

## **UOVHSAA RUGBY PLAYING REGULATIONS – June 2025**

“An atmosphere of mutual respect and goodwill between opponents and toward officials make competition in rugby a rewarding experience.”

### **1. Dates**

The UOVHSAA Rugby schedule will start the fourth Tuesday in September, unless extraordinary circumstances dictate a change.

The regular season schedule will end before the last week of October, unless extraordinary circumstances dictate a change.

The UOVHSAA playoffs will be held the last week of October, unless extraordinary circumstances dictate a change.

Games for all Renfrew County schools should be scheduled on Tuesday and/or Thursday unless extraordinary circumstances dictate a change.

### **2. Eligibility**

To represent a school in rugby coordinated by UOVHSAA, a student must:

- a) Be eligible for competition under the Constitution and By-Laws of the UOVHSAA.
- b) Students who have fewer than twenty-two (22) credits must be registered in a minimum of three (3) full day school credit courses in the semester in which she participates. Students who have achieved twenty-two (22) credits must be taking two (2) full day school courses per semester.
- c) Be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from the date of entry into grade nine (9).
- d) Be certified as eligible by the Principal of the school.
- e) Meet the following age requirements:
  - Junior - The individual has not reached his/hers 15th birthday by Jan. 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.
  - Senior - The individual has not reached his/hers 19th birthday by Jan. 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.
- f) Transfers – as per EOSSAA/OFSAA policy. See Appendix I.
- g) Any student who registers and attends one term at a post secondary institution and then returns to any high school is ineligible for UOVHSAA competition for the remainder of his high school career.
- h) Eligibility sheets must be “in the hands” of the convenor prior to the first game in which the players listed thereon participate.
- g) Additions to the list may be submitted on another UOVHSAA/EOSSAA eligibility form or made in the form of a letter duly signed by the Coach, Phys. Ed. Head or

Athletic Director and the Principal. The letter must include all information as on the regular eligibility sheet.

h) The student must be registered in the school at least 10 days before the first match in which he/she competes.

i) Any player may compete in one contest in a higher age category without being permanently attached to that category.

j) A junior player may compete in senior playoffs if he/she has played in at least one senior match during regular league play. However, he/she is then ineligible for further junior play.

k) A player may play in only one playoff category.

m) Any student in an UOVHSAA member school who has participated in an official UOVHSAA competition and then registers in another UOVHSAA member school shall be ineligible to compete in that same sport in the same season.

l) Eligibility violations will result in the following penalties:

i. Player Eligibility: if a team plays an ineligible player, all matches played with the ineligible player will be defaulted. The score for the defaulting team will always be zero (0). If the non-defaulting team won, they will count the actual points scored. If the non-defaulting team lost the contest, then the official score will be 2 – 0 for that team.

m) As a function of the inconsistency between the UOVHSAA fall rugby season and the EOSSAA/OFSAA spring rugby season, UOVHSAA teams participating in spring EOSSAA/OFSAA competition must ensure their EOSSAA/OFSAA rosters comply with current EOSSAA/OFSAA eligibility requirements. As per EOSSAA clarification, a student does not have to participate in local fall competition (UOVHSAA) in order to be eligible for spring EOSSAA/OFSAA competition.

### **3. Classification**

Both Boys and Girls Rugby is classified into “A/AA” and “AAA/AAAA” as per EOSSAA and OFSAA regulations.

Schools wishing to compete in an alternative classification (e.g. “declare up”) must declare their intentions to the UOVHSAA convenor by April 30<sup>th</sup> of the current fall season (for rugby 15’s).

If the UOVHSAA AAA berth to EOSSAA remained vacant after the UOVHSAA season concluded, the UOVHSAA runner up would have the opportunity to claim it if they desired to do so.

### **4. Rules and Officials**

The current ORU (Ontario Rugby Union) Rule Book shall be the official rulebook governing play. Exceptions to the rules include unlimited substitution as permitted by the referee.

