



SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY UNION

SECTION 1: COMPETITION FORMAT 2015

1. ABSA CURRIE CUP COMPETITION

The fourteen (14) SARU provincial teams will play in two divisions i.e. ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division comprising of eight (8) teams and the ABSA Currie Cup First Division comprising of six (6) teams. This format will include a Qualifying Round (see 1.2 below) during June/July prior to the start of the ABSA Currie Cup Competition, to determine the composition of the ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division and the ABSA Currie Cup First Division.

ABSA CURRIE CUP PREMIER DIVISION

Franchise Home Union Teams

Blue Bulls

EP Kings

Free State

Golden Lions

The Sharks

Western Province

Non-Franchise Home Union Teams

Pumas

Qualifier Winner

ABSA CURRIE CUP QUALIFYING ROUND TEAMS

Non-Franchise Home Union Teams

Boland

Border

Griffons

Griqualand West

Leopards

SWD Eagles

Valke

1.1 ABSA CURRIE CUP PREMIER DIVISION

The ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division will comprise of the six (6) franchise home union teams divided in two sections (strength vs strength) according to their log positions after the 2014 rugby season, the Pumas which were 6th on the log after the 2014 ABSA Currie Cup season and one (1) other non-franchise team. The one (1) non-franchise home union team will be the winner of the 2015 Qualifying Round (ranked 8th) as follows:

SECTION X

Western Province

Golden Lions

Blue Bulls

EP Kings

SECTION Y

The Sharks

Free State

Pumas

Qualifier Winner

1.1.1 FORMAT

First round: The teams in each section play a double round three (3) home and three (3) away matches. ((each team playing six (6) matches)).

Second round: The teams in each section will play a single round across the section (X vs Y) , with each team playing two (2) home and two (2) away matches ((each team playing four (4) matches)). Each team will therefore play ten (10) matches ((five (5) home and five (5) away)).

1.2 **ABSA CURRIE CUP QUALIFYING ROUND (Qualifying Round) 2015**

The following seven (7) teams will play in the Qualifying Round:

Griqualand West
Leopards
SWD Eagles
Boland Cavaliers
Griffons
Border Bulldogs
Valke

The teams will play a single round, with each team playing three (3) home and three (3) away matches. These matches will be played during June/July 2015 after completion of the Vodacom Cup Competition.

The team with the most log points after completion of the Qualifying Round will be promoted to play in the 2015 ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division.

1.3 **ABSA CURRIE CUP FIRST DIVISION 2015**

The remaining six (6) teams at the bottom of the log after the Qualifying Round will play a single round in the ABSA Currie Cup First Division, with each team playing five (5) matches, i.e. 2/3 home or 3/2 away.

The log points accumulated by the teams playing in the Qualifying Rounds be carried over by the teams playing in the ABSA Currie Cup First Division, therefore the ABSA Currie Cup First Division will be regarded to be played as a double round.

1.4. **ABSA CURRIE CUP PREMIER DIVISION 2015**

The Absa Currie Cup Premier Division 2015 will again consist of eight (8) teams comprising of the six (6) franchise home union teams and two (2) non-franchise home union teams divided in two sections (strength vs strength) according to their log positions after the 2014 rugby season.

1.5 CRITERIA FOR THE QUALIFYING ROUND

- 1.5.1 Any non-franchise home union team(s) ending seventh (7th) and/or eight (8th) on the ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division log will play in the Qualifying Round. For the avoidance of doubt, should any of the non-franchise home union teams end within the top six (6) log positions, they will automatically qualify to play in the ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division without having to play in the Qualifying Round.
- 1.5.2 The six (6) non-franchise home union teams that participated in the ABSA Currie Cup First Division and the non-franchise home union team(s) ending seventh (7th) and/or eighth (8th) as in 1.5.1 above will play a Qualifying Round in a single round format after the Vodacom Cup. The two (2) teams with the most log points after completion of the Qualifying Round will be promoted to play in the ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division.
- 1.5.3 A franchise home union team automatically qualifies to play in the ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division irrespective of its position on the log after the ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division the previous season.
- Should 2 (two) franchise home unions therefore end 7th and 8th on the log, no Qualifying Round will be played. In such an event, the ABSA Currie Cup First Division will be played as a double round.
- 1.5.4 The log points accumulated against the non-franchise home union team(s) promoted to the ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division (if applicable) after completion of the Qualifying Round will be discarded for the purposes of the ABSA Currie Cup First Division.

1.6 SEMI-FINALS

1.6.1 ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division

After completion of the pool matches in the ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division the two (2) teams with the most log points will play at home in semi-final matches against the two teams with the third (3rd) and fourth (4th) most log points as follows:

Team 1 versus Team 4

Team 2 versus Team 3

1.6.2 ABSA Currie Cup First Division 2015

After completion of the matches played in the Qualifying Round and the pool matches of the ABSA Currie Cup First Division in 2015 the two (2) teams that accumulated the most log points, will play at home against the two (2) teams with the third (3rd) and fourth (4th) most log points in a semi-final. The semi-final will be played as follows:

Team 1 versus Team 4

Team 2 versus Team 3

1.7 FINALS

1.7.1 ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division

The winners of the respective semi-final matches will play in a final match at the venue of the team highest on the log and the winner of the final match shall be awarded with the ABSA CURRIE CUP trophy.

1.7.2 ABSA Currie Cup First Division 2015

The winners of the respective semi-final matches will play in a final match at the venue of the team highest on the log and the winner of the final match shall be awarded with the ABSA SA CUP trophy.

1.8 REMUNERATION

The provinces hosting the semi-final and/or final matches of the ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division shall pay the visiting province the following amounts within fourteen (14) days from the date of the semi-final and/or final matches

Final: R500 000 (five hundred thousand rand only)
Semi-Final: R250 000 (two hundred-and-fifty rand only)

For the semi-final and final matches of the ABSA Currie cup First Division **no levy** shall be payable by the hosting province to the visiting province.

1.9 REPRESENTATION

SARU has adopted a comprehensive Transformation Charter that will guide SARU and its Provinces on this critical aspect of the game. Quotas no longer apply to the ABSA Currie Cup Competition.

However, it is expected of each Province to take serious cognisance of the issue of representativity of players on the field of play in order to support SARU's broader transformation objectives.

2. VODACOM CUP COMPETITION

The fourteen (14) provincial teams and a team from Limpopo Blue Bulls and a team from Namibia will play in two (2) sections, i.e. North section with eight (8) teams and South section with eight (8) teams. The teams will play in a single round within the following two (2) sections:

NORTH SECTION

Vodacom Blue Bulls

MTN Golden Lions

Griffons

Leopards

Limpopo Blue Bulls

Steval Pumas

Valke

Namibia

SOUTH SECTION

Regent Boland Cavaliers

Border Bulldogs

EP Kings

Toyota Free State XV

GWK Griquas

Sharks XV

SWD Eagles

DHL Western Province

The teams in each section will play seven (7) matches, four/three (4/3) home and three/four (3/4) away. During 2015 all the matches against Namibia will be played in Windhoek, Namibia.

2.1 QUARTER-FINALS

After the completion of the single round in each section, the four teams with the most log points in each section will play across against each other in the quarter-final matches as follows:

North 1 versus South 4 Winner A

South 1 versus North 4 Winner B

North 2 versus South 3 Winner C

South 2 versus North 3 Winner D

2.2 SEMI-FINALS

The winners of the quarter-final matches will play in the semi-final matches as follows:

Winner A versus Winner D

Winner B versus Winner C

at the venue of the team ending highest on the log irrespective whether the teams are in the same or different sections.

2.3 FINALS

The winners of the respective semi-final matches in 2013 will play in the final match at the home venue of the winner of the South Section and will then rotate annually between the provinces from the North and the provinces from the South. Should two (2) teams from the same section be in the final match, the match will be played at the venue of the team with the most log points at the completion of the pool matches.

The winner of the final match shall be awarded with the VODACOM CUP.

2.4 REMUNERATION

No remuneration shall be payable by the host Provinces to the visiting Province for the quarter, semi-final or final matches.

2.5 REPRESENTATION

Each Province shall take serious cognisance of the issue of representivity of players on the field of play, to support SARU's broader transformation objectives. 7 (Seven) players of colour shall be in the squad of 22 (twenty-two) players of whom 2 (two) players shall be forwards. At least 5 (five) players of colour shall be included in the starting line-up.

3. ABSA UNDER 21 COMPETITION

The fourteen (14) provincial teams and the team from Limpopo Blue Bulls are divided into two sections with seven (7) teams in the Section A and eight (8) teams in Section B. Each on a strength versus strength basis as follows:

SECTION A

**Blue Bulls
Eastern Province
Free State
Golden Lions
Sharks U21
Leopards
Western Province**

SECTION B

**Boland
Border
Griffons
Griqualand West
Limpopo Blue Bulls
Mpumalanga
South Western Districts
Valke**

The teams in Section A will play a double round within the section - six (6) matches at home and six (6) matches away. Section B will play a single round within the section – three/four (3/4) matches at home or four/three (4/3) matches away.

3.1 SEMI-FINALS

3.1.1 SECTION A

After completion of the double round the four (4) teams with the most log points will play against each other in semi-final matches as follows:

Team 1 versus Team 4
Team 2 versus Team 3

The two (2) teams with the most log points will play at home.

3.1.2 SECTION B

After completion of the single round the four (4) teams with the most log points will play against each other in semi-final matches as follows:

Team 1 versus Team 4
Team 2 versus Team 3

3.2 FINALS

The two teams with the most log points will play at home.

3.2.1 SECTION A

The winners of the respective semi-final matches will play in a final match which will be played as a curtain-raiser to the ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division final match or such other date and/or venue as determined by SARU.

3.2.2 SECTION B

The winners of the respective semi-final matches will play in a final match which will be played as a curtain-raiser to the ABSA Currie Cup First Division final match or such other date and/or venue as determined by SARU.

3.3 PROMOTION / RELEGATION

Two promotion/relegation matches will be played at the end of each season between the team with the lowest number of log points in Section A and the winner of the final match in Section B on a home and away basis.

