € payable to the SRL.

Any team that withdraws from 7s tournament during a season will not be entitled to a refund of any fees previously paid (e.g. 7s series registration fees).

If a team chooses to withdraw from a tournament, that team's position will be left open for another team registered in 7s competition to attend in said tournament. In such case, no additional 7s series registration fees will be paid by the visiting team. The visiting team will not get league points from the tournament.

### **3.5 Eligibility and loan players**

#### ***3.5.1 General***

In men's 7s series, teams that are the only male team representing their club in an SRL 7s competition may field players registered to their club without restriction. Restrictions regarding second teams in 7s competition are outlined later in this section. Male players that are registered to an SRL-registered club with no team competing in men's 7s competitions covered by these regulations may also represent a club to which they are not registered. Any player making use of this exemption will be considered registered to the first club they play for in the 7s competition by default and may therefore not represent another club unless permitted to do so under the relevant 7s competition regulations outlined in this document. Any such player wishing to be considered registered to a different club should contact the NLCM.

In women's 7s series, teams that are the only female team representing their club in an SRL 7s competition may field players licensed to any club without restriction. If a club has more than one team in an SRL 7s competition, the teams may use players licensed to other SRL-registered clubs without restriction and players licensed to their own club with restrictions outlined later in this section. If players are fielded from other clubs, there is no need to be an official combined team with a name differentiated from other clubs.

### ***3.5.2 Loan players***

Once a player has been named to a team's tournament day squad, they may not represent any other team during the same event. However, the exception to this is that if a team has incurred injuries that would jeopardise their ability to field a competitive team (this may extend beyond the starting XII), they may loan players from other teams attending the same tournament or event. A player can change teams only once during a tournament or event and will not be permitted to return to their original team or be loaned to any other team for the rest of the tournament or event. A team must get permission from the captain of the opposition for every individual match where a loan player is to be fielded.

When a player is loaned to another club, it needs to be taken into account that one player can only play a maximum amount of 6 matches in one day due to player safety reasons.

The purpose of the loan player regulation is that teams struggling for numbers can still field a side, not to help clubs put out a stronger team and it is hoped that teams respect this aim.

### ***3.5.3 Fielding more than one side and combined teams***

Clubs may field up to two teams in each tournament. One of these teams may be a combined team, such as a regional or collaborative squad, but not both.

If two teams are entered by a club, these will be considered distinct and separate from each other throughout the 7s series. A player who has played for one such team may therefore not play for their club's other 7s team without being governed by the above rules on loaning players during an event.

## 4 Contacts

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### Technical director (TD)

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### Disciplinary officer

Palemia Field

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### General secretary

[secretary@finland.rugby](mailto:secretary@finland.rugby)

### Clubs

*All addresses are @finland.rugby:*

Espoo@	FRRA@	Helsinki@	Hameenlinna@
Joensuu@	Jyvaskyla@	Kalev@	Kuopio@
Lahti@	Oulu@	Pori@	Porvoo@
Saimaa@	Seinajoki@	Tampere@	TRA@
Turku@	Vaasa@	Warriors@	

## Appendix 1: XV MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS

Suomen Rugbyliitto implemented league improvements in competitions for 2020 onwards. For the XV season in 2022, the addition to last year is a commentator for Championship level matches. For the XV season in 2023, the addition will be a café or a food vendor present at matches.

The purpose is to find ways to improve the standard of our leagues as we try to market ourselves to potential sponsors and partners along with a view to getting some or all of our leagues sponsored, we need to up our game and levels of responsibility so that we look more attractive to potential sponsors and partners.

### SRL's Match Day Guide:

- In English: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VJLaqrseB0HaRj7hDxERcE4gip9vFoAw/view?usp=sharing>
- In Finnish: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13hKehoieKGkCCPEGIZD79dLqw9SFIANB/view?usp=sharing>

All teams / clubs participating in the men's and women's Championship and Men's Division 1 series in XV competitions must have the following items in place during match days:

- **Goal posts**
- **Proper goal post protection**
- **14 pitch flags**
- **Scoreboard** – of some sort, analogue or digital
- **Benches** – for substitutes
- **Technical Zones** – where only those on the team sheet are allowed
- **Commentator** – only for Championship series (addition for 2022)



Match official will, as part of the pre-match procedures, note whether the home team has fulfilled the requirements. The match official will mark down on the match report card if any of the criteria is missing. Each criteria missing incurs 1 point. Points are registered on the data sheet seen by those responsible for leagues and competitions. Once a limit of 3 points has accrued the team loses a league point.