## **5. Uniforms and Equipment**

- a) All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's name, colours, and logo. No sport club insignia on uniforms or equipment shall be permitted. Sponsorship recognition is permitted to be visible but must conform to the placement guidelines outlined in OFSAA By-Law 6, Section 2(h).
- b) Uniforms must be in accordance with ORU rules. Team members shall be required to wear jerseys and shorts of similar style, colour and fabric. Every effort should be made to have numbered jerseys.
- c) All protective gear (e.g. headgear, knee braces, shoulder padding) must meet IRB specifications and be subject to approval from the game official.
- d) All participating teams must have someone at least 18 years of age with First Aid certification in attendance.
- e) Players must wear a mouth guard at all times
- f) The boundaries of the field of play shall be marked in a safe manner (e.g. collapsible cones or flags)

## **6. Starting Time**

The starting time for the first match will be discussed between schools and their coaches/principals. It should be noted that early start times are necessary when a number of teams play at the same venue because of the amount of suitable daylight available.

## **7. Regular Season Play**

- a) Any school wishing to enter the UOVHSAA Rugby League must do so by filling out the intent to compete form (see Appendix II) and returning it to the convenor by the end of the first week of school.
- b) The regular season will consist of a single round robin format if five or more teams are entered in a division. If four or fewer teams are entered in any division, a double round robin (home and home) format will be followed.
- c) The order of games shall be:  
Tuesdays – Senior Boys, Junior Boys, Senior Girls, Junior Girls  
Thursdays – Senior Girls, Junior Girls, Senior Boys and Junior Boys
- d) If possible, the schedule shall be constructed so that the boys' teams from School A travel to School B, while the Girls' teams from School B travel to School A.
- c) For rugby 15's, all regular season games will be two 25 minute running time halves with a five minute break between halves. Injury time will be added to the second half. The referee will determine the length of injury time. For rugby 7's, all regular season games will be two 7-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime.
- d) Two points shall be awarded for each game won. One point will be awarded for a tie and zero for a loss.

## **8. Tie-Breaking Rules**

If two or more teams are tied at the end of the regular season, the following tie breaking procedures shall be followed:

- i) The games among the tied teams will be considered and the winner ranked higher
- ii) If there is still a tie the team with the most wins would be ranked higher.
- iii) If there is still a tie, the team having the best ratio of points for and against among the tied teams will be ranked higher.
- iv) If there is still a tie, the team with the best ratio of points for and against would be ranked higher.
- v) If the teams are still tied, the team having the best points for in the entire regular season round robin will be ranked higher.
- vi) If the tie cannot be broken with all of the above, a flip of the coin will determine placement.

## **9. Playoff Format**

If there are four or more teams, the format will be :

4 versus 1 and 3 versus 2. The winners of these two semi finals would play at the highest ranked winner's home field. If there were three teams, the format would be a final game: 2 versus 1 for the championship.

Playoff games will be two thirty minute halves. If tied at the end of regulation; two five minute halves will be played. If still tied, there would be another two five minute sudden death halves. If there are any points scored during this time the game would be over. If the games are still tied, each team would have three kickers kick from the 22 metre line; the team with the highest number of successful kicks would win. If still tied, each team would alternate kicks five metres back of the 22-metre line. Once one team made a kick where the other team could not reply a winner would be determined. After each successful group of kicks, the kickers would continue to move back five meters.

If:

- 1) A UOVHSAA Rugby league (Boys/Girls) does not officially run
- 2) One or more schools are interested in representing UOVHSAA at a EOSSAA Rugby championship
- 3) The interested schools meet the criteria established by EOSSAA for participation

Then the following will be observed.

The EOSSAA date for associations to declare interest in competing in the Rugby championships is the end of the first full week of May. As such, UOVHSAA schools interested in participation must contact the UOVHSAA convener no later than May 1 to indicate their interest in representing UOVHSAA at EOSSAA.

If only one school formally indicates interest (by the May 1 deadline) in representing UOVHSAA in each classification category (A/AA and AAA/AAAA) they will be considered acclaimed for that berth.

