



# **ACADEMY U18 COMPETITION**

**REGULATIONS  
2019/2020**

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## 1. OBJECTIVES OF THE COMPETITION

The Academy U18 Competition is designed to provide a competitive playing programme for Academy athletes in the U17 to U18 age-grades. The structure of this competition will support the individual playing programmes of these young elite development players within rugby clubs with RFU Licensed Academies.

Due to the rationale of the competition being purely developmental, there will be no overall national champion and the regulations are a framework to support the objectives of this competition and the PGB approved Elite Player Development strategy.

## 2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

### 2.1 Definitions

In these Regulations the following terms shall (unless otherwise required) have the following meanings:

<b>“Assistant Referee”</b>	a person appointed to act as an Assistant Referee in a Match;
<b>“Board”</b>	the Board of PRL;
<b>“Club”</b>	any rugby union club which is, for the time being, a participant in the Academy U18 Competition as determined by PRL;
<b>“Chief Executive”</b>	being the Chief Executive for the time being of PRL;
<b>“England Academy Player”</b>	A Player who is (i) of at least 15 years of age; (ii) under the age of 24 as at 1 September 2019 (iii) is a member of one of the fourteen RFU licensed Club Academies; (iv) named on the England Academy Players list held and approved by the RFU (and notified to Premier Rugby Limited); and (v) qualified to play for England and/or an England U20 Player in the season for whom consent has been given by the RFU to play under licence for a Club other than that for whom the player has an Effective Registration. For the avoidance of doubt, an England Academy Player will not include a member of a RFU licensed Club Academy whose name is not on the list of England Academy Players held and approved by the RFU.
<b>“Fixture List”</b>	the list for the time being of the Academy U18 Competition fixtures referred to in these regulations and produced by PRL;
<b>“Home Club”</b>	in relation to a Match, the Club on whose ground such Match is played or is to be played or (where such Match is not played) should have been played;

<b>“Laws of the Game”</b>	the laws promulgated from time to time by the World Rugby according to which the game of rugby football union is played throughout the world (including such law variations and trials that may be adopted by the RFU);
<b>“Match”</b>	any match forming part of the Academy U18 Competition;
<b>“Match day”</b>	the Saturdays set by PRL or any other day in that same week as agreed by both Clubs and by PRL;
<b>“Match Official”</b>	means any Referee, Reserve Referee, Assistant Referee, TV Match Official, Time Keeper and any other person appointed by the RFU to officiate at a Match;
<b>“Match Result Card”</b>	Official record of an Academy U18 Competition fixture;
<b>“Medical facilities”</b>	as contained in the Minimum Standards Criteria set by the Board for the 2019/2020 season;
<b>“PRL”</b>	Premier Rugby Limited, a company owned by the Clubs;
<b>“Referee”</b>	a person appointed to act as the referee in a Match;
<b>“Regulations”</b>	these Regulations and any future variation as provided thereof;
<b>“Reserve Referee”</b>	the person appointed to act as the reserve referee in a Match;
<b>“RFU”</b>	Rugby Football Union the sole governing body of the game in England;
<b>“Visiting Club”</b>	in relation to a Match the Club which plays or is to play or (where such Match is not played) should have played such Match at the ground of a Home Club, but is not the Home Club for such Match.

Any terms not defined in these Regulations shall have the meanings set out in RFU Regulation 1 or in the RFU Rules (as applicable).

## **2.2 Application and Variations to These Regulations**

- (a) This competition shall be played in accordance with these Regulations, the RFU Regulations and the Laws of the Game, save as varied below.
- (b) These Regulations are supplemental to the RFU Regulations which, for the avoidance of doubt, shall have full force and effect save that in the event of conflict between these Regulations and the RFU Regulations, the RFU Regulations (to the extent that they affect the Clubs) are deemed varied by these Regulations.