Example of the match officials' checklist:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Criteria fulfilled</b>	<b>Date</b>
Goal posts *		
Post Protectors *		
Pitch flags *		
Scoreboard *		
Benches *		
Technical Zones *		
Commentator **		
<b>TOTAL</b>		

\* Requirement for men's and women's Championship and Men's Division 1 series in XV competitions.

\*\* Requirement for men's and women's Championship series in XV competitions.

One exception to fulfilling the criteria is the goal posts. If the goal posts do not meet the criteria, e.g. they are seated on the dead ball line or use feet to stand upright, they can be approved if documentation is provided from the city confirming valid reason for not complying. The posts must however be stable, proper goal posts and equipped with post protectors.

**Goal Posts**

These are of the correct variety and dimensions and should be inserted into the ground on the try line with no risk of them falling over (e.g. football goal posts with extensions are not sufficient).

If feet are needed to keep the posts upright, the feet must be sufficiently covered (e.g. a thin layer of astro turf is not sufficient).

**Post protectors**

Of the approved variety and securely wrapped to the post (e.g. mattresses wrapped around the posts is not sufficient).

**Pitch marking flags**

There must be 14 flags (dead ball, try line, 22, halfway, 22, try line, dead ball) of the correct variety – as in safe to be placed in the correct position with no risk of metal bases causing injury. The pitch flags do need to be approved as safe but they do not need to have padded posts or hinged shafts.

SRL, in conjunction with Pohjola Vakuutus, have supplied 14 flags (orange poles, white flags printed with the Pohjola Vakuutus logo) per venue and these flags must be used at all matches.

**Scoreboard**

Some form of scoreboard, analogue or digital, that can be updated as the match progresses allowing spectators and players to see the score.

**Benches**

Enough seating area, a bench or a substitute box, for the team substitutes. Should no benches be available then all substitutes are required to sit in the stands.

**Technical Zones**

A 10 m wide by 3 m deep box, marked in pitch paint or by cones, should be situated 2 m from the pitch and in between the 10-metre line and 22-metre line starting from the 10-metre line. All those on the team sheet should reside in the technical zone.

**Commentator**

Commentator, with necessary knowledge of rugby, allowing spectators to better understand the game.

## Appendix 2: DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

**Note: Any act of foul play which results in contact with the head and/or the neck shall result in at least a mid-range sanction.<sup>12</sup>**

In respect of offences not referred to in Appendix 2 below, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant Judicial Officer, Disciplinary Committee, Appeal Officer and/or Appeal Committee (as the case may be).

Notwithstanding the Sanctions in Appendix 2 and/or the provisions of World Rugby Regulation 17.19<sup>13</sup> in cases where the player's actions constitute mid-range or top end offending for any type of offence which had the potential to result and, in fact, did result in serious/gross consequences to the health of the victim, the Judicial Officers and/or Disciplinary Committees may impose any period of suspension including a suspension for life.

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<sup>12</sup> The note does not apply to the following Laws whose low-end entry points already take into account head contact being a potential feature or consequence of such breach reaching the red-card threshold: 9.11, 9.12 (biting, contact with eye(s)/eye area, striking with head and tripping), 9.18 and 9.27 (hair pulling).

<sup>13</sup> World Rugby Regulation 17 (Discipline - foul play): <https://www.world.rugby/organisation/governance/regulations/reg-17>

