



Rugby 7s

Sports Technical Manual

Version 2.0





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1.

**WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTION**

Talofa lava and welcome to Beautiful Samoa – home of the Samoa 2019 XVI Pacific Games.

We are excited to host the Pacific Region's largest quadrennial games here in our country, with more than 4000 Athletes and Team Officials from 24 countries competing in 27 sports.

Samoa is honoured to host you for the Games. We are proud of the work that has been accomplished to produce a world-class event for everyone in such a short period of time. Our motto from the beginning has been to "put our best foot forward" and we hope you will agree that we have done just that.

We put athletes and sport at the heart of our work and want to create a stage where you can excel. We are excited to provide an opportunity and platform for athletes to show their potential and create sporting memories at the Games here in Samoa. We admire your dedication to your sport and acknowledge and appreciate all your efforts in preparing your team to compete at the XVI Pacific Games from 7–20 July 2019. We are also eager to give you the best facilities, organisation and support that the people of Samoa can provide so your athletes can compete at their best.

As a nation, we know that to deliver a successful Games for our Pacific athletes, we will all need to be One in Spirit. Faafetai tele lava to each of the teams for the invaluable assistance provided to the Games Organising Committee. We could not have done this without your support.

We are delighted to present the Sport Technical Handbook for the Samoa 2019 XVI Pacific Games.

This publication contains details of the technical arrangements for your Sports and the various aspects of the Games that affect you. Please treat this as your source of reference during the Games.

Our dedicated Games staff and volunteers are here to assist you if you have any questions or issues. You can also seek further guidance from our Sport Information Centre located at the Games Village and Sport Information Desks at every venue.

We believe that the Pacific Games is not only about sports but also about building bonds between our Pacific nations. Therefore, we wish you a fantastic time at the Games. We hope you enjoy our warm Samoan hospitality as well as the camaraderie of the 24 nations from the Pacific that are participating in this year's Games.

One in Spirit!

Hon. Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio
Chairperson
Samoa 2019 Pacific Games

Falefata Hele-Ei Matatia
Chief Executive Officer
Samoa 2019 Pacific Games

2.

ORGANISATION

2.1 International Federation (IF) – World Rugby

President/Chairman: Bill Beaumont

Chief Executive Officer: Brett Gosper

2.2 Regional Rugby Association – Oceania Rugby

President: Richard Sapias

2.3 National Rugby Association – Samoa Rugby Union

President: Namulauulu Sami Leota

Chief Executive Officer: Faleomavaega Vincent Fepuleai

Treasurer: Yona Tielu

2.4 Rugby Technical Committee – Pre Games

Sports Competition Manager: Taala Tui Komiti

IF Technical Delegate: Lemalu Wayne Schuster

Assistant Competition Manager: Filoi Eneliko

2.5 Rugby Technical Committee – Games Time

International Federation (IF)

- World Rugby and Pacific Games Council (PGC)
- Technical Delegate (TD): Lemalu Wayne Schuster
(Email: wayne.schuster@oceaniarugby.com)

Organising Committee (OC)

- Sports Competition Manager (SCM): Taala Tui Komiti

2.6 Key Competition Management

Sports Competition Manager: Taala Tui Komiti (Email: tui.k@samoarugbyunion.com)

Technical Operations Manager: Filoi Eneliko (Email: filoi.e@samoarugbyunion.com)

Sport Operations Manager: Toluiva Keneti (Email: toluiva.k@samoarugbyunion.com)

2.7 International Technical Officials (ITO)

Name	Country
Reuben Keane	Australia
Rohan Hoffmann (Referee Coach)	Australia
Mere Uluinaceva	Fiji
Tevita Vosalevu	Fiji
Fabien Soubielle	New Caledonia
Ben Woolerton	New Zealand
Tiana Ngawati	New Zealand
Augustine Mafuara	Solomon Islands
Toutou'ofa Vea	Tonga

2.8 National Technical Officials (NTO)

Name	Role
Faavae Neru	Assistant Referee
Alan Aiolupotea	Assistant Referee
Avii Faalupega	Referee
Posi Isamaeli	Referee
John Pouvi	Assistant Referee
Paletuatoa Toelupe	Referee Coach
Palako Togia	Assistant Referee
Fili Papalii	Assistant Referee
Paulo Samuelu	Assistant Referee
Ese Asotasi	Assistant Referee
Faafou Pulalasi	Assistant Referee
Junior Faleolo	Assistant Referee
Jerry Motunuu	Assistant Referee
Seeti Mataafa	Assistant Referee
Hemi Siaosi	Sideline Management
Susana Leiataua	Assistant Referee
Philipa Eletise	Assistant Referee
Taulapapa Brenda Latu	Judicial Officer
Arona Mataafa	Assistant Referee
Salesa Aperamo	Assistant Referee
Kaleopa Neru	Assistant Referee
Etimani Faamoe	Referee Coach
Toni Tipamaa	Referee Manager
Monika Onesemo	Assistant Referee
Fereti Fereti	Referee Coach
Malua Tapeni	Assistant Referee

Sieni Iese	Assistant Referee
Shone Semeli	Assistant Referee
Tevita Peleti	Assistant Referee
Junior Motuga	Assistant Referee
Laifaga Unasa	Sideline Management
Nouata Valaau	Assistant Referee
Aneti Seumanutafa	Assistant Referee
Litia Malo	Assistant Referee
Teo Richard Faaiuso	Citing Commissioner
Ropati Nu'u	Citing Commissioner

2.9 Technical Meeting Date

The Technical Committee Meeting will be held no more than 48 hours prior to the commencement of the competition. This meeting will provide the most current sport specific information.