The first round match will be played at the venue of the team from Section A and the second round match at the venue of the team from the team in Section B. These matches will be played in accordance with paragraph 8 of Section 2 - Log Points Format - of the Rules of the Competition. After completion of the promotion/relegation matches, the team with the most log points accumulated during these two matches will play in Section A in the following season. In the event of an equal number of log points, the winner will be determined as follows:

- a) the best nett points difference i.e. points for minus points against, and if equal,
- b) the team who scored the most tries, and if equal,
the status quo will remain.

3.4 ELIGIBILITY

3.4.1 A player is eligible to play under 21 up to and including the year in which he turns 21.

3.4.2 In accordance with clause 15.2 Section 2, an under 21 player may participate in the ABSA Under 21 Competition (including the semi-final and final matches) notwithstanding the fact that he has participated in a senior competition (including the semi-final and final matches of such senior competition) during that particular year.

3.5 TROPHY

3.5.1 SECTION A

The winner of the final match shall be awarded with the ABSA Under 21 CUP.

3.5.2 SECTION B

The winner of the final match shall be awarded with the ABSA Under 21 SHIELD.

3.6 REPRESENTATION

Each Province shall take serious cognisance of the issue of representivity of players on the field of play, to support SARU's broader transformation objectives.

3.7 GENERAL

Certain matches may be televised and may also be played as curtain raisers to matches in the ABSA CURRIE CUP Competition.

4. ABSA UNDER 19 COMPETITION

The fourteen (14) provincial teams and the team from Limpopo Blue Bulls are divided into two (2) sections with seven (7) teams in Section A and eight (8) teams in Section B on a strength versus strength basis as follows:

SECTION A

Blue Bulls
Eastern Province
Free State
Golden Lions
Leopards
Sharks U19
Western Province

SECTION B

Boland
Border
Griffons
Griqualand West
Limpopo Blue Bulls
Mpumalanga
South Western Districts
Valke

The teams in Section A will play a double round within the section - six (6) matches at home and six (6) matches away. Section B will play a single round within the section – three/four (3/4) matches home/away or four/three (4/3) matches home/away.

4.1 SEMI-FINALS

4.1.1 SECTION A

After completion of the double round the four (4) teams with the most log points will play against each other in semi-final matches as follows:

Team 1 versus Team 4
Team 2 versus Team 3

The two (2) teams with the most log points will play at home.

4.1.2 SECTION B

After completion of the single round at the end of the season the four (4) teams with the most log points will play against each other in semi-final matches as follows:

Team 1 versus Team 4
Team 2 versus Team 3

The two (2) teams with the most log points will play at home.

4.2 FINALS

4.2.1 SECTION A

The winners of the respective semi-final matches will play in a final match who will be played as a curtain-raiser to the ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division final match or such other date and/or venue as determined by SARU.

4.2.2 SECTION B

The winners of the respective semi-final matches will play in a final match who will be played as a curtain-raiser to the ABSA Currie Cup First Division final match or such other date and/or venue as determined by SARU.

4.3 PROMOTION / RELEGATION

Two promotion/relegation matches will be played at the end of each season between the team with the lowest number of log points in Section A and the winner of the final match in Section B on a home and away basis.

The first round match will be played at the venue of the team from Section A and the second round match at the venue of the team from the team in Section B. These matches will be played in accordance with paragraph 8 of Section 2 - Log Points Format - of the Rules of the Competition. After completion of the promotion/relegation matches, the team with the most log points accumulated during these two matches will play in Section A in the following season. In the event of an equal number of log points, the winner will be determined as follows:

- c) the best nett points difference i.e. points for minus points against, and if equal,
- d) the team who scored the most tries, and if equal,
the status quo will remain.

4.4 ELIGIBILITY

4.4.1 A player is eligible to play under 19 up to and including in the year in which he turns 19.

4.4.2 In accordance with clause 15.2 in Section 2, an under 19 player may participate in the ABSA Under 19 CUP competition (including the semi-final and final matches) notwithstanding the fact that he has participated in a senior competition (including the semi-final and final matches of such senior competition) during that particular year.

4.4.3 Teams participating in the ABSA Under 19 Competition shall comprise of twenty-three (23) players of which eight (8) will be replacement players and the extra replacement player shall be a specialist front row player.

4.5 TROPHY

4.5.1 SECTION A

The winner of the final match shall be awarded with the ABSA Under 19 CUP.

4.5.2 SECTION B

The winner of the final match shall be awarded with the ABSA Under 19 SHIELD.

4.6 REPRESENTATION

Each Province shall take serious cognisance of the issue of representivity of players on the field of play, to support our broader transformation objectives.

4.7 GENERAL

Certain matches may be televised and may also be played as curtain raisers to matches in the ABSA CURRIE CUP Competition.

5. WOMEN'S INTER-PROVINCIAL COMPETITION

The fourteen (14) provincial teams and Limpopo Blue Bulls are divided into two Sections on a strength versus strength basis with the six (6) top teams in Section A and the remaining four (4) teams, with the team from Limpopo Blue Bulls in Section B as follows:

SECTION A

**Border
Blue Bulls
Eastern Province
KwaZulu-Natal
South Western Districts
Western Province**

SECTION B

Group South

**Boland
Free State
Griffons
Griqualand West**

Group North

**Blue Bulls Limpopo
Golden Lions
Leopards
Mpumalanga
Valke**

The teams in Section A will play a single round with two (2)/three (3) home and three (3)/two (2) away matches. The teams in Section B are divided into two groups; Group South and Group North with four (4) teams in the Group South and five (5) teams in Group North. The teams in each Group will play a single round. Group South will play one (1)/two (2) home or two (2)/one (1) away matches and Group North will play two (2) home and two (2) away matches.

5.1 FINALS

5.1.1 SECTION A

After completion of the single round the two (2) teams with the highest number of log points will play against each other in a final match.

The final will be played at the venue of the team with the highest number of log points

5.1.2 SECTION B – GROUP SOUTH and GROUP NORTH

After completion of the single rounds in Group South and Group North the team with the highest number of log points in each Group will play against each other in final as a curtain-raiser to the final match in Section A as referred to in 5.1.1 above.

5.2 PROMOTION / RELEGATION

At the end of each rugby season, the Games and Policies Committee of SARU will determine which teams shall be promoted and/or relegated.

5.3 TROPHY

5.4.1 WOMEN'S RUGBY COMPETITION

The following trophies shall be awarded to the winner of:

- a) Section A – SARU Women's League Trophy
- b) Section B – SARU Women's League Plate

6. TOURNAMENTS AND WEEKS

The following Tournaments will be hosted by a province and under the auspices of SARU:

6.1 AMATEUR PROVINCIAL TOURNAMENT SENIOR

All fourteen (14) senior provincial amateur teams and their Under 21 amateur teams and a further eight (8) senior regional amateur and the Under 21 regional amateur teams from Border, Blue Bulls, Eastern Province, Griffons, Griqualand West, Leopards, Mpumalanga and Kwa-Zulu Natal are divided into three (3) sections, i.e. North, Central and South, as follows:

NORTH [7]	CENTRAL [8]	SOUTH [7]
Blue Bulls	Free State	Boland
Limpopo Blue Bulls	Free State Rural	Border
Valke	Griffons	Border Rural
Golden Lions	Griffons Rural	Eastern Province
Leopards Amateur	Griqualand West	EP Rural
Mpumalanga	Griqualand West Rural	South Western Districts
Mpumalanga Rural	Kwa-Zulu Natal	Western Province
	Kwa-Zulu Natal Rural	

The three (3) sections of the Amateur Provincial Tournament will be played as three (3) separate tournaments i.e. North, Central and South tournaments held over a one (1) week period with eight (8) senior amateur teams. Where there are less than eight (8) teams in a section(s), the Province hosting the tournament will have first option to enter an additional amateur team within their jurisdiction to make it an even number, but should they not exercise their option, the Games and Policies Committee will decide on the extra team(s).

6.1.1 **ELIGIBILITY**

Players contracted to a rugby body, excluding clubs are ineligible to play in these tournaments. A player is eligible to play for an amateur Under 21 team up to and including the year in which he turns twenty-one (21).

6.1.2 **WINNER OF THE TOURNAMENTS**

After the tournaments, the winner of each Amateur Provincial Tournament will play one (1) match against the winner of the other Amateur Provincial Tournaments to determine the National Amateur Champion, i.e. (a total of three (3) matches)

2015/2017

South vs North
Central vs South
North vs Central

2016/2018

South vs Central
Central vs North
North vs South

The first mentioned team as above will play at home.

6.1.3 **TROPHY**

The overall winner of the tournaments shall be awarded the Amateur Provincial Cup Trophy.

6.1.4 **REPRESENTATION**

Each Province shall take serious cognisance of the issue of representivity of players on the field of play, to support our broader transformation objectives.

6.1.5 **AMATEUR PROVINCIAL TOURNAMENT RULES**

6.1.5.1 A player moving from one (1) province to another had to play at least three (3) league matches for his club in the new province immediately prior to the tournament to be eligible for the Amateur Provincial team of his new province. The three (3) matches shall not be played in less than a period of one (1) week prior to the tournament.

6.1.5.2 Not more than three (3) officials shall be appointed for each squad of which at least one (1) official shall be black.

6.1.5.3 The CEO of the province, the club and the player is equally responsible for adhering to the rules and regulations of this competition.

6.1.5.4 When a complaint is received pertaining to the ineligibility of a player for the Amateur Provincial Tournament, the matter will be referred to the CEO of SARU or his nominee and dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary and Judicial Regulations of SARU. If found guilty, the province, club and/or the player shall be fined a minimum of R30 000 (thirty thousand); and any further sanction as determined by the Judicial Officer in accordance with the Disciplinary and Judicial Regulations of SARU.

6.1.5.5 Should a province, club and/or player allegedly breach of any other of the above clause 6, the matter will be referred to the CEO of SARU or his nominee who will deal with the matter in accordance with the Disciplinary and Judicial Regulations of SARU subject thereto that a fine shall not exceed R30 000 (thirty thousand).

6.1.7 HOSTING OF TOURNAMENTS

Provinces interested in hosting the Amateur Provincial Tournament must apply to the Games and Policies Committee by not later than 15 September of the year immediately preceding the year in which the tournament takes place.