- (c) These Regulations may be varied from time to time (whether by way of alteration, addition, deletion or otherwise) with the approval of the RFU Council and PRL. No changes may be proposed by PRL unless it shall have first consulted with the Clubs.
- (d) PRL shall give not less than thirty clear days' notice to each Club of any changes to these Regulations before they are effective unless exceptional circumstances apply and in which case as much notice as is reasonably practicable shall be given.
- (e) The Board shall have the discretion to decide on matters not provided for in these Regulations and the Board's decision(s) in respect of those matters shall be final and binding save for any right of appeal to review as may be specifically reserved under these Regulations.

### 3. THE COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- (a) The Academy U18 Competition will include 14 Clubs divided into two conferences of 7 teams each. Teams in both conferences will play against each Club in its conference on a home or away basis.

#### **North Conference**

Leicester Tigers  
 Newcastle Falcons  
 Northampton Saints  
 Sale  
 Wasps  
 Worcester  
 Yorkshire

#### **South Conference**

Bath Rugby  
 Bristol Rugby  
 Exeter Chiefs  
 Gloucester Rugby  
 Harlequins  
 London Irish  
 Saracens

- (b) The position of a Club in the two Academy U18 Competition conferences shall be established by awarding four league points for a win and two league points for a draw. In addition, one bonus league point will be awarded to a team:-
  - i) On each occasion it scores four or more tries in a Match;
  - ii) On each occasion it loses a Match by seven points or less.
- (c) In the case of equality in any conference at any stage of the Season, positions at that stage of the season shall be determined firstly by the number of wins achieved and then on the basis of match points differential. A Club with a larger number of wins shall be placed higher than a Club with the same number of league points but fewer wins. If Clubs have equal league points and equal number of wins then a Club with a larger difference between match points "for" and match points "against" shall be placed higher in the Academy U18 Competition conference than a Club with a smaller difference between match points "for" and match points "against". Should two Clubs have the same number of wins, the same number of league points and the same match points difference, the Club having scored more match points "for" shall be placed higher in the Academy U18 Competition conference than the Club having the lesser number of match

points "for". If the above does not establish different Academy U18 Competition conference positions then the Club in the higher position shall be the Club that has achieved the higher aggregate match points scored by it in the same season against the other Club. If this still does not establish the position then the Club who has won the most matches, excluding its first Academy U18 Competition conference match of the season, then its second Academy U18 Competition conference match and so on, until it can be established which is the higher placed Club.

## **4 FIXTURES AND KICK-OFF TIMES**

### **4.1 Arrangement of Fixtures**

- (a) All Matches to be played during a Season shall be arranged by PRL as soon as reasonably practicable following the end of the immediately preceding Season and a list of such Matches shall be sent to each of the Clubs.
- (b) All Matches shall be played on the dates scheduled in the published Fixture List (reproduced below) save (i) where both clubs agree to rearrange a fixture to later in that same week and PRL has given written approval or (ii) where PRL acting in its absolute discretion decides to rearrange a fixture.
- (c) Each conference will be contested over 7 rounds. Due to the odd number of teams in each conference, one club will not compete in each round. After all 7 rounds have been completed, there will be a finals day and the day, time and fixtures to be played on the finals day will be as determined by PRL in its absolute discretion.
- (d) If any match is rearranged the Academy U18 Competition matches must take precedence over all other matches involving a Clubs Academy or 2nd XV.
- (e) Any change in the match arrangements must be notified to PRL and all match officials.
- (f) Academy U18 Competition matches will kick off between 14:00hrs and 17:00hrs on a Saturday or Sunday unless agreed otherwise by **both** teams and PRL on such fixtures dates notified to the Clubs, save for the finals day where matches will be played throughout the day as determined by PRL.

### **4.2 Duration of Matches**

- (a) All Matches shall be of 70 minutes duration, divided into two halves of 35 minutes each. In all matches, the interval between each of the two halves shall not be more than 5 minutes during which time the teams will remain on the pitch.
- (b) Any Match which from any cause whatsoever falls short of 70 minutes duration may be ordered to count as a completed fixture or to be replayed in full, as PRL may in its absolute discretion determine.