The Technical Committee shall ensure that the Samoa 2019 XVI Pacific Games Rugby 7s competition is conducted in accordance with the technical rules and regulations of World Rugby. Updated information will be distributed at this time.

The Rugby 7s Technical Committee meeting has been scheduled as follows:

Date: 11 July 2019

Time: 1000hrs

Venue: Apia Park Stadium

3.

**COMPETITION
MANAGEMENT**

3.1 List of Events

The 2019 Pacific Games is hosting the sport of Rugby Sevens in two medal events featuring both a men's and women's team event.

There are 8 teams in the women's competition and 10 teams in the men's competition and each consists of two phases: preliminaries (pool rounds) and the knock-out rounds.

The seeding for the draw was decided based on the following criteria:

1. Rankings 2018/2019 HSBC SWS
2. Rankings 2018 Oceania Sevens Championship
3. 2017 Pacific Mini Games

3.1.1 Women's competition format

- Preliminaries (pool rounds):

Two pools of four teams

Women's Pools

Pool A	Pool B
Australia	Fiji
Samoa	Papua New Guinea
New Caledonia	Nauru
American Samoa	Solomon Islands

3.1.2 Men's competition format

- Preliminaries (pool rounds):

Two pools of five teams

Men's Pools

Pool A	Pool B
Fiji	Samoa
Cook Islands	Tonga
New Caledonia	Solomon Islands
Nauru	Tuvalu
Wallis & Futuna	American Samoa

3.1.3 Competition progression

Women's competition

For women's competition, quarterfinals will be played after pool matches. Placing matches take place for Gold medal, Bronze medal, 5th – 6th place, 7th – 8th place.

Teams are placed in two pools of four teams. Within each pool all teams play each other (three matches per team).

Match points are awarded to both teams after each pool match according to the following criteria:

- Win = 3 points
- Draw = 2 points
- Loss = 1 point
- No show = 0 point

Following the completion of pool round, the following rules are used to populate the knock-out round brackets:

- Teams are ranked in their pool according to their total number of match points
- In case of two or more teams having equal total match points, refer to tie break rules in section 3.9.4 (a)

All 8 teams are placed in pre-determined slots in knock-out round brackets:

- The quarterfinals brackets are set as follows:
A1 v B4
A3 v B2
A2 v B3
A4 v B1
- The winners of the quarterfinal matches proceed to the semifinal matches and the losing teams to the 5th – 8th placing matches.
- The winners of the semifinal matches proceed to the Gold medal match and the losing teams to the Bronze medal match.
- The winning teams from the 5th – 8th placing matches proceed to the 5th placing match and the losing teams to the 7th placing match

Men's competition

Teams are placed in two pools of five teams. Within each pool all teams play each other (four matches per team).

Match points are awarded to both teams after each pool match according to the following criteria:

- Win = 3 points
- Draw = 2 points
- Loss = 1 point
- No show = 0 point

Following the completion of pool round, the following rules are used to populate the knock-out round brackets:

- Teams are ranked in their pool according to their total number of match points
- In the case of two or more teams having equal total match points, refer to tie break rules in section 3.9.4 (a)

The top teams in each pool (A1, B1) proceed to the Gold medal match.

The 2nd rank teams in each pool (A2, B2) proceed to the Bronze medal match

The 3rd rank teams in each pool proceed to the 5th placing match

The 4th rank teams in each pool proceed to the 7th placing match

The 5th rank teams in each pool proceed to the 9th placing match.

3.1.4 Failure to Compete

If a team fails to present for competition, zero points are awarded to that team.

If a team willfully refuses to play or willfully abandons a match in progress without the prior consent of the match referee, then subject to confirmation by the Disputes Committee, that team is expelled from the competition.

In the event of expulsion for whatever reason, that team shall be deemed to have been awarded no pool competition table points and to have scored no tries or points in the pool matches.

For the purposes of determining standings in the pool competition table, all match results against such team shall be deemed null and void. Therefore, all pool competition table points awarded in matches against the expelled team and tries and points scored or

conceded in matches against such team are not be taken into account.

3.1.5 Cancelled or abandoned matches

Apart from the willful abandonment of a match and subsequent expulsion under section 3.9.4 in the event of a match having to be stopped after its commencement under the provisions of the Laws of the Game, then subject to confirmation by the Disputes Committee, the following procedure shall apply:

(a) Pool Matches

(i) Where a pool match has been abandoned during the first half the result shall be declared a draw. In this instance, each team will be awarded two match points and any points and tries scored will count towards the total points and tries scored by each team in all their pool matches

(ii) Where a match has been abandoned either at half-time or at any time in the second half, the result and any points and tries scored by each team in the match shall stand.

(iii) Where a pool match has been abandoned prior to the commencement of the match, the result shall be declared a draw. In this instance, each team will be awarded two match points

(b) Knock Out Matches

(i) In the knock-out phase, if the match is abandoned prior to commencement and/or has to be stopped after it has started under the provisions of the Laws of the Game, and it cannot be rescheduled to take place within an acceptable timeframe, then the matter will be referred to the Disputes Committee who will determine the appropriate resolution.