6.2. CELL C COMMUNITY CUP COMPETITION

6.2.1 CELL C Community Cup competition (Community Cup) consist of twenty (20) Teams made up of the best non-university clubs from each of the fourteen (14) provinces, the club champion in the Limpopo region and, as from 2015, four (4) Teams as decided through a series of regional qualifying matches, and one (1) Team as decided through a repechage round involving the four (4) "lucky losers" from these regional qualifying matches. This method of determining the five (5) remaining qualifiers is modelled on the very successful Rugby World Cup qualifying model.

6.2.2 Player Eligibility

Players contracted in writing to rugby bodies, excluding clubs, shall not be eligible to play in the CELL C Community Cup.

6.2.3. Team & Player Eligibility pertaining to Regional Qualifiers & Repechage round

6.2.3.1 The Regional Qualifiers will involve a total of fifteen (15) Teams, comprising the second-best non-university clubs from each of the fourteen (14) Provinces plus the Limpopo region;

6.2.3.2 Each Province is to declare in writing to SARU before the start of their club rugby season, how they will determine who their second-best non-university club will be (e.g. second-highest placed non-university Team on final league log; loser of premier league final; etc.). This is to ensure that all Clubs within a Province know exactly where they stand in terms of what is required in order to qualify for the Community Cup;

6.2.3.3 Teams involved in Community Cup Qualifying and/or Repechage matches may not field any players who did not appear in at least three (3) league matches for the Club during the year in which the Qualifying and/or Repechage matches take place. This refers to when a player was named in the match-day 22 squad.

6.2.4 **Declaration of Squads and Teams**

- 6.2.4.1 All Teams shall declare to SARU a list of all players registered with the club and training with the first team (i.e. Community Cup) squad, on or before 31 January. The details of any additional registered players who join the club between 31 January and the start of the Tournament, must be sent to SARU as and when those players are registered and therefore become eligible for the Community Cup;
- 6.2.4.2 Any additional players added to the squad during the course of the tournament must be declared to the designated SARU tournament director in writing prior to their involvement in any matches, and must be registered with the club and province as above;
- 6.2.4.3 Once a player has been named in the match day squad for any Team, he may not be named in the match day squad for another team in the tournament in that year;
- 6.2.4.4 Players registered with the participating club but wishing to leave the club during or after the conclusion of the Community Cup, to join another club in the same province or another province, are subject to the rules & regulations pertaining to movement of players between clubs and provinces, as set out in the regulations of the province or SARU's Player Status, Player Contracts and Player Movement Regulations, whichever is applicable.

6.2.5 **Qualifications of Players for the Easter play-offs**

All eight (8) teams advancing from the pool stages shall declare to SARU their official Community Cup Easter Championships squad of twenty-five (25) players seven (7) days prior to the start of the Easter Tournament. SARU will cover the travel and accommodation costs for twenty five (25) Players and three (3) officials (including the coach, team manager, team doctor or physiotherapist) relating to the Community Cup Championships.

To be eligible to play in the Easter play-offs a player must have been:

- 6.2.5.1 Registered with the club prior to the start of the Community Cup and been provided with a SARU registration number; or
- 6.2.5.2 Added to the squad during the tournament and been included in the match day squad for two (2) of the team's four (4) pool matches; or
- 6.2.5.3 Granted dispensation by SARU to be included in the squad for the Easter play-offs. Such dispensation will only be granted in exceptional circumstances where, for example, the ability of the team to name a match day squad is compromised by injuries to otherwise eligible players in that player's position;

- 6.2.5.4 Players may only be replaced during the Easter play-offs for medical (on the recommendation of the tournament doctor and presentation of the medical certificate) or compassionate (as determined by the tournament director) reasons;
- 6.2.5.5 Prior to any replacement, the team manager of the player concerned shall notify the tournament director accordingly, and in the case of a medical replacement, the report of the tournament doctor and his recommendation must be submitted to the tournament director for a final decision;
- 6.2.5.6 In the event of a replacement on compassionate grounds, the team manager shall report the matter to the tournament director, who shall have the final say whether the reasons provided warrant such a player to be replaced;

6.2.6 **TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

6.2.6.1 **Pool Phase**

- a) The twenty (20) teams have been allocated to four (4) pools (A, B, C & D) of five (5) teams, based on the rankings from the previous year's Community Cup, with the four (4) Regional qualifiers and the Repechage winner assigned to the remaining slots by the Senior Manager; Competitions;
- b) The pool phase will consist of a round robin in which each team shall play each other team within the pool once. Each team will play two (2) home and two (2) away matches;
- c) There will be ten (10) matches played in each pool, for a total of forty (40) matches in the pool phase of the tournament. There will be a total of eight (8) pool matches played every Saturday for the five-week duration of the pool phase. SuperSport and SARU may decide that certain matches take place on Thursday nights, to allow these matches to be televised.
- d) Pool matches will take place at the home grounds of the twenty (20) teams. Dispensation to host matches elsewhere will only be granted in exceptional circumstances where the ability of a team to host a match at its home ground is compromised;

For all Pool matches, Teams must name 22-man match-day squads, with 23-man match-day squads in operation only for the Easter play-offs.

- f) SARU will maintain and publish the competition logs for all four (4) pools.

6.2.6.2 Rankings at the completion of the pool phase

At the completion of the pool phase, the teams in a pool are ranked one (1) to five (5) based on their cumulative log points, and identified respectively as winner, runner-up, third, fourth and fifth.

If, at the completion of the pool phase, two (2) or more teams are level on log points, then the following criteria shall be used in the following order until one (1) of the teams can be determined as the higher ranked:

1. The winner of the match in which the two (2) tied teams have played each other shall be the higher ranked;
2. The team which has the best difference between points scored for and points scored against in all its pool matches shall be the higher ranked;
3. The team which has the best difference between tries scored for and tries scored against in all its pool matches shall be the higher ranked;
4. The team which has scored most points in all its pool matches shall be the higher ranked;
5. The team which has scored most tries in all its pool matches shall be the higher ranked;
6. Coin toss.

6.2.6.3 Qualification / elimination at the conclusion of the pool phase

The winner and runner-up in each pool qualify for the Easter Championships, which will be held each year over the Easter weekend, with a central venue confirmed and communicated to all teams beforehand. Teams ranked third, fourth and fifth in each pool will be eliminated from the tournament and are free to begin preparations for their respective provincial club leagues, which will kick off each year after the conclusion of the Community Cup.

6.2.6.4 Easter Championships Phase

Each year there will be twelve (12) matches played over the course of three (3) separate days during the Easter Championships, with all eight (8) teams involved on all three (3) days and all having the opportunity to play for a position on the final day. Each year the four (4) Cup quarter-finals will take place on the Thursday preceding Good Friday, the two (2) Cup semi-finals and two (2) further matches for the four (4) Cup quarter-final losers on the Saturday following Good Friday, and the Cup final as well as 3rd/4th place, 5th/6th and 7th/8th place play-offs on Easter Monday.

Quarter-finals

The first two (2) teams in each pool will progress to the Easter play-offs, which will be contested by knockout matches. The Cup quarter-final matches will be determined as follows:

- QF 1 - Winner pool C v Runner-up pool D
- QF 2 - Winner pool B v Runner-up pool A
- QF 3 - Winner pool D v Runner-up pool C
- QF 4 - Winner pool A v Runner-up pool B

Teams winning quarter-final matches qualify for the Cup semi-finals and teams losing quarter-final matches play each other on the Saturday following Good Friday, with a view to playing for the best possible ranking on Easter Monday.

Semi-finals

The Cup semi-final matches will be contested by knockout matches, as follows:

- SF 1 - Winner QF1 v Winner QF2
- SF 2 - Winner QF3 v Winner QF4

Finals

The finals matches will be contested as follows, with all eight (8) teams participating:

- Cup final – winner cup SF 1 v winner cup SF 2 (1st/2nd place)
- 3rd/4th place play-off – loser cup SF 1 v loser cup SF 2
- 5th/6th place play-off – winner cup quarter-final losers' match 1 v winner cup quarter-final losers' match 2 (both held on Saturday)
- 7th/8th place play-off – loser cup quarter-final losers' match 1 v loser cup quarter-final losers' match 2 (both held on the Saturday)

The winner of the Cup final will be awarded the GOLD CUP.

6.2.6.5 Eligibility

For the 2015 CELL C Community Cup, clubs must name at least four (4) players of colour in their match-day squads. At least three (3) of these players must be in the starting line-up. For the 2016 CELL C Community Cup, clubs must name at least five (5) players of colour in their match-day squads. At least four (4) of these players must be in the starting line-up.

6.2.6.6 **Regional Qualifying & Repechage Phase**

This replaces the 'Wild Card' method of determining the remaining five (5) Teams each year and is based on the very successful Rugby World Cup Qualifying system. Play-off matches will be held in four (4) regions, namely:

- South-West;
- South-East;
- Central; and
- North

Each Province, plus Limpopo, will identify their second-best non-university club to take part in a series of play-off matches in each of the four (4) Regions, at the end of each season. One team from each Region (4 teams) will qualify for the following year's CELL C Community Cup. The runner-up in each of the four (4) Regions will contest the Repechage round, to determine the 20th team.

Clubs will host all qualifying and repechage matches, except where, by mutual consent, the two clubs agree on an alternative or neutral venue such as a stadium for reasons of travel or the opportunity to play a curtain-raiser to an Absa Currie Cup match. Additionally, broadcaster requirements may require certain matches to be played as curtain-raisers for Absa Currie Cup matches.

A total of eleven (11) play-off matches, and three (3) repechage matches, will be played in the four (4) Regions each year:

South-West:

Match 1 – Boland 2 vs WP 2

A one-off match (“Match 1”) between the second-best non-university clubs from Boland (“Boland 2”) and Western Province (“WP 2”) will be played as soon as possible after the conclusion of those provinces' respective leagues, on a date and time as determined by the Tournament Manager.

The venue of the 2014 match between these two Teams will be decided by the toss of a coin (except where, as outlined above, the two clubs come to agreement on a neutral or alternative venue for reasons of logistics or otherwise) whereafter the venue will alternate each year from 2015 onwards. The coin-toss will be overseen by the Tournament Manager, and may form part of a televised ceremony aimed at gaining maximum publicity benefit for the Tournament and club rugby in general.