### **4.3 Non-Fulfilment of Fixture Obligations**

- (a) No Club shall, without just cause (it being within the sole discretion of the Chief Executive to determine whether or not just cause exists), fail to fulfill its fixture obligations in respect of a Match on the date and at the time appointed for such fixture.
- (b) In the event that a Club shall so fail to fulfill a Match or upon receiving a request for a postponement or re-arrangement within the same week then, the Chief Executive may, subject to the Club's right of appeal, in its absolute discretion award the league points to either side (including for the avoidance of doubt, a bonus point for 4 tries or more), divide the league points between the sides or decide that no league points shall be awarded. The Chief Executive may also award the "winning team" 20 match points on the assumption that they would have scored 4 tries. If the Chief Executive is of the view that a Club has unjustifiably failed to fulfill its obligations he may deduct league points from the Club and/or make an order for a fine to be imposed in accordance with (j) below. In each case the Chief Executive shall have regard to the likely final positions of the Clubs at the end of the season (including other Clubs in the Academy U18 Competition) the commitments of the Clubs concerned and giving priority to arguments of the Club which was not at fault in the event of a dispute on any re-arranged Match date.

Each Club must notify PRL of any concern in relation to the condition of the pitch and notify PRL of the steps it has taken to minimise disruption to any Match. The Club must retain regular contact with PRL in relation to the condition of the pitch. It is the responsibility of the home Club to monitor the weather conditions in the week leading into any Match.

- (c) The Referee shall determine if the ground is fit for play.
- (d) If weather conditions prevent a Match being played or a Match is abandoned because of such conditions with less than fifty minutes having been played, it is the responsibility of the Match Official and the Home Club (where applicable) to advise PRL of the reason for non-playing or non-completion of the Match as soon as possible after the event. PRL will determine if the Match will be replayed on a date within the same week specified by PRL or whether the result will stand.
- (e) If a Match is abandoned because of weather conditions when fifty or more minutes have been played, then the score at the moment of abandonment shall stand and be deemed the final score in the Match. The Referee's decision as to the necessity for abandonment and the number of minutes played at the moment of abandonment shall be final.
- (f) If the Referee finds it necessary to abandon a Match for any reason other than weather conditions, then, irrespective of the number of minutes played, the result and score of that Match may be determined by PRL in its absolute discretion. PRL may order the Match to be replayed in which event the Match will take place on a date within the same week specified by PRL.

- (g) Any Club which is suspended from playing rugby union football for disciplinary reasons will not be permitted to re-arrange any Match falling within the period of the suspension.
- (h) In addition to and whether or not a penalty is imposed upon a Club by PRL where in the opinion of PRL the Club failed to honour its Match obligations a Club may be liable to pay to any opposing Club compensation in respect of the losses, damages liabilities, costs or expenses suffered or incurred by such opposing Club as a result of such failure. The amount of such compensation will in default of agreement between the Clubs be determined by PRL.
- (i) Failure to complete any Match may result in the offending club being liable for a fine of up to and including £5,000. This shall be determined by PRL as outlined above. For the avoidance of doubt, any fine may be in addition to any compensation awarded.

## **5 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

- (a) All players selected in any match squad must be in the U18s or U17s age grade in accordance with RFU Regulation 15, which may include U16s playing up in accordance with RFU Regulation 15. U19s will not be permitted to participate in the competition, even if playing down in accordance with RFU Regulation 15.
- (b) Any player selected in an Academy U18 Competition squad for any Match must not have played 36 minutes rugby or more in any game in the period 24 hours prior to kick off of the Academy U18 Competition fixture. For the avoidance of doubt, any player who has played 35 minutes rugby or less in the 24 hours prior to kick off is available to be selected in the Academy U18 Competition.
- (c) Rolling Substitutions are permitted in all matches and the mechanisms for rolling substitutions are set out in Schedule 2 of Regulation 13. A player who has been substituted may later replace any player, whether or not that player has been injured (subject to Regulation 5(e)).
- (d) In the interests of safety each team playing in the Academy U18 Competition must have at least five (5) players in the squad, who can play in the front row who are suitably trained and experienced to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement hooker is required and on the first occasion that a replacement prop forward is required (whether due to injury or consequent to a player(s) being temporarily suspended or ordered off) the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.
- (e) If on any occasion any front row player requires to be replaced and his team cannot provide a replacement or other player suitably trained and experienced from those who started the Match or from the nominated replacements to enable the Match to continue safely with contested scrums the Referee having confirmed this fact with the Captain of the team or such



other person nominated by the Club as the manager or other person responsible for the team will order uncontested scrums.