(ii) Where a match has been abandoned either at half time or at any time in the second half the result shall stand. If both Teams are tied then the provision with clause (a) shall be used to ascertain a winner with average points scored in all matches in the Tournament taken into consideration. However, if one of the Teams participated in a Pool where a Team was expelled, for whatever reason, then the matter will be referred to the Disputes Officer who shall decide the most appropriate method for determining the winner of the tied knock out Match.

(iii) If a match has been abandoned during the first half the result shall be declared a draw and the provisions within section 3.9.4 shall be used to ascertain the winner with points scored in all matches in the Tournament taken into consideration. However, if one of the Teams participated in a Pool where a Team was expelled, for whatever reason, then the matter will be referred to the Disputes Officer which shall decide the most appropriate method for determining the winner of the tied knock out Match.

As per the Laws of the Game (Law Clarification #8 2015), a match cannot be played or continued to be played if one of the teams has less than 5 players available to play e.g. injury, illness or player sanctions. If a team falls below 5 players for any reason the game is stopped, and the incident will be referred to the Disputes Committee who determine the appropriate action.

The Disputes Committee shall ordinarily comprise three members, being both Judicial / Appeal Officers (with one acting as chair) and the Technical Delegate. In the event that one or two members is unwilling or unavailable the Disputes Committee may proceed to hear and decide the matter with only one or two members as applicable. The decision of the Disputes Committee shall be by simple majority. In the event of a split decision in a two-member Disputes Committee, the chair shall have the casting vote.

3.2 Competition Schedule

The competition schedule below is as at March 2019 and is subject to change depending on final entries

Day 1 – 12 July

Pool Games

Match	Time	Division	Team A		Team B	Pool
Match 1	1000hrs	Women	Fiji	v	Solomon Islands	Pool B
Match 2	1022hrs	Women	Papua New Guinea	v	Nauru	Pool B
Match 3	1044hrs	Women	Australia	v	American Samoa	Pool A
Match 4	1106hrs	Women	Samoa	v	New Caledonia	Pool A
Match 5	1128hrs	Men	Cook Islands	v	Nauru	Pool A
Match 6	1150hrs	Men	Fiji	v	Wallis & Futuna	Pool A
Match 7	1212hrs	Men	Tonga	v	Tuvalu	Pool B
Match 8	1234hrs	Men	Samoa	v	American Samoa	Pool B
Match 9	1256hrs	Women	Papua New Guinea	v	Solomon Islands	Pool B
Match 10	1318hrs	Women	Fiji	v	Nauru	Pool B
Match 11	1340hrs	Women	Samoa	v	American Samoa	Pool A
Match 12	1402hrs	Women	Australia	v	New Caledonia	Pool A
Match 13	1424hrs	Men	Fiji	v	New Caledonia	Pool A
Match 14	1446hrs	Men	Nauru	v	Wallis & Futuna	Pool A
Match 15	1508hrs	Men	Samoa	v	Solomon Islands	Pool B
Match 16	1530hrs	Men	Tuvalu	v	American Samoa	Pool B
BREAK – 30MINS						
Match 17	1616hrs	Women	Nauru	v	Solomon Islands	Pool B
Match 18	1638hrs	Women	Fiji	v	Papua New Guinea	Pool B
Match 19	1700hrs	Women	New Caledonia	v	American Samoa	Pool A
Match 20	1722hrs	Women	Australia	v	Samoa	Pool A
Match 21	1744hrs	Men	New Caledonia	v	Wallis & Futuna	Pool A
Match 22	1806hrs	Men	Fiji	v	Cook Islands	Pool A
Match 23	1828hrs	Men	Solomon Islands	v	American Samoa	Pool B
Match 24	1850hrs	Men	Samoa	v	Tonga	Pool B

Day 2 – 13 July

Play-offs

Match	Time	Division	Team A	Team B	Pool
Match 25	1000Hrs	Men	Cook Islands	V Wallis & Futuna	Pool A
Match 26	1022Hrs	Men	New Caledonia	V Nauru	Pool A
Match 27	1044Hrs	Men	Tonga	V American Samoa	Pool B
Match 28	1106Hrs	Men	Solomon Islands	V Tuvalu	Pool B
Match 29	1128Hrs	Women	1st Pool A	V 4th Pool B	Medal Quarter Final 1
Match 30	1150Hrs	Women	3rd Pool A	V 2nd Pool B	Medal Quarter Final 2
Match 31	1212Hrs	Women	2nd Pool A	V 3rd Pool B	Medal Quarter Final 3
Match 32	1234Hrs	Women	4th Pool A	V 1st Pool B	Medal Quarter Final 4
Match 33	1256Hrs	Men	Fiji	V Nauru	Pool A
Match 34	1318Hrs	Men	Cook Islands	V New Caledonia	Pool A
Match 35	1340Hrs	Men	Samoa	V Tuvalu	Pool B
Match 36	1402Hrs	Men	Tonga	V Solomon Islands	Pool B
Match 37	1424Hrs	Women	Loser Match 29	V Loser Match 30	5th – 8th Place Semi Final 1
Match 38	1446Hrs	Women	Loser Match 31	V Loser Match 32	5th – 8th Place Semi Final 2
Match 39	1508Hrs	Women	Winner Match 29	V Winner Match 30	Medal Semi Final 1
Match 40	1530Hrs	Women	Winner Match 31	V Winner Match 32	Medal Semi Final 2
Break – 30Mins					
Match 41	1616Hrs	Men	5th Pool A	V 5th Pool B	9th Place Final
Match 42	1638Hrs	Men	4th Pool A	V 4th Pool B	7th Place Final
Match 43	1700Hrs	Men	3rd Pool A	V 3rd Pool B	5th Place Final
Match 44	1722Hrs	Women	Loser Match 37	V Loser Match 38	7th Place Final
Match 45	1744Hrs	Women	Winner Match 37	V Winner Match 38	5th Place Final
Match 46	1806Hrs	Women	Loser Match 39	V Loser Match 40	Bronze Medal Final
Match 47	1828Hrs	Men	2nd Pool A	V 2nd Pool B	Bronze Medal Final
Match 48	1850Hrs	Women	Winner Match 39	V Winner Match 40	Gold Medal Match
Match 49	1912Hrs	Men	1st Pool A	V 1st Pool B	Gold Medal Match