If two schools formally indicates interest (by the May 1 deadline) in representing UOVHSAA in each classification category (A/AA and AAA/AAAA) a two game playoff will be held over the two weeks preceding the EOSSAA championship to determine the UOVHSAA representative in a "home and home" format. Each match will be 60 minutes in duration and follow the established guidelines for UOVHSAA championship matches. Ties will be broken by the following formula: 1) Highest Total Point Differential 2) Fewest Points Allowed 3) Fewest Yellow Cards 4) Penalty Kicks (following UOVHSAA regulations)

If three schools formally indicate interest (by the May 1 deadline) in representing UOVHSAA in each classification category (A/AA and AAA/AAAA) a one day "round robin" tournament will occur the week before the EOSSAA championship to determine the UOVHSAA representative. Games will be 40 minutes in duration and follow EOSSAA/OFSAA guidelines with respect to rest intervals, etc. Ties will be broken by the following formula: 1) Highest Total Point Differential 2) Fewest Points Allowed 3) Fewest Yellow Cards 4) Penalty Kicks (following UOVHSAA regulations)

## **10. Discipline**

Yellow cards are 7 minutes in duration.

Red Cards - the Rugby Ontario system of classifying red cards shall be used. For all Level One red cards the suspension shall be the duration of the game in which the card was received plus the next regular season or playoff game. All red cards deemed to be higher than a Level One shall be reviewed. For these infractions the minimum suspension will be the same as a Level One red card. A committee of coaches (decided at the beginning of the season) shall advise the convenor if they feel further suspension is warranted. The convenor shall then make a decision about further suspension based on the recommendation of the committee. If the card was given to a player from a committee member's school then that person shall be removed from the committee.

## **11. Protests**

- a) All protest shall be lodged in writing with the convenor of the activity who will in turn report same to the Chairperson of the Board of Review.
- b) All protest shall be lodged within two (2) school days of the conclusion of the disputed game.
- c) All protest arising out of an ineligible player may be lodged at any time upon request of the convenor or member of the school concerned.

d) If the age of a student participating in a game is questioned by a member of UOVHSAA, the onus for proof of age shall lie with the school which the student represents.

## **12. Convenor Duties**

- a) The convenor shall send each school an "Intend to Compete" form no later than one week before the June meeting of the UOVHSAA.
- b) The convenor shall assist the head official in assigning referees for each game.
- c) The convenor shall send a copy of assigned officials to each school.
- d) When the schedule is being formed, the convenor shall attempt to schedule an equal distribution of home and away games.
- e) The convenor shall submit a final report to the UOVHSAA by the end of November. This report should include final league and play-off standings and suggestions for change to the Playing Regulations.
- f) The convenor shall be responsible for reporting all matters regarding player or team ineligibility to the Chairperson of the Board of Review.
- g) The convenor shall be responsible for reporting all matters of misconduct of any person belonging to UOVHSAA rugby to the Chairperson of the Board of Review.
- h) The convenor shall be responsible for reporting to the Chairperson of the Board of Review all matters arising out of defaulted games.

## **13. Awards**

The school winning each age division championship shall receive the UOVHSAA trophy for that age division. The circulating trophies are:

Senior Boys – Whitman Cup

Senior Girls – Unnamed Trophy

These trophies are loaned to the winning school. It is the responsibility of that school to ensure that the trophy is at the championship site for the next year's competition.

## **14. Deportment**

- a) A team is defined as "All participants representing the same school at an UOVHSAA event".
- b) A participant is defined as "Anyone who has been granted proper authorization to enter a restricted area". "Restricted area" includes those areas occupied by athletes and to which access by the general public is restricted or prohibited.
- c) All participants are expected to abide by the "Rules of Behaviour" for Participants as outlined by EOSSAA.
- d) Supervising adults are responsible for the behaviour of participants at all UOVHSAA events.

- e) All coaches are expected to adhere to the “Code of Ethics for Coaches” as outlined by EOSSAA.
- f) All schools entering an UOVHSAA event shall acknowledge responsibility for making restitution for damage resulting from misconduct by their participants.

### **15. Revisions/Amendments**

These playing regulations may be amended/revised at the June meeting of the UOVHSAA by a majority vote of the member schools present (two votes per school). Proposed amendments/revisions must be presented in writing, and circulated by movers to all member schools 14 calendar days prior to the final June meeting. Copies of proposed amendments/revisions shall be available to the meeting delegate on the meeting day (responsibility of the movers). Approved amendments/revisions are effective for the next playing season.