- (f) Where a player(s) is/are temporarily suspended from the field of play which creates a second or subsequent occasion that a replacement hooker is required or a second or subsequent occasion that a replacement prop forward is required and his team cannot provide a replacement or other player suitably trained and experienced to enable the Match to continue safely with contested scrums the Referee having confirmed this fact with the Captain of the team or such other person nominated by the Club as the manager or other person responsible for the team the Match shall continue but for the duration (and only for the duration) of the temporary suspension with non-contested scrums and the Match result will be unaffected.
- (g) If on any occasion where uncontested scrums are ordered by the Referee as a result of there being no suitably trained and experienced front row replacement for any reason (which includes injury, temporary blood injury, temporary exclusion (i.e. following a yellow card) or permanent exclusion (i.e. following a sending off)), the team concerned shall not be entitled to replace the player whose departure caused the uncontested scrums. On return to the field of play of the front row player who has been temporarily excluded or injured the Match shall continue with contested scrums.

### **Half Game Rule**

- (h) The Half Game Rule will apply to all matches in the Competition in accordance with RFU Regulation 15.12. Suspected breaches of this regulation must be referred to the Disputes Committee in accordance with the process outlined in Regulation 9.1.

## **6 PLAYING KIT**

### **6.1 Colours**

PRL shall determine which choice of colours a Club wears in any Match, although PRL shall, where appropriate but in their absolute discretion, endeavor to allow a Home Club to wear their first choice colours.

### **6.2 Jersey Advertising**

In Matches Players' jerseys may carry advertising subject to any requirement from time to time specified by PRL, the RFU and/or the World Rugby

### **6.3 Numbering of Jerseys**

In Matches in each season jerseys shall be numbered in accordance with World Rugby Regulations. All Clubs are to obtain the letters and numbers for such jerseys exclusively from PRL and from no other supplier.

## **7 REFEREES, RESERVE REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES**

### **7.1 Selection**

As soon as practicable before a Match, the RFU shall notify the relevant Club(s) of the Referee, Reserve Referee and Assistant Referees, for such Match.

### **7.2 Home Club's responsibilities**

In relation to Academy U18 Competition matches the Home Club shall be responsible for:

- (a) making available to the Referee, Reserve Referee and the Assistant Referees separate suitable changing room facilities, which may need to include changing room facilities for both male and female Match Officials.
- (b) providing an official from the Home Club to act as the Fourth Official who shall be responsible, under the authority of the Referee, for the touchline operation of replacements, "blood bin" and "sin bin" in conjunction with the Reserve Referee. In the event that one of the Assistant Referees is required to replace the Reserve Referee such Fourth Official may be called upon to act as one of the Assistant Referees at the request of the Referee.
- (c) An authorised representative of a Club participating in a Match must deliver to the Referee for such Match, at least one hour before the kick-off time for such Match, a legible Match Result Card (in such form as PRL may from time to time determine) containing a list of the full names of each of the Players of that Club who are to take part or act as replacements in such Match.
- (d) Within two hours of the end of the Match the Referee shall complete each Match Result Card given to him by inserting the result of such Match (including the number of tries, goals and penalty goals scored and the timing of any replacements or substitutions during such Match) and shall sign and return such legible Match Result Card to the relevant Club.
- (e) The Home Club shall, within four hours after the end of the Match, complete and sign the Match Result Card and send it to Stuart Farmer Media Services Ltd at [stuart@sfmsltd.co.uk](mailto:stuart@sfmsltd.co.uk) or such person or agency as PRL may determine and notify the Clubs from time to time and such person shall hold the definitive table of results for the Academy U18 Competition.
- (f) The Match Result Card will be the only evidence acceptable from a Club of the names of the players who played or were replacements for the Match without prejudice to the right of the Club to produce supporting evidence in the event of a question being raised.