3.3 Entries, Seeds and Draws

All athletes must comply with entry requirements as specified in the PGC Charter; Protocol 7.

3.4 Entry by Name (Protocol 7.10 – 7.15)

Entries by name containing the names of competitors and the events in which they wish to compete, shall be forwarded electronically, to reach the Organising Committee at least 45 days before the date of the opening of the Games. Thirty percent of the Pacific Games Authority's estimated per diem obligation shall be payable at this time.

A further confirmation of entries by name shall be required from PGAs no later than 30 days before the opening of the Games, from which the official and final per diem obligation will be calculated. A further 30% of this official per diem obligation shall be payable at this time. PGAs shall pay the remaining per diem obligation no later than the Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM) upon arrival and no Games Accreditations shall be issued to PGAs until the full per diem obligation is discharged. (Protocol 7.10)

A pre-DRM in person, or through the use of technology, shall occur within five days after the further confirmation of entries 30 days before the Games. (Protocol 7.11)

Each PGA shall pay at the DRM such sum as the Executive Board may prescribe for each competitor and official entered, which shall be paid into a separate account in the name of the Council. (Protocol 7.12)

Entries shall be completed electronically, and shall be forwarded to the OC via the Sporting Pulse provided Games Management System website. A PGA may also, simultaneously, submit a signed spreadsheet of athlete entries as an additional step to confirm its entries. The OC shall forward the entries to the Council and the relevant International Federations. (Protocol 7.13)

The OC shall send to PGAs copies of "Entry and Eligibility Conditions form" in English and French to be signed by each competitor and to be countersigned by the appropriate PGA and duly affiliated National Federation (NF). Completed forms for each athlete must be returned to the OC no later than the DRM. The Council shall approve the text to this form based upon the guidelines contained in Regulation 20. (Protocol 7.14)

As per Article 26 (5), late entries by name will not be accepted. (Protocol 7.15)

3.5 Final Entries (Protocol 7.16 – 7.21)

The names of those competitors finally entered for each event shall be confirmed to the OC at the DRM at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the official opening of the Games. With the exception of the provisions of Protocol 7.18, no amendments to a PGA's delegation of athletes may be made after the DRM. (Protocol 7.16)

Only those competitors whose names appear on the individual entry Forms shall be eligible for final confirmation for participation. (Protocol 7.17)

When a competitor is injured after being included in the final entries forms, a substitute may be nominated on production of a medical certificate from the doctor designated by the OC provided this nomination is made before midnight preceding the opening event

of the tournament in which the injured competitor would have taken part. The substitute's name must have been entered in the Individual Entries forms of that sport. (Protocol 7.18)

Each PGA shall be required to ensure that Article 8 is observed with regard to the selection and management of its team. (Protocol 7.19)

The Executive Board may require the OC to reject an entry, which does not comply with the requirements of the Charter, or for any other good or sufficient reason. (Protocol 7.20)

Penalties shall be imposed on the PGA for entries submitted that do not comply with the Council Charter. These penalties shall be payable to the PGC and shall include a minimum monetary fine of US\$1,000 or removal of the PGA's voting rights at the next Council annual meeting, or both. (Protocol 7.21)

3.6 Conditions of Entry

For Pacific Games, Pacific Mini Games and in respect of all activities of the Council and events under its control, there shall be no discrimination against any member country or persons on any grounds whatsoever, including race, gender, religion or politics. (Article 8)

The Executive Board may require the Organising Committee to reject an entry, which does not comply with the requirements of the Charter, or for any other good sufficient reason. (Protocol 7.20)

3.7 Maximum Entries

The maximum number of players per Country who may compete in the Pacific Games Rugby 7) competition is as follows;

All Teams will be entitled to have the following squads in attendance at Samoa 2019 XVI Pacific Games.

Sevens Tournaments:

- up to 12 players;
- up to 3 team management, one of whom must be suitably medically trained/qualified with World Rugby ICIR Level 2 accreditation.

3.8 Draws

The draw will be conducted in accordance with IF Rules. Further details will be provided at the Technical Committee meeting.

3.9 Competition Rules and Regulations

The Samoa 2019 XVI Pacific Games Rugby 7s competition will be played according with the editions of the following documents that are in force at the time of the Games:

- World Rugby Laws of the Game (laws.worldrugby.org)
- World Rugby Regulations Relating to the Game (worldrugby.org/regulations)
- Pacific Games Federation Constitution

Note re terminology: athletes are referred to as players in all World Rugby laws.