The winner of Match 1 will qualify for the CELL C Community Cup as “South-West 1”. The loser of Match 1 will contest the repechage round as “South-West 2”.

South-East:

Match 2 – Border 2 vs EP 2

Match 3 – Winner Match 2 vs SWD 2

A one-off match (“Match 2”) between the second-best non-university clubs from Border (“Border 2”) and Eastern Province (“EP 2”) will be played as soon as possible after the conclusion of those provinces' respective leagues, on a date and time as determined by the Tournament Manager.

The venue of the 2014 match between these two Teams will be decided by the toss of a coin (except where, as outlined above, the two clubs come to agreement on a neutral or alternative venue for reasons of logistics or otherwise), whereafter the venue will alternate each year from 2015 onwards.

The winner of Match 2 will play the second-best non-university club from South Western Districts (“SWD 2”) in a one-off match (“Match 3”). The venue of the 2014 match between these two Teams will be decided by the toss of a coin (except where, as outlined above, the two clubs come to agreement on a neutral or alternative venue for reasons of logistics or otherwise), whereafter the venue will alternate each year from 2015 onwards in the event that Match 3 is contested by the teams from the same two Provinces as the previous year. Should one or more teams contesting Match 3 be from different Provinces to the previous year, the venue will once again be decided by the toss of a coin. (Example: If in 2014 the match is between George Crusaders and PE Harlequins (EP), and is played in George (SWD), if an EP team is involved in 2015, the match must take place at the home ground of the EP team. But if a Border team is involved in 2015, a coin-toss will determine the home venue.

The winner of Match 3 will qualify for the CELL C Community Cup as “South-East 1”. The loser of Match 3 will contest the repechage round as “South-East 2”.

Central:

Match 4 – Griquas 2 vs Free State 2

Match 5 – Griffons 2 vs KZN 2

Match 6 – Winner Match 4 vs Winner Match 5

A one-off match (“Match 4”) between the second-best non-university clubs from Griqualand West (“Griquas 2”) and Free State (“Free State 2”) will be played as soon as possible after the conclusion of those provinces' respective leagues, on a date and time as determined by the Tournament Manager.

The venue of the 2014 match between these two Teams will be decided by the toss of a coin (except where, as outlined above, the two clubs come to agreement on a neutral or alternative venue for reasons of logistics or otherwise), whereafter the venue will alternate each year from 2015 onwards.

A one-off match (“Match 5”) between the second-best non-university clubs from Griffons (“Griffons 2”) and KwaZulu-Natal (“KZN 2”) will be played as soon as possible after the conclusion of those provinces' respective leagues, on a date and time as determined by the Tournament Manager.

The venue of the 2014 match between these two Teams will be decided by the toss of a coin (except where, as outlined above, the two clubs come to agreement on a neutral or alternative venue for reasons of logistics or otherwise), whereafter the venue will alternate each year from 2015 onwards.

The winner of Match 4 will play the winner of Match 5 in a one-off match ("Match 6"). The venue of the 2014 match between these two Teams will be decided by the toss of a coin (except where, as outlined above, the two clubs come to agreement on a neutral or alternative venue for reasons of logistics or otherwise), where after the venue will alternate each year from 2015 onwards, in the event that Match 6 is contested by the teams from the same two Provinces as the previous year. Should one or more teams contesting Match 6 be from different Provinces to the previous year, the venue will once again be decided by the toss of a coin.

The winner of Match 6 will qualify for the CELL C Community Cup as "Central 1". The loser of Match 6 will contest the repechage round as "Central 2".

North:

Match 7 – Leopards 2 vs Valke 2

Match 8 – Winner Match 7 vs Golden Lions 2

Match 9 – Limpopo 2 vs Pumas 2

Match 10 – Winner Match 9 vs Blue Bulls 2

Match 11 – Winner Match 8 vs Winner Match 10

A one-off match ("Match 7") between the second-best non-university clubs from Leopards ("Leopards 2") and Valke ("Valke 2") will be played as soon as possible after the conclusion of those provinces' respective leagues, on a date and time as determined by the Tournament Manager.

The venue of the 2014 match between these two Teams will be decided by the toss of a coin (except where, as outlined above, the two clubs come to agreement on a neutral or alternative venue for reasons of logistics or otherwise), whereafter the venue will alternate each year from 2015 onwards.

The winner of Match 7 will play the second-best non-university club from Golden Lions ("Golden Lions 2") in a one-off match ("Match 8"). The venue of the 2014 match between these two Teams will be decided by the toss of a coin (except where, as outlined above, the two clubs come to agreement on a neutral or alternative venue for reasons of logistics or otherwise), whereafter the venue will alternate each year from 2015 onwards, in the event that Match 8 is contested by the teams from the same two Provinces as the previous year. Should one or more teams contesting Match 8 be from different Provinces to the previous year, the venue will once again be decided by the toss of a coin.

A one-off match (“Match 9”) between the second-best non-university clubs from Limpopo (“Limpopo 2”) and Mpumalanga (“Pumas 2”) will be played as soon as possible after the conclusion of those provinces' respective leagues, on a date and time as determined by the Tournament Manager.

The venue of the 2014 match between these two Teams will be decided by the toss of a coin (except where, as outlined above, the two clubs come to agreement on a neutral or alternative venue for reasons of logistics or otherwise), whereafter the venue will alternate each year from 2015 onwards.

The winner of Match 9 will play the second-best non-university club from Blue Bulls (“Blue Bulls 2”) in a one-off match (“Match 10”). The venue of the 2014 match between these two Teams will be decided by the toss of a coin, whereafter the venue will alternate each year from 2015 onwards, in the event that Match 10 is contested by the teams from the same two Provinces as the previous year. Should one or more teams contesting Match 10 be from different Provinces to the previous year, the venue will once again be decided by the toss of a coin.

The winner of Match 8 will play the winner of Match 10 in a one-off match (“Match 11”).

The venue of the 2014 match between these two Teams will be decided by the toss of a coin (except where, as outlined above, the two clubs come to agreement on a neutral or alternative venue for reasons of logistics or otherwise), whereafter the venue will alternate each year from 2015 onwards, in the event that Match 11 is contested by teams from the same two Provinces as the previous year. Should one or more teams contesting Match 11 be from different Provinces to the previous year, the venue will once again be decided by the toss of a coin.

The winner of Match 11 will qualify for the CELL C Community Cup as “North 1”. The loser of Match 11 will contest the repechage round as “Central 2”.

Repechage

Semi-final 1 (Match 12) – South-East 2 vs South-West 2

Semi-final 2 (Match 13) – Central 2 vs North 2

Final (Match 14) – Winner SF 1 (Match 12) vs Winner SF 2 (Match 13)

The repechage round, consisting of three (3) matches made up of two (2) semi-finals and a final, will take place as soon as possible following the conclusion of all Regional qualifying (Matches 1-11), on a date and time as determined by the Tournament Manager and communicated to all Provinces at least six (6) months in advance. It is the responsibility of all Province to ensure that their provincial league fixtures do not overlap that of the Community Cup qualifying matches. To ensure adequate planning for the following year's CELL C Community Cup tournament, as well as to ensure that the season does not end too late in the year, the repechage final shall take place **NO LATER** than the day of the Absa Currie Cup semi-finals each year.

Both repechage semi-finals will take place on the same day and at the same time, unless determined otherwise by the Tournament Manager due to considerations including television broadcaster requirements.

The venues of both semi-finals will be decided by the toss of a coin (except, as outlined above, where broadcast requirements determine otherwise), whereafter they will alternate each year from 2015 onwards, irrespective of the teams involved or the Provinces they come from. (Example: If South-East 2 vs South-West 2 in 2014 is Despatch vs Tygerberg and is played in Despatch (South-East region), the corresponding fixture in 2015 will be played in the South-West region, irrespective of the Team involved or the Province (WP or Boland) it comes from.

The venue of the repechage final will be decided by the toss of a coin (except, as outlined above, where broadcast requirements determine otherwise), whereafter it will alternate each year from 2015 onwards, irrespective of the teams involved or the Provinces they come from.

(Example: If in 2014 the repechage final is Oostelikes (Winner Central 2/North 2) vs Tygerberg (Winner South-East 2/South-West 2) and is played in Cape Town, the 2015 repechage final will be played in the Central/North region of the country.

6.3 INTERPROVINCIAL SEVENS TOURNAMENT (MEN & WOMEN)

Sixteen (16) teams, consisting of the fourteen (14) provincial sevens teams and two (2) teams invited by the Games and Policies Committee will participate in the Inter-Provincial Sevens tournament. The two (2) tournaments, one (1) for men and one (1) for women, will be held jointly at the same time and venue.

6.3.1 FORMAT

The format of these two (2) tournaments will be determined by the Games and Policies Committee.

6.3.2 ELIGIBILITY

Contracted players registered with a club in the province will be allowed to represent the province.

6.3.3 HOSTING OF TOURNAMENTS

The Inter-Provincial Sevens tournament shall rotate annually between the north and the south and provinces intending to host the tournament must apply to the Games and Policies Committee by not later than 15 September of the year immediately preceding the year in which the tournament takes place.

6.3.4 WOMEN'S SEVENS RUGBY TOURNAMENT

The winner of the Women's Sevens Tournament shall be awarded with the SARU Women's Sevens Rugby Tournament Trophy.

6.4 NATIONAL YOUTH WEEKS

The following Provincial Junior/Schools week will be held annually during the June/July school holidays:

- Coca-Cola Under 18 Craven Week
- Coca-Cola Academy Under 18 Week
- Coca-Cola Grant Khomo Under 16 Week
- Coca-Cola Under 13 Craven Week
- LSEN Schools Week
- Girls Under 18 Week

6.4.1 GIRLS UNDER 18 WEEK

The SA Girls Under 18 Week will fall under the direct jurisdiction of SARU and not the jurisdiction of the SA Schools Rugby Association. Sixteen (16) teams, consisting of the fourteen (14) provinces, Border Rural (former Transkei) and Limpopo Blue Bulls will participate in the week, which will be organized on the similar format as the Coca-Cola Craven Weeks.