### **7.3 Uniforms**

When on duty at a Match, the Referee, Reserve Referee, and Fourth Official and the Assistant Referees shall be required to wear such match kit (including footwear) as may from time to time be determined by the RFU.

## **8 MEDICAL MATTERS**

### **8.1 Attendance of a Medical Practitioner for Players, the Referee and the Assistant Referees**

- (a) It is the responsibility of the Home Club in Academy U18 Competition matches to ensure that:
  - (i) an appropriately qualified medical practitioner is present pitch side to attend to Players, the Referee and the Assistant Referees during the match, at half-time and immediately after the match; to be considered appropriately qualified, a medical practitioner must demonstrate that he/she is fully registered with the General Medical Council (GMC); possesses the appropriate professional indemnity insurance; has successfully completed the level 3 Pre Hospital Immediate Care in Sport Course (PHICIS) course (or equivalent), which must be current and valid; and has completed World Rugby's education module on Concussion Management for Elite Level Match Day Medical Staff; and
  - (ii) such medical facilities as are defined in the Minimum Standards Criteria document are available for the use of such qualified medical practitioner (including without limitation the requisite doctor and trauma kit).
- (b) It is the responsibility of each of the Clubs in a Match to ensure that an appropriately qualified physiotherapist, BASRAT approved sports rehabilitator or graduate sports therapist, is present throughout the Match to attend to their respective Players and also, if necessary, to the Referee and the Assistant Referees. To be considered a suitably qualified physiotherapist, he/she must be able to demonstrate that he/she: is registered with the Health Professions Council/appropriate professional body; possesses the appropriate professional indemnity insurance; has successfully completed the level 3 Pre Hospital Immediate Care in Sport Course (PHICIS) course (or equivalent), which must be current and valid ; and has completed World Rugby's education module on Concussion Management for Elite Level Match Day Medical Staff. To be considered suitably a qualified BASRAT approved sports rehabilitator or graduate sports therapist, he/she must be able to demonstrate that he/she: is registered with the Health Professions Council/appropriate professional body; possesses the appropriate professional indemnity insurance; has successfully completed the level 3 Pre Hospital Immediate Care in Sport Course (PHICIS) course (or equivalent), which must be current and valid.

### **8.2 Head Injuries**

Any Player who has suffered concussion or is suspected of having concussion in any Match or training session must be managed according to World Rugby Medical Regulation 10 and RFU Regulation 9. For the avoidance of doubt the HIA and its Review Process does not apply in this competition

## **9 DISCIPLINE AND INSURANCE**

### **9.1 Breach of Regulation**

PRL may appoint a panel to inquire into and decide all matters constituting or pertaining to any suspected or alleged breach by Clubs of these Regulations. Such panel must be selected from those persons having the experience to deal with the matters concerned and having no conflict of interest, and the appointment of a panel is without prejudice to the RFU's right to discipline Clubs and Players in accordance with its rules and regulations. For these purposes, PRL may require the attendance of Officials, Players and other persons and the production of all books, letters and other documents or records. Any such panel must be appointed in accordance with the authority provided to PRL by the PRL Board.

### **9.2 Misconduct**

Unless agreed otherwise by the RFU Head of Discipline, all allegations of foul play on the pitch, and all allegations of misconduct either on or off the pitch which may constitute a breach of the Laws of the Games and/or RFU Rule 5.12 shall be investigated in accordance with the RFU Regulation 19, and the RFU shall have exclusive jurisdiction to take disciplinary action and apply sanctions to Clubs, Officials, Players and any other Members. Without prejudice to these powers, PRL shall have the right to take additional measures against a Club, Official, Player or member, or (where the RFU decides to take no action), to take separate disciplinary action including action for any breach of these regulations.

### **9.3 Appeals**

In the event that a Club is dissatisfied with any adjudication of PRL pursuant to these Regulations it may appeal to an Appeal Panel constituted by the RFU in accordance with RFU Regulation 19. An appeal shall be commenced by the appellant lodging with the RFU Head of Discipline, a notice of appeal within fourteen days of the decision.

### **9.4 Insurance**

Each Club must ensure that all players competing in any Academy U18 Competition match are insured under the central policy of insurance provided by PRL.

