

OFSAA GIRLS' RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP

The sole basis for the very existence of high school sport is the contribution it makes to the general educational experience of those students who participate.

PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. Date:

The OFSAA Girls' Rugby Championship shall be held on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the first week of June unless extraordinary circumstances dictate a change.

2. Location:

The location of the Championship shall be decided not later than the OFSAA Annual Meeting held in April of the school year prior to the Championship.

3. Classifications:

There shall be two classifications of Championships - "A/AA" and "AAA/AAAA" for Girls' Rugby. Associations shall classify their school teams based on the criteria found in By-Law 5, Section 2(b).

4. Tournament Structure and Procedure:

- (a) (i) If the OFSAA Rugby Championship is a **16 team** championship it shall be a **single elimination** tournament with a **consolation round**. The semi-final losers on the championship side of the draw shall play in the Bronze medal game to determine third and fourth places.
- (ii) If the OFSAA Rugby Championship is a **12 team** championship it shall be a **round robin** tournament. The tournament will consist of four pools of three with a championship round and a consolation final. The semi-final losers on the championship side of the draw shall play in the Bronze medal game to determine third and fourth places.
- (b) Convenors, whenever possible, should ensure that all participating teams are rotated throughout all Championship sites during the preliminary rounds of competition.
- (c) Semi-final games shall be run concurrently whenever possible.
- (d) A friendship game for all teams who are not in the playoffs shall be held.
- (e) At the completion of the game, the teams will clap each other off the playing field.

5. Seeding:

All teams shall be seeded by the tournament committee. Seeding shall be done in consultation with the OFSAA office and the Chair of the Girls' Rugby Sport Advisory Committee.

6. Entry:

- (a) Entries shall be accepted from Association convenors or designates only.
- (b) **NO APPLICATION OF ENTRY RULES BELOW SHALL PROVIDE FOR MORE THAN TWO (2) ENTRIES FROM ANY ONE ASSOCIATION.** However, additional entries may be awarded to the host Association provided that the additional entries to the previous Association medallists have been exhausted.
- (c) Each Association is allowed one (1) entry into the OFSAA Championship with the exception of the TDSSAA which may have two (2) entries. The host Association may have a second entry at the discretion of the host Association.
- (d) To facilitate the draw a **maximum** of three (3) additional entries may be accepted based on the following:
 - (i) an additional host Association entry (as determined by the Association);
 - (ii) an additional entry from the Association of the Championship team of the previous year;
 - (iii) an additional entry from the Association of the finalist team of the previous year;
 - (iv) an additional entry from the Association of the bronze medallion winners of the previous year.
 - (v) an additional entry from the Association of the antique bronze winners of the previous year

To further facilitate the draw, entries may be awarded to the Association medalists from two years prior, provided that the additional entries to the previous year's Association medalists have been exhausted. Additional entries in the Championships shall be selected from:

- (i) the gold medal Association of two years prior;
 - (ii) the silver medal Association of two years prior;
 - (iii) the bronze medal Association of two years prior;
 - (iv) the antique bronze medal Association of two years prior;
- (e) Any suspension or disciplinary actions in Association play shall be carried forward into OFSAA competition. The Association convenor shall be responsible for reporting such players and the nature of the disciplinary action on the OFSAA entry form.
 - (f) For associations withdrawing a team(s) after the commitment deadline the minimum sanction imposed will be a fine equal to the entry fee. Further, if the withdrawal takes place at a time that impacts on the convener, financially or logistically, a further fine may be issued. This fine may encompass costs incurred by the convenor for entry fee, banquet meals, banners, etc. as reviewed and approved by OFSAA. The association and/or school may also be brought forward to the Board of Reference sanctions.