6.4.2 HOSTING OF NATIONAL YOUTH WEEKS

Applications to host Youth Weeks must be submitted to the SA Schools Rugby Association (SASRA), who will prioritise these applications and submit their recommendation to the SARU Games and Policies Committee by not later than 15 September, at least two (2) years preceding the year in which the tournaments are held. These applications must be substantiated with a business plan as well as a letter from the applicable Provincial Union endorsing the application. Once the application has been received, SARU will conduct a due diligence study on the applicable venues for consideration by the SARU Games and Policies Committee and recommendation to the SARU EXCO

6.4.3 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Youth tournaments will be played and administered in accordance with the rules and regulations approved from time to time by the applicable governing body of the relevant youth week.

6.5 HERITAGE TOURNAMENTS / EASTER CLUB FESTIVAL

Three (3) Heritage Tournaments will be held over the Easter Weekend period.

Club rugby is the responsibility of the provinces and any club tournament hosted or organised by a club in a province has to be sanctioned by that province.

SARU financially assist these Easter Weekend tournaments, therefore all clubs wishing to host such tournaments must submit their application to their provincial union, who will then recommend it to the Games and Policies Committee of SARU by not later than 15 September of the year immediately preceding the year in which the tournament takes place. The Provinces allocated as hosts are ultimately responsible for the hosting of these tournaments.

No financial assistance shall be paid directly to the club, but to the hosting province that will ensure that the money is correctly spent.

6.5.1 FORMAT

The format of these three (3) tournaments will be determined by the Games and Policies Committee.

6.5.2 ELIGIBILITY

Provinces must ensure that these tournaments are open to all clubs and not only to certain entities.

7. OTHER COMPETITIONS AND WEEKS

7.1 VARSITY CUP COMPETITION

7.1.1 VARSAITY CUP MEMBERS

The Varsity Cup competition shall consist of the following member universities:

Central University of Technology (FNB CUT)
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (FNB Madibas)
North West University (FNB NWU-Pukke)
University of Cape Town (FNB Ikeys)
University of Johannesburg (FNB UJ)
University of Pretoria (FNB Tukkies)
University of Stellenbosch (FNB Maties)
University of the Free State (FNB Shimlas)

7.1.2 VARSAITY SHIELD MEMBERS

The Varsity Shield shall consist of the following member universities:

University of Fort Hare (UFH)
University of the Western Cape (FNB UWC)
University of KwaZulu-Natal (FNB UKZN)
University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg (FNB Wits)
Tshwane University of Technology (FNB TUT)

7.1.3 RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Varsity Cup will be played and administered in accordance with the By-Laws of the Varsity Cup Club as approved from time to time by the Executive Committee of the Varsity Cup.

7.2 USSA WEEK

The annual USSA Week will be held during the 1st week in June, which consists of twenty-four (24) teams from various tertiary institutions in South Africa, with three (3) pools of eight (8) teams each.

7.2.1 FORMAT

The format of the USSA Week will be determined by the USSA Committee.

7.2.2 ELIGIBILITY

Players have to be *bona fide* students of the tertiary institution they represent and under the age of twenty-five (25) years on 1 January of the year in which the tournament is held.

7.2.3 HOSTING OF TOURNAMENTS

The USSA must advise the Games and Policies Committee by not later than 30 September of the year immediately preceding the year in which the tournament takes place as to who will host the tournament.

7.2.4 RULES AND REGULATIONS

The USSA Week will be played and administered in accordance with the rules and regulations approved by USSA from time to time.

SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY UNION



SECTION 2: GENERAL COMPETITION RULES 2015

Unless otherwise stipulated, these rules will apply to all SARU Competitions and Tournaments.

1. EQUAL POINTS: POOL MATCHES

In the event of teams having equal log points after completion of the pool matches, the higher ranked team will be determined as follows:-

- 1.1 The team which has the best difference between points scored for and points scored against in all its pool matches;
- 1.2 The team which has the best difference between tries scored for and tries scored against in all its pool matches;
- 1.3 The team with the best difference between points scored for and points scored against in the match(es) the teams have played each other;
- 1.4 The team which has scored most points in all its pool matches;
- 1.5 The team which has scored most tries in all its pool matches;
- 1.6 Coin toss.

2 TO DETERMINE A WINNER IN QUARTER- FINAL, SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL MATCHES

- 2.1 QUARTER-FINAL/SEMI-FINAL MATCHES WHERE THE TEAMS PLAY AGAINST ALL THE OPPONENTS DURING THE POOL MATCHES (excluding Under 19 rugby and Under 16 girls)

If scores are level after the scheduled time, the team that will proceed to the semi-final-/final match will be determined as follows:

- 2.1.1 the team scoring the most points within a twenty (20) minute extra time (ten (10) minutes each way with a one (1) minute break), and if still level
- 2.1.2 the team scoring the most tries in the quarter-final-/semi-final match, including extra time; and if still level
- 2.1.3 the team with the highest log position after the pool matches.

2.2 FINAL MATCHES WHERE THE TEAMS PLAY AGAINST ALL THE OPPONENTS DURING THE POOL MATCHES (excluding Under 19 rugby and Under 16 Girls)

If scores are level after the scheduled time, the winner will be determined as follows:

2.2.1 the team scoring the most points within a twenty (20) minute extra time (ten (10) minutes each way with a one (1) minute break); and if still level

2.2.2 the team with the highest log position after the pool matches in that competition during the current season shall be the winner.

2.3 QUARTER- FINAL, SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL MATCHES, WHERE THE TEAMS DO NOT PLAY AGAINST ALL THE OPPONENTS DURING THE POOL MATCHES (excluding Under 19 rugby and Under 16 Girls):

If scores are level after the scheduled time, the winner will be determined as follows:

2.3.1 the team scoring the most points within a (20) twenty minute extra time (ten (10) minutes each way with a one (1) minute break); and if still level

2.3.2 the team that scored the most tries in the match; and if still level

2.3.3 the teams will continue to play and will change sides after 10 (ten) minutes with a minute break in-between. The first team to score points will be declared the winner (sudden death)

2.4 QUARTER- FINAL, SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL MATCHES, IN UNDER 19 RUGBY AND GIRLS UNDER 16 WHERE THE TEAMS PLAY AGAINST ALL THE OPPONENTS DURING THE POOL MATCHES

2.4.1 the team that scored the most tries in the match; and if still level

2.4.2 the team with the highest log position after the pool matches; and if still level

2.4.3 in the event of a quarter-/semi-final a toss of a coin and in the event of a final the teams share the cup.

2.5 QUARTER- FINAL, SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL MATCHES, IN UNDER 19 RUGBY AND GIRLS UNDER 16 WHERE THE TEAMS DO NOT PLAY AGAINST ALL THE OPPONENTS DURING THE POOL MATCHES

2.5.1 the team that scored the most tries in the match; and if still level

2.5.2 the team that scored the most points in the first half; and if still level

2.5.3 the team that scored the most points in the second half; and if still level

2.5.4 in the event of a quarter-/semi-final a toss of a coin and in the event of a final the teams share the cup.

3. RATING OF SOUTH AFRICAN TEAMS

The rating of South African Rugby Teams (Men and Women) will be as follows:

1. National Seniors
2. National Under 20
3. National Sevens
4. Emerging Springboks
5. Super Rugby
6. ABSA Currie Cup
7. National Amateur
8. SA Universities
9. Vodacom Cup
10. ABSA Under 21
11. ABSA Under 19
12. Provincial Amateur
13. Provincial Sevens
14. Provincial Sub-Union

4. KICK-OFF BEING DELAYED AND/OR MATCH UNABLE TO START DUE TO ACT OF GOD OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO ANY OF THE PARTICIPATING TEAMS OR A MEMBER(S) AFFILIATED TO THE CLUB / PROVINCE OF THE PARTICIPATING TEAM

- 4.1 Should circumstances, due to an act of God, warrant a possible delay in a kick-off on the day of a match during the pool stages, semi-finals, or final match, the referee, in his sole discretion, will have the following options:
 - 4.1.1 to continue with the match as scheduled as soon as possible; or
 - 4.1.2 to delay the kick-off for a reasonable time in order for the match to be played on the same day at the venue as scheduled; or
 - 4.1.3 to determine the venue unplayable.
- 4.2 Should circumstances, due to an act of God, warrant a possible rescheduling of a match within three (3) days prior to the kick-off of that match (excluding match day), the CEO of SARU in his sole discretion and after consultation with all relevant stakeholders, will determine whether circumstances warrant the match to be rescheduled.
- 4.3 Should the referee in 4.1.3 or the CEO in 4.2 above determines the venue unplayable, the following will apply:
 - 4.3.1 The host province, after consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall determine a venue of their choice; or
 - 4.3.2 Should it be necessary to reschedule the match to another date and time, it shall be done in consultation with the host province, the visiting province and SARU. If no agreement can be reached, the CEO in his sole discretion shall determine the date and time of the match at a venue as determined by the host province.
 - 4.3.3 Should a match in the pool stages for whatever reason not be able to be rescheduled in accordance with this clause, the match will be declared a draw.
 - 4.3.4 Should a quarter-final/semi-final match for whatever reason not be able to be

rescheduled, the team with the highest log position after the pool matches shall proceed to the semi-final/final match.

- 4.3.5 Should the final match for whatever reason not be able to be rescheduled, the team with the highest log position after the pool matches shall be declared the winner.

5. ABANDONMENT OF A MATCH AFTER KICK-OFF DUE TO ACT OF GOD OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO ANY OF THE PARTICIPATING TEAMS OR A MEMBER(S) AFFILIATED TO THE CLUB / PROVINCE OF THE PARTICIPATING TEAM

- 5.1 Should the referee during a match in the pool stages, semi-final- or final match decide to abandon the match during the first half, the match will be rescheduled and 4.3.1 – 4.3.5 above, mutatis mutandis shall apply.
- 5.2 Should the referee decide to abandon a match in the pool stages, semi-final match or final match at half time or during the second half, the result at the time of the abandonment shall stand and in the event of a quarter-final-/semi-final match, the team with the most points at the time of abandonment will proceed to the semi-final/final. In the event of a final match, the team with the most points at the time will be declared the winner.
- 5.3 Should the scores be level at the time of abandonment of the match, paragraph 2 above shall apply mutatis mutandis.