3.9.1 Discipline programme

The integrity and disciplinary rules for Samoa 2019 XVI Pacific Games Rugby 7s is as follows the appendix

Integrity and Disciplinary Rules

Part A: Integrity Rules

1. Anti-Corruption and Betting

(a) In addition to any anti-corruption and betting rules imposed by the Pacific Games Federation and/or SASNOC for the Games, World Rugby Regulation 6 continues to apply at all times.

(b) As a pre-condition of participation, all Rugby Sevens participants, including for the avoidance of doubt all Players, Team Officials and Match Officials, must have completed the World Rugby online anti-corruption and betting education programme available at www.integrity.worldrugby.org

Individuals who have completed this programme previously during their participation on the World Rugby Sevens Series or otherwise are not required to complete it again prior to the Games. Team Managers are required to ensure that all of their Team Members have completed the course which can be confirmed by requesting each individual to log in to the website and send their completion certificate to the Team Manager.

2. Anti-Doping

(a) In addition to the anti-doping rules imposed by the Pacific Games Federation and/or SASNOC for the Games, World Rugby Regulation 21 continues to apply at all times

(b) As a pre-condition of participation, all Rugby Sevens Players, must have completed the World Rugby online anti-doping e-learning programme available at www.keeprugbyclean.worldrugby.org. Players who have completed this programme previously during their participation on the World Rugby Sevens Series or otherwise are not required to complete it again prior to the Games. Team Managers are required to ensure that all of their Players have completed the course which can be confirmed by requesting each Player to log in to the website and send their completion certificate to the Team Manager.

Part B: Disciplinary Rules

The Disciplinary Rules set out in this Part B ("Disciplinary Rules") and applicable to the

Men's and Women's Rugby Sevens Tournaments at the Pacific Games 2018 ("Tournament") are based on the World Rugby Regulations Relating to the Game.

Each Union, Player and Team official (either/both a "Team Member") agrees to be bound by and comply with the provisions and requirements of these Disciplinary Rules and any decisions made thereunder. Each Union also acknowledges its responsibility and accountability for the acts and/or omissions of all persons in attendance at the Tournament in an official capacity with the Union.

Flowcharts, set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of this Section, summarise the procedures in the Disciplinary Rules to assist Unions and Team Members. However, the flowcharts are provided for guidance only and, in the event of any inconsistency, the body of the Disciplinary Rules shall prevail. Further, in the event that there are any amendments made to and/or discrepancies between World Rugby Regulations 17, 18 and 20 and the Disciplinary Rules (save in the case of a Tournament-specific provision e.g. timings) the terms of the applicable World Rugby Regulation in force at the time of the Tournament shall apply to the extent of the discrepancy. Capitalised terms in these Disciplinary Rules which are not defined in this document shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the World Rugby Regulations.

Pre-Competition Team Manager Certification:

Team Managers (being the senior representative of each rugby sevens team at the Tournament) are required to provide confirmation in writing to World Rugby's Technical Delegate for PG2019 Wayne Schuster, wayne.schuster@oceaniarugby.com by the time of the Tournament Technical Meeting that having undertaken all necessary enquiries, they are not aware of any of the following in relation to Players scheduled to play in the Tournament:

- the existence of any outstanding disciplinary proceedings in respect of Foul Play and/or Misconduct;
- the existence of any outstanding appeal proceedings in relation to the above;
- that the Player is subject to any suspension from the Game as a result of disciplinary proceedings, appeal proceedings or otherwise.

If a Union is unable to provide such certification, then the Union shall inform the Tournament Director of the reason for this, and the Tournament Director shall take action as appropriate.

1. Scope of Disciplinary Rules

The Disciplinary Rules set out the procedures for dealing with the following disciplinary matters in relation to the Tournament:

- (a) When a Player is Ordered Off or cited for an act or acts of Foul Play;
- (b) When a Player has been Temporarily Suspended and/or received a Citing Commissioner Warning three or more times in the Tournament; and

(c) When an act or acts of Misconduct may have been committed by a Union, Player, and/or Team Member or other person affiliated to the Union/Team.

2. Definitions – Ordering Off, Temporary Suspension and Foul Play

(a) A Player is Ordered Off when he/she is sent off the playing enclosure permanently by the referee and can take no further part in the Match in which he was Ordered Off.

(b) A Player is Temporarily Suspended when he/she is cautioned in a Match by the referee and temporarily sent off the playing enclosure by the referee for a period of two minutes playing time which is spent in the so-called sin bin.

(c) For the purposes of these Disciplinary Rules, Foul Play means a breach or breaches of Law 9 of the Laws of the Game and/or a breach or breaches of Law 3.7 and/or Law 4.7.

3. Disciplinary and Judicial Personnel – Constitution and Appointment

3.1 Independent Citing Commissioner

The World Rugby Judicial Panel Chairman has appointed Citing Commissioners to the Tournament. There shall be one Citing Commissioner for each Match who, ordinarily, will be from a country neutral to that of the Teams participating in the Match however the Unions agree that this may not always be possible.

