

KIDS' RUGBY

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

A new rugby season means it's time to think about registering your child to play our great national game. We asked Scott Collins, Auckland Rugby's junior development co-ordinator, to tell us everything there is to know about signing up for junior rugby.



Should I play for a club or my school?

Primary or intermediate school age children can play for either or both. All school rugby is mid-week and club rugby is Saturday morning.

(Ask your school's sports co-ordinator or contact Scott

at Auckland Rugby 09 8154831 for details.)

What about secondary school students?

Secondary school rugby is Saturday morning at either 9.15am or 10.30am (only 1st XV is in the afternoon). Club rugby kicks off

at 1pm. If a suitable teams exists, students are encouraged to play for their school.

What is the local club in my area?

Visit www.aucklandrugby.co.nz, click on Union then Club Directory to find out.

Can I choose any club to play for?

Yes. But you must be registered with them before you can play.

How does the grade system work for primary and intermediate age students?

Club rugby is age restricted (but with no contact for Under 6 and Under 7). From U8 – U13 there are two options, Restricted and Open weight grades, designed to cater for various sized children.

For primary and intermediate students, the school teams are made up by their school year and players must be within the specified age group (i.e. Year 3 & 4 combined; Year 5 & 6 etc). Three weight categories apply: 40 – 45kg, U55kg and Open.

For a team to play in a weight specific grade ALL players in the team must be under that weight. Some schools offer an U35kg

age-group. Your local club/school can advise on registration.

How does the grade system work for secondary school students?

The grades are predominately weight restricted beginning at U50kg up to U85kg – however there is also an open grade option for U14 and U15 year olds.

Open weight applies to 1st and 2nd XVs.

(For further information, please contact Michael McCahill at Auckland Rugby on 09 815 4755 or talk to your school's sports co-ordinator.)

Who do I play against?

In the primary age group, games are played against local schools. For secondary school students the competition is Auckland-wide. The junior club competition is generally Auckland-wide but can depend on the age-group.

Can girls play?

Yes, girls can play in all grades in the primary school competition. There is a girls 1st XV competition within secondary schools but there are no mixed 1st XV teams. Girls can play club rugby in mixed teams up to U13.

(For information on girls rugby, please contact Chantal Baker at Auckland Rugby ph 09 845 7430.)

What about Rippa Rugby and at what age does tackle rugby begin?

Rippa Rugby for U6 and U7 will begin in the Auckland Rugby Union in 2009. Contact (tackle) rugby begins from Under 8.

How much does it cost to register?

Auckland Rugby Union does not charge fees for junior rugby registration – however clubs and schools may charge fees for operating costs. Please contact your local club for details as fees may vary.

When does the club competition begin?

Junior club rugby runs from April through to August.

When is junior club registration held?

The first weekend of March (1st/ 2nd) at your local club. Milo, proud sponsors of Auckland junior club rugby, will give every junior player who registers (up to U13) a free rugby ball and goodies bag to get their season underway.

Visit www.aucklandrugby.co.nz for details or see the New Zealand Herald on Friday 29th February for full club registration information.

(For further information contact Scott Collins at Auckland Rugby on 09 815 4831.)

Do children play in the school holidays?

Not for school teams but club rugby continues unless specified otherwise.

When does the school competition begin?

Secondary schools play from May to August and players register through their school.

(Contact your sports administrator or Scott Collins or Michael McCahill at Auckland Rugby.)

What if my caregiver is interested in coaching or becoming a referee?

Training is provided for coaches and referees and we appreciate the help of volunteers who coach and referee teams across the union.

Full details are available at www.aucklandrugby.co.nz – look under Union then select the relevant category.

KEY CONTACTS

Primary and Intermediate Age Group:

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Secondary Schools Rugby:

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Girls Rugby:

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Coaching Information:

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