Law	Description	LOW	MID	HIGH	MAX
9.11	Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others	1	2	3	52
	A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to: BITING	4	6	8	208
	A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to: INTENTIONAL CONTACT WITH EYE(S)*	4	6	8	208
	A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to: RECKLESS CONTACT WITH EYE(S)*	2	4	6	208
	A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to: CONTACT WITH EYE AREA*	1	3	4	52
	A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to: PUNCHING OR STRIKING WITH HAND OR ARM (INCL. STIFF ARM TACKLE)	1	2	3	52
	A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to: STRIKING WITH THE ELBOW	1	2	3	52
9.12	A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to: STRIKING WITH THE SHOULDER	1	2	3	52
	A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to: STRIKING WITH HEAD	2	3	5	104
	A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to: STRIKING WITH KNEE	1	3	4	52
	A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to: STAMPING OR TRAMPLING	1	2	4	52
	A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to: TRIPPING	1	1	3	52
	A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to: KICKING	1	3	4	52
	A player must not verbally abuse anyone. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.	2	4	6	52
9.13	A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.	1	2	3	52
9.14	A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.	1	2	3	52
9.15	Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball must not hold, push, charge or obstruct an opponent not in possession of the ball.	1	1	2	52
9.16	A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.	1	2	3	52
9.17	A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.	1	3	4	52
9.18	A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground.	2	3	5	52
	Dangerous play in a scrum. The front row of a scrum must not form at a distance from its opponents and rush against them.	1	1	3	52
9.19	Dangerous play in a scrum. A front-row player must not pull an opponent.	1	1	3	52
	Dangerous play in a scrum. A front-row player must not intentionally lift an opponent off their feet or force the opponent upwards out of the scrum.	1	1	3	52
	Dangerous play in a scrum. A front-row player must not intentionally collapse a scrum.	1	1	3	52
	Dangerous play in a ruck or maul. A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without binding onto another player in the ruck or maul.	1	2	3	52
9.20	Dangerous play in a ruck or maul. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.	1	1	3	52
	Dangerous play in a ruck or maul. A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul.	1	1	3	52
9.25	A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.	1	2	3	52
	A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to: HAIR PULLING OR GRABBING	1	1	2	52
	A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to: SPITTING AT ANYONE	1	3	4	52
9.27	A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to: GRABBING, TWISTING OR SQUEEZING THE GENITALS (AND/OR BREASTS IN THE CASE OF FEMALE PLAYERS)	4	6	8	208
	A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to: OTHER	1	3	4	52
	A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official.	1	1	2	52
	A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.	2	4	6	52
9.28	A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.	2	4	6	52
	A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials	4	8	16	260
	A player must not physically abuse Match Officials	8	16	32	Life

\* The “eye” involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the “eye area” is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

### **Appendix 3: FRRR TIE BREAK PROTOCOL**

FRRR tie break protocol is a penalty shoot-out between the two teams and it shall take place as follows:

- 1) All players and Match Officials will remain on the playing enclosure. The referee will call the captains of the two teams to the centre of the pitch and will conduct a coin toss. The winner of the coin toss then may either choose which team kicks first (in which case the loser chooses the end at which all kicks will be taken) or choose the end at which all kicks will be taken (in which case the loser chooses which team kicks first).
- 2) Each team captain must nominate 5 players to participate in the kicking competition. Only the 5 players nominated by the captains and present on the playing enclosure at the time of the completion of the extra time may take part in the kicking competition. No injured, substituted or dismissed player may take part at any time. The order in which the players kick does not have to be predetermined.
- 3) The Match Officials and team members will assemble on the halfway line. Team members must remain behind the halfway line in the side of the playing area not used for the kicking competition. No one except the referee, two assistant referees or touch judges and two ball boys/girls is allowed in the part of the playing area being used for the competition.
- 4) The five players from each team will place kick from three different points, all on the 22-meter line, as follows:
  - a. First point: directly in front of the posts
  - b. Second point: on the 15-meter line on the left-hand side facing the posts
  - c. Third point: on the 15-meter line on the right-hand side facing the posts
- 5) The referee will start the competition by calling the first player selected from the team kicking first to the first kicking point. Once the player has taken the kick, the referee calls a player from the opposing team to kick from the same point.
- 6) The next two players (one from each team) will kick from the second point in turn. This will continue until all five players from each team have kicked (the next players kicking respectively from the third point, first area and finally the second point), or until one team is unable to equal the score of the other team within the remaining number of kicks.

- 7) If there are an equal number of successful kicks once each team has completed its five kicks, the competition continues on a “sudden death” basis, following the same order of kickers used in the first five kicks.
- 8) The competition will continue two kicks at a time (one from each side), going progressively through the three kicking areas stated above (and repeating the process if necessary) until one player succeeds with a kick and the player from the other side taking the same kick misses it. Once this occurs, the team of the player who succeeded with the kick will be declared the winner. Each of these additional kicks shall be taken by the same 5 players in rotation.

Throughout the kicking competition:

- a) Once a player has been handed the ball by the referee on the kicking point, they must take the kick within one minute. Should they take longer, the referee shall declare the kick void and therefore a miss.
- b) After each kick, the referee records the number of the player and whether or not the attempt was successful.
- c) Whether or not a goal is scored from each attempt is the sole decision of the referee, who may at sole discretion rely on the assistance of assistant referees or touch judges. The Match Official’s decision shall be final and binding.
- d) Once a player has completed their kick, they shall return to stand with their team behind the halfway line in the side of the playing area not used.

## **Appendix 4: GUIDE TO HOSTING A 7S TOURNAMENT**

SRL's guide to hosting domestic 7s tournaments in Finnish rugby:

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