3.2 Independent Judicial Officers

(a) The World Rugby Judicial Panel Chairman has appointed Judicial Officers for the Tournament who shall have jurisdiction to determine disciplinary matters arising from Players Ordered Off the playing enclosure; citings; Temporary Suspensions; Citing Commissioner Warnings; and alleged acts of Misconduct. Ordinarily the Judicial Officer will be from a country neutral to that of the Team/Union(s) concerned in the incident or incidents under consideration by the Judicial Officer however the Unions agree that this may not always be possible.

(b) In the case of an appeal, Judicial Officers (who have not been previously involved in the particular case) may sit as an Appeal Officer. In Misconduct matters, the Judicial Panel Chairman may at his/her discretion appoint an Appeal Committee to consider an appeal. In such circumstances, in addition to an Appeal Officer as Chairman, the Appeal Committee may include former players, experienced rugby administrators, legally qualified persons who have previous experience in rugby disciplinary proceedings or other suitably-qualified personnel. The Unions agree that Appeal Officers and Appeal Committee members are not required to be from a country neutral to that of the Team/ Union(s) concerned in the incident or incidents under consideration by the Appeal Officer or Appeal Committee.

3.3 Designated Disciplinary Official

A Designated Disciplinary Official has been appointed for the Tournament (Wayne Schuster, wayne.schuster@oceaniarugby.com) to manage the implementation of these Disciplinary Rules and act as a presenter at hearings.

4. Initial Procedures – Ordering Off

(a) Where a Player in a Match is Ordered Off the referee (and, where appropriate, the assistant referee(s)) shall, as soon as practicable after the completion of the Match, or such further time as is necessary in the circumstances, give to the Designated Disciplinary Official a written report of the incident.

(b) Reports prepared by referees and/or assistant referees when a Player has been Ordered Off should ordinarily contain the following information:

- (i) the date of the Match, the Match Venue and the Teams participating;
- (ii) the name of the Player Ordered Off and his/her Team;
- (iii) the circumstances in which the Player was Ordered Off;
- (iv) the reason for the Player being Ordered Off; and
- (v) any other information the referee (or assistant referee where applicable) considers relevant.

(c) The Designated Disciplinary Official or his/her nominee shall provide the Player Ordered Off with a copy of the referee's report and, where applicable, the assistant referee's report and any other relevant evidence as soon as reasonably practicable and shall advise the Player (in writing or orally via his/ her Team Management):

- (i) of the date, place and time of the Judicial Officer hearing at which the disciplinary proceedings will be heard;
- (ii) of the identity of the Judicial Officer;
- (iii) that he/she will be required to attend in person at the hearing;
- (iv) that if he/she is unable to appear at the Judicial Officer hearing as notified, he/she should advise the Designated Disciplinary Official as soon as practicable;
- (v) that he/she is entitled to adduce evidence and make submissions and be represented by his/her Union or Team and/or a legal advisor; and
- (vi) he/she is not eligible to play in any Match anywhere in the world and shall be suspended from all on-field activities on Match days pending resolution of the case.

(d) Cases involving an Ordering Off shall, wherever practicable, be adjudicated on within 2 hours of the conclusion of the Match in which the Player was Ordered Off. The time of the Judicial Officer hearing shall be determined by the Judicial Officer. The hearing shall be held on the Gold Coast.

5. Powers of Citing Commissioner

- (a) Citing Commissioners shall be entitled to cite a Player for any act(s) of Foul Play which in the opinion of the Citing Commissioner warranted the Player concerned being Ordered Off even where such act(s) may have been detected by the referee or assistant referee and which may have been the subject of referee action. A Citing Commissioner may not, however, cite a Player for an act(s) of Foul Play in respect of which the Player has been Ordered Off save where the Ordering Off is as a result of two yellow cards. A Player in that situation may also be cited for the act(s) of Foul Play which resulted in either or both yellow card(s).
- (b) Citing Commissioners shall be entitled to issue a Citing Commissioner Warning to a Player who has in his/her opinion committed an act(s) of Foul Play which falls just short of warranting that the Player concerned be Ordered Off in circumstances where the act of Foul Play was not subject to a Temporary Suspension or Ordering Off.
- (c) A Player may be cited by the Citing Commissioner if he has been Temporarily Suspended. Such citing may be made in respect of the incident(s) for which the Player was Temporarily Suspended or otherwise.
- (d) Citing Commissioners shall act independently of the Judicial Officer and of the Match Officials of a Match or other Citing Commissioners.

6. Team referral to Citing Commissioner

Only a Citing Commissioner has the power to cite a Player for Foul Play but a Team (through their Team Manager or coach) may refer any incident of alleged Foul Play to the Citing Commissioner for consideration. Such incident shall ordinarily be referred to the Citing Commissioner within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the Match in which the incident is alleged to have occurred. A Citing Commissioner's decision as to whether a Player should be cited, whether as the result of an incident referred to him or otherwise shall be final.