ENTRY DEADLINES

Championship Play Begins	Entry Deadline
Monday	The preceding Tuesday @ 11:59 pm
Tuesday	The preceding Wednesday @ 11:59 pm
Wednesday	The preceding Thursday @ 11:59 pm
Thursday	The preceding Saturday @ 11:59 pm
Friday	The preceding Monday @ 11:59 pm
Saturday	The preceding Tuesday @ 11:59 pm

7. Expenses:

An Entry Fee shall be charged which shall be sufficient to cover the operating costs of the tournament. Any Association that does not meet its entry commitment after it has declared an entry into the Championship will be required to submit the entry fee and a report will be made to the Board of Reference - Sanctions.

Those schools having entries are responsible for arranging and financing their own travel, meals and accommodation for the event.

Billets for competitors may be arranged at the discretion of the Convenor; when such billeting is requested players must accept billets as assigned as a condition of participation.

8. Eligibility:

To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation a student **must**:

- (i) be eligible for competition under the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules (Playing Regulations) of the Association to which her school belongs;
- (ii) be certified as eligible by the Principal of the school;
- (iii) meet the following age requirement: the individual's birth certificate indicates that she has not reached her 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held;
- (iv) be in Grades 9-12;
- (v) be eligible under the OFSAA Transfer Policy (By-Law 5, Section 4(f));
- (vi) be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from date of entry into Grade 9 (By-Law 5, Section 4(g));
- (vii) have signed the Rules of Behaviour signature form for the competition;
- (viii) have executed the Federation's "Release of Liability" form.

9. Rules and Officials:

Revisions to rulebooks governing play at the OFSAA Championship shall be reviewed by the Sport Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Directors prior to implementation at any Championship.

The laws of the International Rugby Board shall govern play at the OFSAA tournament with the following exceptions:

(a) **Replacement of Players**

- (i) There shall be unlimited replacement at any time during the game or overtime, provided the referee is notified. Once replaced, the player cannot return.
- (ii) Injured players who are replaced shall not return to the game (except for those removed from the game under Law #6, Para. 8, section (d) regarding bleeding).
- (iii) Should a player be **ejected** from the game for flagrant abuse of the rules or abusive or profane language, she is no longer eligible for competition in the tournament and no replacement will be allowed for the remainder of that game during which the offence occurred. Any such instances shall be reported to the OFSAA Board of Reference - Sanctions.

(b) **Playing Time**

- (i) The OFSAA Championship shall be played under the iRB toss and time regulations. In the three-day playoff format the first three games will be two 20-minute halves with no overtime to comply with the time restriction of 80 minutes per day; ties would be broken by kicks as per section 9 (d) (ii). All finals on the third day will be two 25-minute halves.
- (ii) The start time of games shall be a minimum of two (2) hours from the end of their previous game

(c) **Roster Limits**

A team may bring any number of players to the Championship. Players must comply with Law 1, Section 5(c) of the Appendix.

(d) **Tie Situations**

Teams shall re-toss to select the right to kick or choice of end prior to overtime periods. This procedure shall be used for playoff (Gold medal, Bronze medal and Consolation final) games only.

- (i) Two (2) five-minute periods with one (1) minute between periods. Teams shall consist of fifteen (15) players.
- (ii) If still tied at the end of the two (2) five-minute halves, the following procedure shall be followed: best of three (3) kicks (order determined by a flip of a coin by the referee) by three (3) players for each team that were playing in the game immediately before the game ended. These kicks shall take place from the following spots: a) first, from the left side 15 metre line and 22 metre line intersection b) second, from the middle of the 22 metre line c) third, from the right side 15 metre line and 22 metre line intersection. If still tied after three kicks by each team, single sudden death kicks shall be attempted by a player from each team that was on the field at the end of the tied game. These sudden death kicks shall be taken in the same progression as a-c above.

Tie Situations in Pool Play. A 16 team or 12 team tournament format will exist for the OFSAA Girls' Rugby Championships. As the 16 team format is a single elimination

tournament, tie breaking procedures for pool play will only exist in a 12 team pool tournament format. To determine pool standing in a 12 team pool format, a win will be awarded 2 points and tie games will be awarded 1 point. Tied games in pool play shall stand. The winner of a pool shall be the team with the greatest number of points. If still tied at the end of pool play, the following tie breaking procedures shall be used:

- i) The team with the best defensive record (least number of points allowed).
- ii) The best point differential (the highest number of points between points for and against)
- iii) If still tied after all of these procedures have been used, the two teams will have a penalty kick off as described in 9e) ii.