6. MEMBERS OF THE PARTICIPATING TEAM OR A MEMBER(S) AFFILIATED TO A CLUB OR PROVINCE OF THE PARTICIPATING TEAM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DELAY OF THE START OF THE MATCH / MATCH UNABLE TO START OR ABANDONMENT OF THE MATCH

- 6.1 A member(s) of a team or member(s) affiliated to a club/province of such team shall not
- 6.1.1 delay the kick-off time of a scheduled match by more than five (5) minutes; or
- 6.1.2 cause a scheduled match not to take place at all; or
- 6.1.3 abandon a scheduled match already in progress for whatever reason.
- 6.2 Any action referred to above shall be regarded as a breach of the Code of Conduct of SARU and dealt with in terms of the SARU Disciplinary and Judicial Regulations, mutatis mutandis.
- 6.3 The sanctions to be imposed against a province of a team or a member(s) of a team affiliated to a club/province of such participating team delaying the kick-off time of a scheduled match by more than five (5) minutes shall be as follows:
- 6.3.1 Pool matches – a fine of R10 000 (ten thousand) payable to SARU.
- 6.3.2 Semi-final and final matches – a fine of R50 000 (fifty thousand) payable to SARU.
- 6.4 The sanctions to be imposed against a province of a team or a member(s) of a team affiliated to a club/province of such participating team causing a scheduled match not to take place or to abandon a scheduled match already in progress for whatever reason shall be as follows:

- 6.4.1 Pool matches – a fine of R50 000 (fifty thousand) payable to SARU. The non-transgressing team shall be awarded four (4) match points in respect of the match not having taken place. Bonus points shall not be awarded. The transgressing team will receive no points whatsoever.
- 6.4.2 Quarter-final/Semi-final matches – a fine of R75 000 (seventy five thousand) payable to SARU. The non-transgressing team shall be declared the winner and will progress to the semi-final/final.
- 6.4.3 Finals match - fine of R100 000 (hundred thousand) payable to SARU. The non-transgressing team shall be declared the winner and awarded the trophy.
- 6.5 In all the above instances, transgressing provinces shall be suspended from participation in SARU competitions, domestic matches and/or international matches until the fines have been settled in full.

7. HOME GROUND ADVANTAGE

QUARTER-FINAL/SEMI-FINAL MATCH

- 7.1 The teams with the highest number of log points after the pool matches will have home ground advantage, and if equal, 1.1 to 1.6 shall apply.

FINAL MATCH - ABSA Currie Cup and Vodacom Cup Competitions

- 7.2 The team with the highest number of log points after the pool matches will have home ground advantage, and if equal, 1.1 to 1.6 shall apply.

8. LOG POINT FORMAT

The following log point format will apply in all SARU's competitions:

Win:	four (4) points
Draw:	two (2) points
Loss:	one (1) point for loss with seven (7) points or less
Loss:	No points for loss of more than seven (7) points
Try bonus:	one (1) point for a team that has scored four (4) or more tries in a match.

9. FIXTURES AND CHANGING FIXTURES

- 9.1 SARU, in consultation with the broadcaster, shall determine:
- 9.1.1 which matches shall be broadcasted; and
 - 9.1.2 the kick-off times of such matches; and
 - 9.1.3 the venue of the matches.

- 9.2 All matches not being broadcasted shall be scheduled for Saturdays subject to clause 9.4.
- 9.3 Should a host province wish to change either the venue, date or kick-off time of a match scheduled to be televised and the opposing province and the broadcaster consent thereto, it shall apply in writing to the CEO, supported by the following documentation, at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of the match:

- 9.3.1 written application by the province requesting the change; and
- 9.3.2 written consent of the opposing province; and
- 9.3.3 written consent of the broadcaster.

The CEO shall consider the application and inform the provinces accordingly in writing.

- 9.4 Should a province wish to change the venue, date or kick-off time of a match not scheduled to be televised and the opposing province consents thereto it shall apply in writing to the CEO of SARU, supported by the following documentation at least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled date of the match:

- 9.4.1 written application of the Province requesting the change; and
- 9.4.2 written consent of the opposing Province.

The CEO shall consider the application and inform the Provinces accordingly in writing.

- 9.5 Should a host province wish to change the venue, date and kick-off time of the match (scheduled to be televised or not) and the opposing province or the broadcaster objects thereto or withholds its consent thereto for a period of five (5) days after having been requested thereto, the applicant province may apply in writing to the CEO at least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled date of the match. The CEO shall consider the application after consultation with the stakeholders. After careful consideration, the CEO shall decide on the matter and his decision shall be final.

10. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 10.1 SARU determines a fixed financial allocation in respect of travel and accommodation for the away matches in respect of the following competitions:

ABSA Currie Cup (Premier and First Division)
 Vodacom Cup
 Amateur Provincial Competition
 ABSA Under 21 Competition
 ABSA Under 19 Competition
 Women's Rugby Competitions

- 10.2 The number of persons for which SARU will compensate provinces are:

ABSA Currie Cup (Premier and First Division)	27
Vodacom Cup	27
Women's Rugby Competitions	26
ABSA Under 21 Competition	25
ABSA Under 19 Competition	26
Amateur Provincial Competition	25

11. CURTAIN RAISERS

SARU has the sole right to determine the curtain raisers to local international matches, semi-final- and final matches of all SARU competitions.

12. CLASH IN THE COLOURS OF THE PLAYING STRIP

- 12.1 On or before 15 January provinces shall forward to the CEO a sample of their actual and alternative playing kit or an electronic CAD displaying all the marks on the jersey which will be used for the Vodacom Cup competition.
- 12.2 On or before 15 May provinces shall forward to the CEO a sample of their actual and alternative playing kit or an electronic CAD displaying all the marks on the jersey which will be used for the ABSA Currie Cup competition.
- 12.3 SARU will:
 - 12.3.1 do an audit to determine any possible clash of colours amongst the playing kit of participating teams and the jersey of the referee, and
 - 12.3.2 determine whether the provinces have complied with the applicable provisions of the IRB Regulation 11.5.5 (Advertising within the playing enclosure) as amended and accepted by SARU in accordance with clause 21 below.
- 12.4 In the event of a possible colour clash, the visiting team shall wear their alternative playing kit.
- 12.5 Any changes to the playing kit subsequent to the audit in 12.1 and 12.2 above shall only be made with the written approval of the CEO.

13. MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS ON LOAN BETWEEN PROVINCES

- 13.1 The Player Status, Player Contracts and Player Movement Regulations (www.sarugby.co.za) should be read in conjunction with clause 13.
- 13.2 The movement of players in accordance with SARU's Players Status, Player's Contracts and Player's Movement Regulations and SARU's Competition Format and General Rules are subject to the Rules and the Regulations of Provinces pertaining to the eligibility of Professional and Amateur Players of clubs within its jurisdiction.
- 13.3 A player registered with province A, and who was part of the match day squad of province A in a competition and thereafter loaned and was part of the match day squad of province B in the same competition, may not be loaned further by province A to another province(s) or return to province A to represent province A or another province in the same competition
- 13.4 A player who is registered with province A without having been part of the match day squad of province A in a competition and loaned to and be part of the match day squad for province B may not be further loaned by province A to another province participating in the same competitions. The player may return to province A and participate in the same competition but may not be loaned again to province B or to another province(s) participating in the same competition.

- 13.5 There is no restriction on the movement of players on loan between province A and province B participating in two different competitions during the same period, subject thereto that such player may not be loaned further to another province participating in the same or different competitions and subject further to regulation 15.3 and 15.4.
- 13.6 A player may not represent more than one province during the same weekend (which includes the Friday, Saturday and Sunday), whether in the same competition of different competitions.
- 13.7 The ABSA Currie Cup Premier Division and the ABSA Currie Cup First Division are regarded as two different competitions.

14. TRANSFER OF PLAYERS FROM ONE PROVINCES TO ANOTHER PROVINCE

- 14.1 The Player Status, Player Contracts and Player Movement Regulations (www.sarugby.co.za) should be read in conjunction with clause 14.
- 14.2 A player may not be transferred more than once during a specific competition.

15. QUALIFICATION FOR PROMOTION/RELEGATION, SEMI- AND FINAL MATCHES

- 15.1 The Player Status, Player Contracts and Player Movement Regulations (www.sarugby.co.za) should be read in conjunction with clause 15.
- 15.2 A player who was part of the match day squad for a semi-final- or final match of that competition, shall be permitted to participate in the semi-final- or final match of a lower or higher graded SARU competition during that period within the same province, either as part of the starting line-up or as a substitute player.
- 15.3 A player transferred or loaned to a new province that participates in a double round competition has to be available for selection for the new province for at least the last five (5) pool matches of the competition immediately prior to a semi-final-, final -or promotion/relegation match, as the case may be, in order to be eligible to participate in a semi-final-, final -or promotion/relegation match for the new province.
- 15.4 A player transferred or loaned to a new province that participates in a single round competition has to be available for selection for the new province at least the last two (2) pool matches of the competition immediately prior to a semi-final-, final- or promotion/relegation match, as the case may be, in order to be eligible to participate in a semi-final-, final- or promotion/relegation match for the new province.
- 15.5 A player may not participate in the semi-final-, final-, or promotion/relegation match of more than one (1) province during the same period, whether in the same competition of different competitions.

In the absence of an agreement between the province where the player is registered and the new province, the province where the player is registered has preference to a player to participate in a semi-final-, final-, or promotion/relegation match.

- 15.6 A player registered with a province prior to the start of a competition, and who remained registered with the province is available for selection for that province for the semi-final-, final-or promotion/relegation match.

15.7 A player who was part of a twenty-two (22) man Superugby Franchise team on four (4) or more occasions shall not be eligible to play in a semi-final and/or final match of a Vodacom Cup team of a province during that season.

16. QUALIFICATION FOR PROMOTION/RELEGATION, SEMI- AND FINAL MATCHES FOR OVERSEAS REGISTERED PLAYERS

16.1 An overseas registered player transferred or loaned to a new province that participates in a double round competition has to be available for selection for the new province at least the last five (5) pool matches immediately prior to a semi-final -, final -or promotion/relegation match, as the case may be, in order to be eligible to participate in a semi-final -, final - or promotion / relegation match for the new province.