7. Initial Procedures – Citing Complaint and Citing Commissioner Warning

Citing Complaint

- (a) Subject to Clause 7(b) below, a citing complaint by a Citing Commissioner must be provided in writing (including by electronic means) to the Designated Disciplinary Official within 60 minutes of the completion of the Match.
- (b) In circumstances where a Player has not been cited within the time periods specified in Clause 7(a) as a result of:
- (i) mistaken identity; and/or
 - (ii) circumstances exist where the nature of the Foul Play incident(s) concerned is such that an investigation is needed to identify the Player(s) alleged to have committed an act(s) of Foul Play; and/or

- (iii) circumstances exist where the nature of the Foul Play incident(s) concerned is such that an investigation is needed to identify or establish the full nature of the alleged act(s) of Foul Play; then the citing period may be extended by a Judicial Officer to a maximum of 12 hours following the end of the final Match in the Tournament.
- (c) The citing complaint should ordinarily contain the following information:
 - (i) the date and place of the alleged Foul Play;
 - (ii) the name of the Player in respect of whom the complaint is made and the Team he was playing for at the time of the alleged Foul Play;
 - (iii) the name of the opposing Team; and
 - (iv) details of the alleged Foul Play including brief details of the evidence relied upon.
- (d) The Citing Commissioner or his/her nominee will obtain such reports and information as he considers necessary in relation to the cited act(s) of Foul Play. All Persons requested to provide reports and/or information must do so within the timescale requested or seek more time if required from the Citing Commissioner. Failure to provide the information and/or reports sought by the Citing Commissioner or his/her nominee may, in the absence of a reasonable explanation, constitute Misconduct. The Citing Commissioner shall provide such reports to the Designated Disciplinary Official who shall in turn forward the documents and televisual evidence (where available) to the Player (directly and/or via his/her Team management).
- (e) Where a Player is the subject of a citing complaint, his/her case should, wherever practicable, be heard ordinarily within 2 hours of the conclusion of the Match in which the cited alleged Foul Play occurred. He/she may not play any Match anywhere in the world pending the resolution of his/her case.

Citing Commissioner Warning

- (f) A Citing Commissioner Warning shall be notified to the Designated Disciplinary Official in which the incident occurred within 60 minutes of the completion of the Match. The Citing Commissioner Warning notification shall contain the information in Clause 7(c). The Designated Disciplinary Official shall provide a copy of the notification to the Player in respect of whom it is made (directly and/or via his/her Team management) and the Match Officials Manager.

8. Standard of Proof

- (a) The standard of proof for all matters under this Disciplinary Rules shall be on the balance of probabilities.

(b) The integrity of Law 6.5(a) of the Laws of the Game and the referee's position as sole judge of fact and law during the Match is unassailable. With the sole exception of Clause 8(c) below, the referee's decisions on the field of play and their sporting consequences shall not be altered or overturned by a ruling of a Judicial Officer. The purpose of a subsequent review of an incident that occurred during a Match, by a Citing Commissioner and/or Judicial Officer, is to determine whether there should be any disciplinary sanctions applied for an act of Foul Play as provided for in Law 9.

(c) In the case of an Ordering Off, the function of the Judicial Officer is to consider the circumstances of the case and determine his/her factual findings and what further sanction, if any, should be imposed on the Player. The Player Ordered Off may seek to show that the referee's decision was wrong and the Judicial Officer may, subject to Clause 8(b) above, review the referee's decision and the circumstances surrounding it. In any such case, the Judicial Officer shall not make a finding contrary to the referee's decision unless he is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities that the referee's decision was wrong.

(d) In the case where there has been a citing complaint, the function of the Judicial Officer is to determine whether an act of Foul Play was committed by the Player. Where a Player accepts that there has been Foul Play or Foul Play is established to the satisfaction of the Judicial Officer in accordance with this Clause 8(d), the cited Player may seek to show that the Citing Commissioner's decision to cite was wrong and the Judicial Officer may review the Citing Commissioner's decision and the circumstances surrounding it. In any such case, the Judicial Officer shall not make a finding contrary to the Citing Commissioner's decision to cite unless he is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities that the Citing Commissioner's decision was wrong. If the citing is upheld, the Judicial Officer shall determine the sanction, if any, to be imposed on the Player in accordance with Clause 10 below. In determining the appropriate sanction, the Judicial Officer may take account of any action taken during the Match in respect of the Foul Play by the referee.

9. Judicial Officer – Powers and Procedures

(a) The general procedures relating to hearings before Judicial Officers contained in Appendix 1 to World Rugby Regulation 18 shall apply to any matter arising under this Disciplinary Rules.

(b) The referee of the Match in which the player is Ordered Off (and, if a player is Ordered Off as a result of an assistant referee's intervention, the assistant referee) shall, unless exceptionally permitted by the Judicial Officer, attend the hearing (whether in person or via telephonic and/or audio-visual means). Nothing in this Disciplinary Rules shall prevent the Judicial Officer hearing and determining disciplinary proceedings in the absence of the referee and/or assistant referee.

(c) The Citing Commissioner of the Match in which the Player is cited shall, if so required by the Judicial Officer, attend the hearing (whether in person or via telephone and/or audio-visual means) for the purposes of providing evidence and/or a further explanation of the factual material relied upon in the making of the citing.

(d) In respect of cases involving the Ordering Off or citing of a Player, the Judicial Officer shall ensure that, prior to the hearing, the Player Ordered Off or cited has been supplied

with, and has had a sufficient opportunity to consider, the referee's report and the report of the assistant referee (where applicable), and/ or the citing report together with any other information, reports or evidence.

(e) Any electronic recording of an incident permitted in evidence by a Judicial Officer shall preferably be viewed without the sound or commentary associated with it being heard, save where the sound or commentary includes the comments made by the referee through his/her microphone in relation to the specific incident in question or if the parties agree that the sound or commentary should be played.

