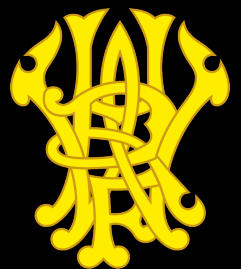


# NATIONAL UNDER 85KG COLLEGE RUGBY CUP

30 August – 1 September, 2023



# Key Information



The National Under 85kg College Rugby Festival was launched in 2022 by the Wellington RFU in order to present a weight restricted opportunity for College students from across the country to participate in a tournament week experience.

The festival is open to all school teams comprising of male year 11-13 students who are Under 85kgs (excluding those that play top tier 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby). Games are shortened and participants can expect to play multiple per day. There will also be game development opportunities for coaches, and social activities for the teams in the evenings.

**Date:** 30 August – 1 September (3 days)

**Venue:** New Zealand Campus of Innovation & Sport, Upper Hutt

**Contacts:**

Aaron Jones & Chris Stirling  
Tournament Directors  
Wellington Rugby  
021 231 3277 / 022 045 0607  
[coaching@wrfu.co.nz](mailto:coaching@wrfu.co.nz)

**Entry Fee:** \$250 per team

**Maximum capacity:** 20 teams

**Referee incentive programme:**

Teams that bring their own qualified referee will have their entry fees waived. Please communicate this with the Tournament Directors no later than August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Register here:**

<https://www.nzrugby.co.nz/get-involved/schools/competitions-and-events/tournament-week-registration-form-3/>

# Eligibility



While the overall eligibility criteria requires players to be under 85kg, this festival is essentially for Year 11-13 players to have the opportunity and honour of representing their school at the top weight restricted level.

In that spirit, teams entering this Under 85kg tournament may include:

- Established weight grade teams e.g. from Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch
- Players from open weight 2<sup>nd</sup>,3<sup>rd</sup> ,4<sup>th</sup> XV college rugby (e.g. from schools whose local competitions don't have a top weight restricted grade).
- Teams that include 1<sup>st</sup> XV players from second/third tier competition grades (i.e. boys not playing top division 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby in the major city or regional competitions).
- Composite dual college teams e.g. representing their town or rural region etc.

# Accommodation

The Hutt Valley region has several accommodation options:

- New Zealand Campus of Sport and Innovation
- Silverstream Retreat
- Top 10 Holiday Park Seaview
- Local marae
- Various motels/hotels

# Cup Regulations



This festival is being run at the School Sport NZ 'Cup' level and is not a championship event in any manner.

1. Tournament organisers reserve the right to adjust these regulations as required at any point.
2. The draw will be structured to give all teams an opportunity to play other teams they normally wouldn't. Results from Day One will determine matches throughout the following two days however.
3. Where a school has an Under 85kg (or equivalent team), the team must comprise the regular players. Unless written approval is granted by WRFU/NZR prior to the festival. Schools (or composite teams) without a Under 85kg (or equivalent team) are permitted to comprise players from any team, but these should not be a 1<sup>st</sup> XV team by stealth.
4. Players must be in years 11-13 unless written approval is granted by WRFU/NZR prior to the festival.
5. Schools can register up to 26 players in their squad and play a maximum of 22 in a game.
6. New Zealand Rugby half game policy states that for all rugby below First XV, it is compulsory for all players to play a minimum half game. Thus all students on your game day team card must play minimum of half a game. If upon a formal, substantiated protest the offending school risks defaulting the game in question.
7. Only seven (7) substitutions can be made during a match. There are to be NO rolling subs.
8. Three players must be able to play in the front row as per NZ Rugby Domestic Safety Laws.
9. All games will be played under NZ Rugby Domestic Law, and compulsory EDSLIV Rules including Game On.
10. Games length is likely to be 30 minutes on day 1 and 2, and up to 40 minutes on day 3
11. All players must be bona fide secondary school students either of the school they are representing or the school which forms part of a composite team.
12. Disciplinary procedures will follow Wellington Rugby Football Union protocol. In the event of a judicial hearing needing to occur, two independent coaches/managers will be asked to sit on a panel with a WRFU Representative or their appointee as the judicial chair.
13. Team management are requested to nominate MVP's from opposition teams on a 3, 2, 1 point basis. Collated points will enable a student from each school to be presented with a prize recognising their overall MVP.
14. Individuals will be acknowledged for top try scorer and point's scorer for the competition, so please record your teams point scorers.
15. In the event of a jersey colour clash, WRFU/NZR will have alternate sets available. For the avoidance of doubt it will be the team identified 2<sup>nd</sup> on the draw who will be required to wear an alternate jersey.
16. School Sport NZ Composite School Rules apply ([School Sport New Zealand – Eligibility & Regulations](#))

# Programme



*Please note all times are subject to change depending on number of teams entered, but the days will not commence any earlier than stated below.*

## Wednesday 30 August

|         |                                    |              |
|---------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 9:30am  | Opening Ceremony                   | All Teams    |
| 10:00am | Managers Meeting                   | All Managers |
| 11:00am | Rd 1 Matches Begin                 | All Teams    |
| 2:00pm  | Rd 2 Matches Begin                 | All Teams    |
| 5:00pm  | Laundry Due                        | All Teams    |
| 5:15pm  | Festival Dinner (seated by 5:45pm) | All Teams    |

*Teams will play matches in both the morning and afternoon sessions but adherence to maximum recommended playing times for teenagers will be achieved.*

## Thursday 31 August

|         |                    |                   |
|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 9:00am  | Captains Photo     | All Team Captains |
| 10:00am | Rd 3 Matches Begin | All Teams         |
| 2:00pm  | Rd 4 Matches Begin | All Teams         |
| 5:00pm  | Laundry Due        | All Teams         |

*Teams will play matches in both the morning and afternoon sessions but adherence to maximum recommended playing times for teenagers will be achieved.*

## Friday 1 September

|         |  |           |
|---------|--|-----------|
| 10:00am | Rd 5 Matches Begin                         | All Teams |
| 2:00pm  | Closing Ceremony, Presentations & Farewell | All Teams |

Additionally, throughout Days One and Two, player and coach development activity will be delivered to teams by NZR and WRFU while teams aren't playing.

# Referee Incentive



During Winter Tournament Week, we are launching an initiative to encourage teams to bring qualified referees along.

As the Cup takes place during a working week and with two other rugby Winter Tournament Week events simultaneously happening in the Wellington region (U15 & U14 HYRC), local referees will be stretched. With this event being designated Cup status it is important that all match officials are qualified referees, ensuring safety and quality.

We ask that all participating schools consider bringing a referee along to support the success of the National Under 85kg College Rugby Cup. Teams that bring their own qualified referee will have their entry fees waived. Please communicate this with the Tournament Directors no later than August 16<sup>th</sup>.