### **9.5 Yellow Card**

In the event that a player is shown a yellow card by the referee, he will be suspended from the field of play for **SEVEN** minutes. After seven minutes has elapsed, the player will be permitted back onto the field at the next break in play.

## **10 GROUNDS**

### **10.1 Facilities and Equipment**

- (a) Each Club shall provide such reasonable facilities at its ground as may be determined from time to time by PRL and in particular shall have as a minimum the medical facilities set out in the Minimum Standards Criteria. PRL may require a Club to take such steps as it shall specify if

such facilities are not being provided or are not being provided to a standard reasonably acceptable by PRL.

- (b) All Clubs in the Academy U18 Competition shall be obliged to use a specified ball for all Matches as may be determined by PRL from time to time.
- (c) Following the publication of the fixtures, all Clubs must provide PRL with the venue of all matches.

## **10.2 The Pitch**

- (a) Each Club shall take all reasonable steps to maintain its pitch to an adequate standard. PRL may require a Club to take such steps as it shall specify if it is not satisfied that its pitch is being maintained to an adequate standard.
- (b) No Match shall be played on synthetic or artificial grass pitch unless the pitch is on the RFU's approved list (circulated to the Clubs) or is otherwise pre-approved by PRL. Each Club's pitch shall comply with the Laws of the Game and any World Rugby ruling and/or directions relating to the same. Furthermore no Club shall change its pitch size from the size at the start of the season and as registered.
- (c) The Home Club is responsible for correctly and clearly marking its pitch and it must make appropriate provision to ensure that all spectators are kept at a reasonable distance from the field of play by a permanent barrier.
- (d) Each Club must ensure that team replacements and coaching staff are not permitted pitchside except within structures specifically provided for them or within the boundaries of the 'technical area' as determined in Schedule 2 or at and for the extent of half-time or, in the case of team replacements, for the purpose of warming up only, at the end of the pitch towards which such replacements' team is attacking.
- (e) Each Club must make provision for two technical areas as outlined in Schedule 2 and shall comply and shall ensure that all coaching and playing personnel comply with the requirements contained therein.
- (f) Any player temporarily suspended when playing in a Match must remain in the "technical area" or leave the playing enclosure and be clearly and readily identifiable to the fourth official.
- (g) Any player ordered off must leave the playing enclosure.
- (h) When a decision as to the fitness of a pitch for the playing of a Match is necessary, it shall be made by the Referee following consultation with both teams, or in the absence of such Referee, a referee approved by PRL; such decision being made as early as reasonably possible.

## **10.3 Safety**

All Clubs must have a valid health and safety certificate in respect of their ground at the time Matches are played at their grounds.

#### **10.4 Public Liability Insurance**

Each Club shall ensure that it has public liability insurance cover for a minimum of £10 million for each Match covered by these Regulations and in accordance with any insurance requirement under the Sponsorship Agreement.

## **Schedule 1 Technical Area**

### **1. Dimensions of the Technical Area**

- a. For all Matches two technical areas shall be provided within the playing enclosure on the same side of the pitch, each one on either side of the half-way line and outside the field-of-play.
- b. These technical areas must be marked on the ground.
- c. The line nearest the touch line must be parallel to the touch line and be at least one metre from the field of play.
- d. The technical area must not exceed ten metres in length.
- e. Wherever practically possible the areas should be behind advertising hoardings with easy access to the field of play.

### **2. Personnel permitted in the Technical Area**

- a. No more than two medically trained persons (certified doctors or physiotherapists only) and two water carriers per team are permitted to operate from the technical areas. One of these medics is free to "track" play on the side of the playing area containing the technical areas in order to provide immediate medical assistance when required. Both medics and water carriers must wear the appropriate identification as instructed by PRL.
- b. One Team Manager (who may be coaching personnel) is permitted within the Technical Area and will identify himself as the Team Manager to the officials. The Team Manager must wear the appropriate identification as instructed by PRL and once identified, the Team Manager must not inter-change with any other member of his team's management.
- c. No other person (including other team officials) is permitted in the technical area.
- d. One other medically trained person (in addition to those identified in Paragraph 2. a. of this Schedule above) may be positioned on the far side of the playing area on the touch line opposite the technical area and is free to "track" play in order to provide immediate medical assistance when required. This medic must wear the appropriate identification armbands as instructed by PRL.
- e. Where practically possible any medical person operating on the far side of the playing area from the technical area or on the technical area side of the playing area must stay outside the advertising hoardings. The medical personnel may keep up with play, but must pay due regard to the needs and rights of players, match officials, spectators, broadcasters and commercial partners.
- f. All medical personnel may enter the field of play in accordance with Law at any time a player is injured. They must not obstruct, interfere or aim comments at