16.2 An overseas registered player transferred or loaned to a new province that participates in a single round competition has to be available for selection for the new province at least the last two (2) pool matches immediately prior to a semi-final -, final -or promotion/relegation match, as the case may be, in order to be eligible to participate in a semi-final-, final- or promotion/relegation match for the new Province.

17. UNDER 19 AND UNDER 21 PLAYERS

Provinces are requested to submit a list of their under 19 and under 21 squads and player profile forms to SARU's offices at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the first provincial ABSA Under 19 and Provincial ABSA Under 21 teams' match and certified copies of each players' birth certificate or Identity Document (ID Book) must accompany the squad list. SARU must be advised in writing, at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to kick-off of their team's provincial match of any new player(s) joining the squad, with a certified copy of each new player(s)' birth certificate or identity document (ID Book).

18. SAFETY AT SPORT AND RECREATIONAL EVENTS ACT

Each province, rugby body or club is under the obligation to ensure that all stadiums and venues hosting matches which fall under their jurisdiction do comply with the SAFETY AT SPORT AND RECREATIONAL EVENTS ACT as published on 2 August 2010.

19. WARM-UP AREAS AND TIMES – DOMESTIC COMPETITIONS

Where teams require warm-up sessions immediately prior to their match and no field other than the playing field is available for this purpose, a maximum period of thirty (30) minutes will be allowed for warm-up sessions on the main field immediately after the curtain raiser and prior to the start of the next match.

20. BREACH OF COMPETITION RULES

An alleged breach of the SARU Competitions Rules shall be dealt with in accordance with the Judicial and Disciplinary Regulations of SARU.

21. LOGO'S ON JERSEYS

In accordance with Regulation 11.5.5 no restriction is placed on the number and size of logos/marks on the playing kit of teams participating in SARU Competitions subject to the following:

- 21.1 The province's logo shall appear on the left chest of the jersey; and
- 21.2 The manufacture's mark shall appear on the right chest of the jersey; and
- 21.3 The competition mark shall conform with the size and placement as per the agreement between SARU and the sponsor; and
- 21.4 The design shall not detract from the essential character and integrity of the provincial playing kit; and
- 21.5 The design and actual marks shall not be offensive or defamatory; and
- 21.6 The playing kit shall conform with statutory regulations of South Africa; and
- 21.7 SARU has to approve the final design of the provinces playing kit and alternative kit (where applicable) in writing prior to manufacturing thereof to ensure that the playing kit complies with clause 21 and SARU's decision in this regard shall be final and binding.

22. MATCH MANAGER

- 22.1 The Host Province will appoint a Match Manager at each venue where SARU competition matches are played.
- 22.2 Duties and Responsibilities of a Match Manager *(Some of these tasks can be delegated to the match day officials; however the Match Manager is ultimately responsible for ensuring all tasks are completed)*. The Match Manager must:
 - 22.2.1 Have a copy of the updated SARU Competition Format and General Rules at hand.
 - 22.2.2 Check with the Match Official that the playing area is safe to play a match on.
 - 22.2.3 Check all dressing rooms and other facilities before the teams arrive at the venue, as per SARU's minimum requirements.
 - 22.2.4 Check the medical facilities and that all the medical staff is present before kick-off.
 - 22.2.5 Check with the match official to ensure that the field markings are correct according to the IRB Laws of the Game.
 - 22.2.6 Check the drug testing room and be present at the draw to determine who will be tested.
 - 22.2.7 Monitor the thirty (30) minutes warm-up prior to kick-off and ensure that the playing field is clear at the appropriated times for the team warm-up sessions.
 - 22.2.8 Attend the coin tossing.
 - 22.2.9 Management of the technical area and sideline pertaining to for instance the teams, match officials, broadcasters, media and photographers.

- 22.2.10 Check the bibs of the water carriers and medical staff.
- 22.2.11 Manage the operational issues as they arise on the day.
- 22.2.12 Get a final copy of the signed team lists from the officiating referee at least one (1) hour before kick-off.

23. MINIMUM MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

23.1 Minimum Medical Requirements at Match Venues.

For guidelines regarding the minimum medical requirements at a match venue; refer to the “Safety in the Playing Environment” document which can be found on the BokSmart website: www.boksmart.com

Please note the requirements indicated in the document are the very MINIMUM requirements for each level of play that should be in place for a rugby match to take place. One should however, where possible continuously strive to improve on the medical support available at these matches to ensure player safety at all times.

23.2 The Duties of the Match doctor

This is applicable to those levels of play referred to in the “Safety in the Playing Environment” document that require a match doctor. At venues where a match doctor is not appointed the host venue doctor will assume these responsibilities.

The duties of the match doctor are:

23.2.1 to ensure that the prescribed medical requirements at the match venue are met;

23.2.2 to facilitate, with the official team doctors, prompt field-side management, referral to hospital (if necessary) and the replacement of injured players during the match;

23.2.3 to enforce the guidelines pertaining to bleeding control, ensuring that:

- (a) any suturing is carried out in the designated medical room; and
- (b) all blood-stained apparel and dressings are removed and replaced before the player returns to the field;

23.2.4 to support the team doctor in ensuring the removal from the field of players suffering concussion or other injury; and

For any queries regarding the minimum medical requirements or the duties of a match doctor please contact SARU’s medical manager, Clint Readhead: clintr@sarugby.co.za or 071 6044 641 (cell) or 021 9287102 (w).

24 MATCH REPORT AND STATISTICS

- 24.1 The Team managers shall forward their team list (SAR44.2009) at least **forty eight (48) hours** before kick-off time of their team’s match to SARU’s offices by fax at 021 9287181 or by e-mail to **Karen Nell** at karenN@sarugby.co.za.

- 24.2 Team managers shall also hand their certified team list (SAR44.2009) at least **one (1) hour** prior to the start of the match to the officiating referee, who will hand it to the appointed referee officially entrusted with the capturing of the match statistics.
- 24.3 The referee official entrusted with the match statistics shall fax or e-mail the team list (SAR44.2009) and the completed match statistic form (SAR05.2009) to Eddie Grieb, SARU's Statistician, or to SARU's Offices **immediately** after completion of the match by e-mail to eddieg@sarugby.co.za or by fax 0865590744.
- 24.4 SARU's Referees Department appoints the referee officials for a match. Venue provinces are therefore requested to appoint one (1) of the referee officials to capture the match statistics.
- 24.5 Team managers are requested to check their team's match statistics for correctness on SARU's website: www.sarugby.co.za on the Monday following their match and e-mail the attached form (SAR03.2009) to Eddie Grieb, SARU's Statistician at eddieg@sarugby.co.za.

Fines of up to R500 (five hundred) will be imposed on those provinces not complying with these deadlines, as stipulated in clause 23.

Copies of these forms i.e. team lists and referees match statistics forms are available for download on SARU's website under the heading "About Us – Form and Info".

25. FIRST CLASS FIXTURES AND APPEARANCES

To assist the statisticians when awarding the number of official match "caps" played by a player for a province, it was decided that the following criteria would be used to determine a first class match:

- 25.1 To qualify as a first class fixture, a match must firstly be played strictly according to the Laws of the Game, as stipulated by the IRB (i.e. only the number of substitutes as determined by the IRB is allowed). For instance, matches where more than the IRB approved number of substitutes is used will be regarded as trial matches and NOT first class matches.
- 25.2 The following categories of matches qualify for first class status if the above is fulfilled:
- 25.2.1 All matches featuring the senior or next senior national representative team of South Africa.
 - 25.2.2 All matches involving senior teams as part of the official SARU competitions fixture as sanctioned by SARU, i.e. Superugby, ABSA Currie Cup and Vodacom Cup.
 - 25.2.3 All matches against touring international teams approved by the IRB.
 - 25.2.4 All matches between senior provincial teams and touring teams of the same or higher status.
 - 25.2.5 All matches involving senior provincial teams/Superugby franchise teams outside of official SARU competitions fixtures where the strongest possible teams are fielded (i.e pre-season or friendly matches) *

- 25.2.6 All matches played by teams carrying the name of a South African National team (namely South Africa A, Emerging Springboks, SA Under 23's, SA Universities, SA Students, SA Defence Force, SA Agricultural Colleges, SA Police Services, Junior Springboks and SA Under 20's).
- 25.2.7 All matches played by composite teams in IRB approved competitions.
- 25.2.8 Any player taking part in one of the above matches will be deemed to have made a first class appearance if he either:
- (a) is part of the starting line-up; or
 - (b) appears as a permanent replacement at any time in the match; or
 - (c) as a temporary replacement (e.g. blood bin) at any time in the match.

(* Notes: First class status will only be granted to matches outside of the official SARU Competition fixtures if:

- SARU grants the match first class status on written application by the CEO of any of the provinces involved.
- The province making the application must notify the province of the opposing team in writing of their intentions.
- The match is played in accordance with the Laws of the Game, as stipulated by the IRB.
- Correctly completed team sheets of both teams with replacements and scorers are received by SARU within three (3) days after the match.

26. FOREIGN PLAYERS NOT ELIGIBLE TO PLAY FOR THE SPRINGBOKS

Provinces are allowed to register not more than two (2) foreign players who are not eligible to play for the Springboks, subject to the province and/or the players complying with the applicable statutory requirements of the SA Government.

27. TECHNICAL AREA

27.1 DIMENSIONS OF THE TECHNICAL ZONE

- 27.1.1 Two Technical zones shall be provided within the playing enclosure on the same side of the pitch, each on either side of the half-way line and outside the field of play.
- 27.1.2 These technical zones must be marked on the ground
- 27.1.3 The line nearest to the touch line must be parallel to the touch line.
- 27.1.4 The technical zone commences a minimum of five (5) meters from the half-way line. The technical zone must not exceed ten (10) meters in length and three (3) meters in width. Refer to the diagram in clause 27.6 for the recommended dimensions, layout and player and personnel placements for the technical zone

area.

- 27.1.5 Wherever practically possible the zones should be behind advertising hoardings with easy access to the field of play.
- 27.1.6 No advertising within the technical zone including but not limited to grass signage are permitted.