10. Uniforms and Equipment:

- (a) Uniforms, protective equipment and appropriate footwear must conform to iRB laws. Players shall wear identical rugby shirts (same colour and style), rugby shorts and socks. All players shall wear numbered uniforms. All uniforms must be intact at the start of each game. The Convenor must provide a second set of uniforms in the event of a colour conflict. A coin toss shall decide which team shall change. All teams shall wear numbered jerseys.
- (b) All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's/Association's name, colours and logos. No sport club insignia on uniforms shall be permitted. A sport club is defined as a community, provincially or nationally based organization whose primary purpose is participation in organized competition in single or multi sport programs. Sponsorship recognition is permitted to be visible but must conform with the placement guidelines outlined in By-Law 6, Section 2(h). This criteria must be met both on and in the immediate vicinity of the competitive area and during the awards ceremonies.
- (c) Student-athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate team uniform in the competition area, AND use the designated locker room or change area to change to and from competition attire. Incidents of non-compliance shall be forwarded to the Competition Committee for resolution.
- (d) Any knee braces must be approved by the head official at the coaches meeting prior to the start of the Championship.
- (e) All players must wear mouth guards at all times.
- (f) Fields shall be marked as directed by iRB laws; posts shall be sufficiently padded. If soccer goal posts are used then covers must be put over all posts to ensure safety. Playing enclosures shall be clearly marked and non-participants shall remain outside the playing enclosure.
- (g) The Tournament Convenor shall provide game balls for the Championship.

11. Awards:

Members of the Championship team shall receive gold OFSAA medallions (40). The school represented by the Championship team shall receive a banner to be retained by the school.

Members of the runner-up team shall receive silver OFSAA medallions (40).

Members of the winning team in the bronze medal match shall receive bronze OFSAA medallions (40).

Members of the losing team in the bronze medal match shall receive antique bronze OFSAA medallions (40).

A plaque, to be retained by the school, shall be awarded to the winners of the consolation side of the draw.

OFSAA-ineligible athletes, who were permitted to compete at the local league or Association level, shall not receive OFSAA medals, either at the Championship or after the event.

OFSAA Participation Certificates may be provided by the Tournament Committee.

12. Supervision: (Reference By-Law 6, Section 1)

A teacher is defined as a member of the Ontario College of Teachers or a holder of an Ontario Teacher's Certificate or equivalent.

- (a) For team sports ("A team consists of all athletes from the same school who qualify for Federation competition as a unit..." {reference By-Law 5, Section 3}), a teacher from the same school, or a retired teacher, as approved by the principal of the school, must accompany and be responsible for the team.
- (b) For individual sports (those sports in which athletes from a school qualify for federation competition as individuals), the principal of the school may designate an adult who is not a teacher to accompany the athletes. In addition, a teacher, or a retired teacher, must be present and on site and designated by the principal to be responsible for the athlete(s).
- (c) For all sports, where the teacher, as indicated in (a) and (b) above, is not of the same sex as the athletes(s), and where the athlete(s) are required or might be required to stay overnight, a supervisory adult, as approved by the principal of the school, of the same sex as the athlete(s), must be present and available at the accommodation site for the duration of their stay in the accommodation.

13. Registration:

Registration materials will only be given to the teacher accompanying the team, upon receipt of a completed Rules of Behaviour signature form, signed "Release of Liability" forms and signed photo forms.

