



## Half Game Rule

*National Rugby Policy (NRP 06)*

### BACKGROUND

Following two pieces of significant research it has been identified that lack of game time is a significant cause of players leaving the game and low retention rates.

Having sought the players' views, and looking to honour the 'player first' sentiments of the Community Rugby Strategy, a minimum half game for every player policy has been introduced following a trial and an introductory year.

### NZR Policy

At all rugby below First XV and including all representative rugby below Under 18 grades, it is compulsory for all players to play a minimum half game.

For players at the Small Blacks level this can consist of two quarters.

As part of this policy it is re-stated that rolling subs are not allowed, although substitutions at quarter time, half time or three-quarter time will be permitted.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

New Zealand Rugby:

- Will ensure supporting rationale information is available in various forms and formats

Provincial Unions:

- Will actively implement the Half Game Rule in all required grades in competitions that fall under their control
- Proactively educate adults on the rationale for the Rule
- Sanction organisations and individuals who are failing to comply with the policy at the discretion of Provincial Unions

### SANCTION(S)

Sanctions can be applied when breaches of this policy occur. It is noted that the sanction should apply to the adults involved rather than penalise the players.

Sanctions are to be determined by each individual organising body/Provincial Union.

*New Zealand Rugby's recommendation is as follows, on the next page:*

1. *First Offence*  
*Formal letter to individual/Organisation informing that any future breach will result in disciplinary action*
2. *Second Offence*  
*Disciplinary hearing with starting point a one week stand down from coaching for offender*