27.2 PERSONNEL PERMITTED IN THE TECHNICAL ZONE

- 27.2.1 No more than two (2) medically trained persons and two (2) water carriers (who shall not be the head coach) per team are permitted to operate from the technical zones
- 27.2.2 The team doctor must be one of the medically trained persons, and the second medically trained person can either be a team physiotherapist or another medical doctor only.
- 27.2.3 The two (2) water carriers (who shall not be the head coach) per team that are permitted to operate from the technical zones may be the team biokineticist(s), team conditioning staff, substitute player(s) and/or an assistant coach(es).
- 27.2.4 Only two (2) water carriers may enter the field at any given time according to Law.
- 27.2.5 The two (2) medically trained personnel permitted to operate from the technical zone, as listed in clause 27.2.2 above, are allowed to roam the touchlines, and may be positioned alongside the playing area – one (1) on the far side and one (1) on the near side on the touch line. The two (2) medically trained personnel may not be together on the same side of the touch line.
- 27.2.6 Where practically possible the medical personnel must stay outside the advertising hoardings. They may keep up with play, but must pay due regard to the needs and rights of players, match officials, spectators, broadcasters and commercial partners.
- 27.2.7. The two (2) medical personnel may enter the field of play in accordance with the Laws of the Game at any time a player is injured. They must not obstruct, interfere or aim comments at match officials. Particular reference needs to be made to SARU's protocol on entering the field of play which can be accessed via the following link:
<http://images.supersport.com/content/SARU%20Protocol%20-%20Medical%20Personnel%20Entering%20the%20Field%20of%20Play%20-%20June%202013.pdf>
- 27.2.8 The two (2) water carriers (who may be the team biokineticist(s), team conditioning staff, substitute player(s) and/or an assistant coach (es)) are not allowed to roam the touch line).
- 27.2.9 The two (2) waters carriers (who may be the team biokineticist(s), team conditioning staff, substitute player(s) and/or an assistant coach(s)) are confined to the technical zone at all times, except when water breaks or stoppages in play allow them to move onto the field in accordance with the Law.

- 27.2.10 All match and/or tournament independent Emergency Medical Service personnel (i.e. they do not function as a management member of any of the teams participating in the match and/or tournament) are to be stationed strategically within the technical zone to maximize their ability to respond quickly and efficiently to an injury that requires on-field medical attention.
- 27.2.11 Where practically possible the independent Emergency Medical Service personnel must stay outside the advertising hoardings and must pay due regard to the needs and rights of players, match officials, spectators, broadcasters and commercial partners.
- 27.2.12 The match and/or tournament independent Emergency Medical Service personnel must inform the match referee that they are the independent Emergency Medical Service personnel and do not function as a management member to any of the teams participating in the match and/or tournament.
- 27.2.13 Prior to the start of the match, the independent Emergency Medical Service personnel must ensure that they receive permission from the match referee that they may enter the field of play (at their own risk) to attend to the health and medical needs of an injured player(s). Law 6.C.2 and Law 6.C.3 are applicable here. Particular reference needs to be made to SARU's protocol on entering the field of play which can be accessed via the following link:
<http://images.supersport.com/content/SARU%20Protocol%20-%20Medical%20Personnel%20Entering%20the%20Field%20of%20Play%20-%20June%202013.pdf>
- 27.2.14 For South African Primary School Rugby, age groups Under 9 to Under 11, the **head coach** of the team is permitted to operate from the technical zone and is allowed to roam the touch line with the following restrictions applied.
- a) The **head coach** as per regulation must be BokSmart certified and this must be confirmed by the match referee beforehand.
 - b) The **head coach** is permitted to provide positive and corrective educational coaching instruction only to the players as they are still busy learning how to play the game.
 - c) In the instance that the **head coach** displays unacceptable behaviour or brings the game into disrepute he/she loses his/her privilege to operate from the technical zone and must be removed from the playing enclosure.
 - d) If any of the assistant coaches or team management displays unacceptable behaviour or brings the game into disrepute, they must be removed from the playing enclosure.
 - e) In the case where the referee is a minor i.e. under the age of 18 years old, the adult supervising referee, school headmaster or any other senior staff member needs to be notified, and the transgressing coach, assistant coach or team management member, must be removed from the playing enclosure.
 - f) The **head coach** while roaming may not impede the match in any way or form and must endeavour at all times to act in a respectable and responsible manner.

27.3 ROLES OF PERSONNEL IN THE TECHNICAL ZONE

- 27.3.1 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.
- 27.3.2 The two (2) water carriers are not permitted in the playing area during penalty kicks at goal.
- 27.3.3 The two (2) water carriers must remain in the technical zone at all times unless they enter the playing area to provide water or when one (1) enters to provide a kicking tee to the kicker at a penalty kick.
- 27.3.4 Players may come to the touch line adjacent to the technical zone to receive water.
- 27.3.5 Water bottles must not be thrown on the field of play.

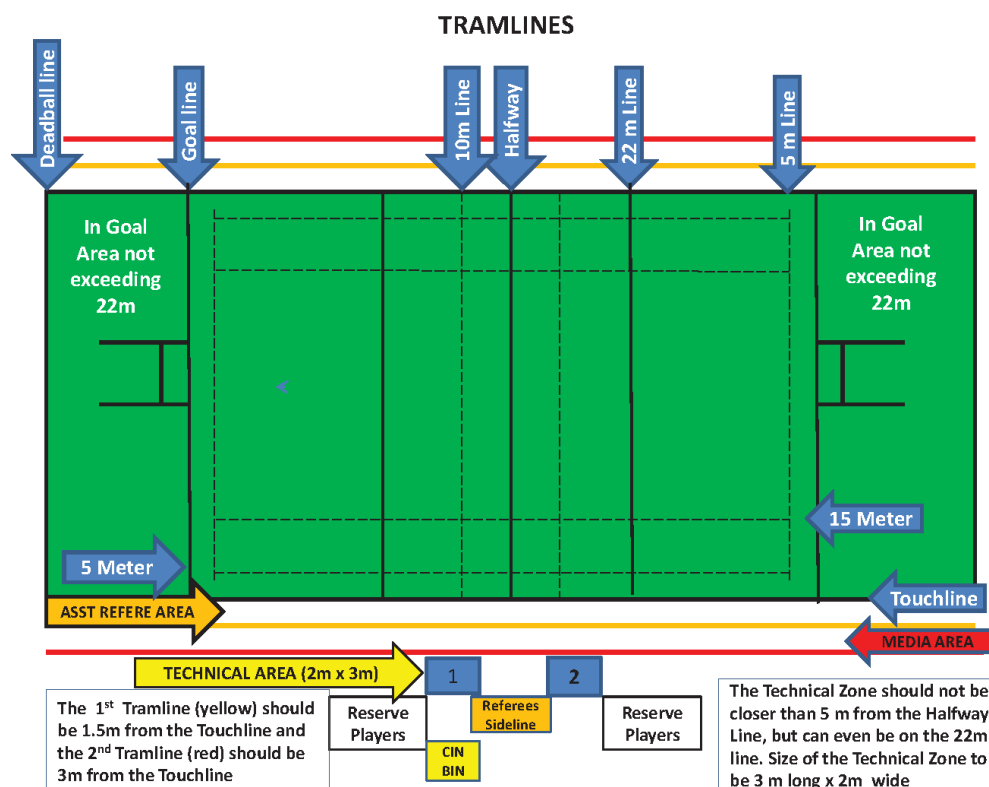
27.4 MANAGEMENT OF THE TECHNICAL ZONE

- 27.4.1 All personnel permitted in the technical zone will be required to wear bibs to clearly identify them when in and around the field of play.
- 27.4.2 These bibs must be clearly marked, i.e. WATER on the front and back of the bibs of the water carriers and MEDIC on the front and back of the bibs of the medically trained personnel
- 27.4.3 To be clear, non-medical personnel shall not wear a medic bib. Team biokineticist(s), team conditioning staff, substitute player(s) and/or an assistant coach(s) are not permitted to wear a medic bib.
- 27.4.4 The match manager or in his absence the fourth and fifth match officials, or designee, will manage the technical zones. If there is a transgression of the protocol, the matter will be reported to the fourth and/or the fifth match official who will report the transgression (if the transgressor(s) does not take corrective measures) to the match referee.
- 27.4.5 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.

27.5 PERSONNEL OUTSIDE THE TECHNICAL ZONE

The replacement bench and the location of the coaches should, wherever possible, be outside the playing enclosure.

27.6 TECHNICAL ZONE



REQUIRE ARE AVAILABLE ON SARU'S WEBSITE: 'www.sarugby.co.za

SAR03.2009	Match Report
SAR05.2009	Referee's Match Score Sheet
SAR44.2009	Team Sheets

28 SARU ANNUAL INJURY AUDIT

SARU is committed to collecting and assessing prospective injury data sustained by all players that participate in competitions/tournaments under the auspices of SARU via the SARU Annual Rugby Injury Audit (SARIA).

The aim of the SARIA is to monitor match and training injury** trends and patterns prospectively, regarding rugby players participating in various competitions/tournaments under the auspices of SARU.

The SARIA will be conducted in the primary interest of the safety, health and well-being of all players participating in these competitions/tournaments.

The data capturing procedures used in the SARIA are fully compliant with the international consensus statement on the definitions and procedures for epidemiological studies of injuries in Rugby Union. The reporting process is simple and requires the Team medical staff to enter all data timeously and accurately on all rugby-related injuries sustained on their players.

Players need to provide written informed consent to participate in the SARIA and written acknowledgement of the fact that the information provided will remain anonymous, and will be used for research purposes only. This written consent must be kept on record in the player's medical file. A copy of the written consent must be sent to the SARU Medical Manager. At no time will a player be personally identified during the SARIA or when the data is represented in any presentation, nor will the player be able to be identified by any inference.

Teams are to maintain full compliance with the SARIA requirements for recording injuries and reporting Team Match and training exposures throughout these competitions/tournaments. This is to ensure that high quality data is collected for accurate assessment of the injury profile and injury risk of these competitions/tournaments. It will further assist SARU in making informed and scientific evidence-based decisions on player management and injury prevention strategies, which will potentially increase the longevity of players' careers.

The Participating Provincial Union and any of its affiliates are to co-operate fully with SARU and ensure its Team Members and Medical staff contributes fully thereto.

****** Certain competitions/tournaments under the auspices of SARU will require Teams to collect mandatory training volume, ratings of perceived exertion or intensity, and injuries sustained during both matches and training, and provide any other additional requirements identified in the research process.