14. Deportment: (Reference By-Law 6, Section 2)

- (a) A team is defined as, "All participants representing the same school at an OFSAA Championship 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 to OFSAA Championships". (see Appendix to By-Laws)
- (d) Supervising adults are responsible for the behaviour of participants for the duration of the Championships.
- (e) Teams are open to censure for failure of its participants to abide by the "Rules of Behaviour".
- (f)
 - (i) All coaches are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics for Coaches to OFSAA Championships. (See Appendix II)
 - (ii) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Statement of Principle on Recruiting. (See Appendix IV)
 - (iii) Spectators are expected to adhere to the Code of Behaviour for Spectators. (See Appendix III)
 - (iv) All coaches are expected to adhere to the "Return to Play Guidelines". (See Appendix VI)
 - (v) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Policy on dispensing drugs, medication and food supplements. (See Appendix IX)
- (g) All schools entering a Federation Championship shall, by signature of the school principal on the Championship Entry Form, acknowledge responsibility for making restitution for damage resulting from misconduct by their participants.
- (h) No artificial noisemakers are permitted at OFSAA Championship events.

15. Social:

If a special event is arranged all team members and coaches must attend. At this event each coach and captain shall be introduced.

Dress Code for Banquets:

- no person shall wear jeans, shorts or a hat;
- girls shall wear dress pants or skirt with a dress top;
- if a themed event is planned by the convenor, then the convenor must apply to the OFSAA office for permission to vacate these rules;
- should there be any instance of improper attire, the Competition Committee shall deal with the matter and forward a report to the OFSAA Board of Reference - Sanctions.

16. Medical:

Provision shall be made by the Convenor to have a medical doctor in attendance or readily available and to follow appropriate hygienic precautions with regard to bodily fluids and

communicable diseases. (See Appendix IV to the By-Laws.) Qualified sports therapists and equipment must be readily available at the Championship site(s). Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (e.g. tape, bandaids) for their athletes.

17. Jury of Appeal:

The Jury of Appeal shall consist of three (3) individuals: the chairperson of the OFSAA Rugby Sport Advisory Committee or designate, a tournament committee member and one (1) other member appointed by the Championship Convenor. The Jury of Appeal shall handle disputes which fall within the realm of:

- (a) Tournament Structure and Procedure;
- (b) Rules and Officials;
- (c) Uniforms and Equipment;
- (d) Scoring.

Tournament structure and procedure concerns shall be addressed no later than the end of the coaches' meeting.

A dispute must be submitted in writing to the Convenor or Designate together with a \$50.00 fee (refundable if dispute is upheld) within thirty (30) minutes, except as provided within specific sport governing regulations, of the conclusion of the game in which the incident under dispute occurred. Decisions of the Jury of Appeal shall be final.

A report of the Jury of Appeal decisions shall be forwarded to the Board of Reference - Sanctions.

18. Competition Committee:

- (a) The Competition Committee shall consist of three (3) individuals: the Championship Convenor, or designate; an OFSAA staff or Executive Committee Member, or designate; and the Chairperson of the OFSAA Rugby Sport Advisory Committee, or designate. The Competition Committee shall handle disputes regarding:
 - (i) Eligibility;
 - (ii) Department;
 - (iii) Supervision and registration;
 - (iv) Social;
 - (v) Medical personnel;
 - (vi) Awards.

If a dispute cannot be resolved by the Competition Committee within a reasonable period of time, the event will continue and the dispute may be referred to a Board of Reference - General. (Please note that eligibility under the OFSAA Transfer Policy cannot be addressed at OFSAA events (By-Law 5, Section 4 (f)).

Disputes which fall within the jurisdiction of the Competition Committee must be received in writing to the Convenor or designate, together with a \$50.00 fee (refundable if dispute is upheld) within a reasonable time frame.

Appeals to the decisions of the Competition Committee shall be addressed to the Board of Reference - General.

A report of the decisions of the Competition Committee shall be forwarded to the Board of Reference - Sanctions.

- (b) The Competition Committee shall be the body empowered to delay/cancel an event(s) due to unforeseen circumstances at the site(s).

***All Federation Championships are non-smoking events.
This includes the use of all tobacco related products.***

Participants must obey the Ministry of Education's Code of Conduct

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