match officials except to notify match officials of a severe injury when requesting that the Match be stopped.

### **3. Roles of personnel in the Technical Area**

- a. Water may only be taken on the field during stoppages in play for injuries in the playing area and when a try has been scored. Water carriers must remain in the technical area at all other times.
- b. The two water carriers are not permitted in the playing area during penalty kicks at goal unless one enters the playing area with the sole intention of providing a kicker with a kicking tee.
- c. The two water carriers must not obstruct, interfere or aim comments at match officials except to notify match officials of a severe injury when requesting that the Match be stopped.
- d. Players may come to the touch line adjacent to the technical area to receive water.

### **4. Management of the Technical Area**

- a. All personnel permitted in the technical area must have some distinguishing mark as designated by PRL e.g. arm bands/vests.
- b. The fourth and fifth officials will manage the technical areas. If there is a transgression of the protocol, the matter will be reported to the match referee.
- c. The match referee may caution any offender or at his discretion expel the person(s) from the playing enclosure for any breach of the protocol.

### **5. Personnel outside of the Technical Area**

- a. The replacement bench and the location of any Clubs coaching teams should, wherever possible, be in a designated area within the stand and in close proximity to the halfway line and the technical area. In circumstances where this is not possible, each Club shall ensure that the replacements will remain seated within the technical area at all times, except when warming up.
- b. If replacements require warming up and there is not an area outside the playing enclosure, they may warm up in the opposition in-goal area.



## Schedule 2 – Rolling Substitutions

1. In a match each team shall be permitted to use rolling substitutions of not more than the maximum number of the Player interchanges (“Player Interchanges”) set out in the table below:

<b>Number of Replacements</b>	<b>Player Interchanges</b>
Up to 3	8
4	9
5 or 6	10
7 or 8	12

2. After the Player Interchanges have been made no other replacements, substitutions or Player Interchanges will be permitted for any reason (including temporary or permanent injuries, sending offs and suspensions) and in the event that a Player is injured, sent off or suspended from the field the team will play with one less Player and with uncontested scrums in the event that this involves a front row Player and the game cannot continue safely with contested scrums.
3. For the avoidance of doubt, Player Interchanges replace the “blood bin” which means that if a Player has uncontrolled active bleeding and thus has to leave the field, this will be classified as a Player Interchange if that Player is replaced by another Player. If a team has used all of its Player Interchanges, that Player may not be replaced and the team shall continue with one less Player than was on the pitch prior to the injured player leaving the field. The Player is permitted to return once the wound has been treated and the bleeding stopped.
4. Not more than two Player Interchanges per team may occur at any one time and may only occur during a stoppage in play and in all cases with the permission of the Referee.
5. A Player must enter the field of play on the halfway line.
6. A Player who is a replacement shall not be entitled to take a kick at goal until a passage of play has taken place since that Player took to the field of play.
7. A Player who is previously injured in the match may return to play as a Player Interchange provided the Player is fit to continue playing in the match save that a Player who suffers two injuries in a match which has necessitated that Player being replaced on each occasion is not permitted to act as a replacement following the second injury.
8. In addition to the powers set out in the Laws of the Game, Referees are entitled in their sole opinion to prohibit or postpone a Player Interchange if they believe either that the Player Interchange would prevent the opposition from restarting the game quickly or where the replacement Player is not fit to continue playing in the match.
9. Under dispensation provided to Unions by World Rugby, where these rolling substitutions Regulations conflict with the Laws of the Game these Regulations shall take precedence.