(f) Where evidence is given before a Judicial Officer there shall be no direct questioning of any witness other than by the Judicial Officer except to the extent allowed by the Judicial Officer.

(g) The Player subject to the proceedings (a) shall appear before the Judicial Officer, in person or via technological means; (b) may admit the act or alleged act of Foul Play at any time, in which case the Judicial Officer should proceed immediately to hear evidence and/or submissions as to the sanction, if any, to be imposed. The Designated Disciplinary Official shall ordinarily also attend the hearing as presenter.

(h) Subject always to Clause 8(d) above, the Judicial Officer shall, in the first instance, in the case of a citing determine whether the act of Foul Play has been committed. In the case of an Ordering Off the Judicial Officer shall, in the first instance, determine his/her factual findings in relation to matters that can be properly raised in accordance with Clause 8(c) above. Thereafter, as appropriate, it will reconvene and hear and consider evidence and submissions in relation to sanctions.

10. Sanctions and Core Sanctioning Process

In any case where a Judicial Officer considers an incident(s) of Foul Play has occurred, he may decide to impose a sanction in accordance with the provisions of this Clause 10. When imposing sanctions, all Judicial Officers dealing with an Ordering Off and/or citing shall apply World Rugby's sanctions for Foul Play set out in Appendix 3 of this Disciplinary Rules and do so in accordance with this Clause 10.

10.1 Assessment of seriousness of the Foul Play

(a) Judicial Officers shall undertake an assessment of the seriousness of the Player's conduct that constitutes the offending and categorise that conduct as being at the lower end, mid-range or top end of the scale of seriousness in order to identify the appropriate entry point for consideration of a particular incident(s) of Foul Play where such incident(s) is expressly covered in Appendix 3. The assessment of the seriousness of the Player's conduct shall be determined by reference to the following features:

- (i) whether the offending was intentional or deliberate;
- (ii) whether the offending was reckless, that is the Player knew (or should have known) there was a risk of committing an act of Foul Play;
- (iii) the gravity of the Player's actions in relation to the offending;

- (iv) the nature of the actions, the manner in which the offence was committed including part of body used (for example, fist, elbow, knee or boot);
- (v) the existence of provocation;
- (vi) whether the Player acted in retaliation and the timing of such;
- (vii) whether the Player acted in self-defence (that is whether he used a reasonable degree of force in defending himself);
- (viii) the effect of the Player's actions on the victim (for example, extent of injury, removal of victim Player from the game);
- (ix) the effect of the Player's actions on the Match;
- (x) the vulnerability of the victim Player including part of victim's body involved/affected, position of the victim Player, ability to defend himself;
- (xi) the level of participation in the offending and level of premeditation;
- (xii) whether the conduct of the offending Player was completed or amounted to an attempt; and
- (xiii) any other feature of the Player's conduct in relation to or connected with the offending.

10.2 Aggravating Factors

(a) Having identified the applicable entry point for consideration of a particular incident, the Judicial Officer shall identify any relevant off-field aggravating factors and determine what additional period of suspension, if any, above the applicable entry point for the offence should apply to the case in question. Aggravating factors include:

- (i) the Player's status generally as an offender of the Laws of the Game²;
- (ii) the need for a deterrent to combat a pattern of offending in the Game; and
- (iii) any other off-field aggravating factor(s) that the Judicial Officer considers relevant and appropriate.

² The Player's disciplinary record in all competitions and (as appropriate) in other sports during his playing career from the age of 18 shall be considered by the Judicial Officer. In any case in which the Judicial Officer establishes that the Player has previously been found by a Judicial Officer to have committed any act of Foul Play and/or Misconduct then the Judicial Officer in imposing any sanction on the Player may in fixing that sanction take account of such offending as an aggravating factor

10.3 Mitigating Factors

(a) Thereafter, the Judicial Officer shall identify any relevant off-field mitigating factors and determine if there are grounds for reducing the period of suspension and subject to Clauses 10.3(b) and 10.3(c) below the extent, if at all, by which the period of suspension should be reduced. Mitigating factors include the following:

- (i) the presence and timing of an acknowledgement of culpability/wrong-doing by the offending Player;
- (ii) the Player's disciplinary record and/or good character;
- (iii) the youth and inexperience of the Player;
- (iv) the Player's conduct prior to and at the hearing;
- (v) the Player having demonstrated remorse for his/her conduct to the victim Player including the timing of such remorse; and
- (vi) any other off-field mitigating factor(s) that the Judicial Officer considers relevant and appropriate.

(b) Subject to Clauses 10.3(c) and 10.3(d) below, for acts of Foul Play the Judicial Officer cannot apply a greater reduction than 50% of the relevant entry point suspension. In assessing the percentage reduction applicable for mitigating factors, the Judicial Officer shall start at 0% reduction and apply the amount, if any, to be allowed as mitigation up to the maximum 50% reduction.

(c) In cases involving offending that has been classified pursuant to Clause 10.1(a) as lower end offending, where:

- (i) there are off-field mitigating factors; and
- (ii) where the Judicial Officer considers that the sanction would be wholly disproportionate to the level and type of offending involved;

The Judicial Officer may apply sanctions less than 50% of the lower end entry sanctions specified in Appendix 3 including in appropriate cases no sanction. In exceptional cases where the Judicial Officer considers it is warranted he (i) may expunge the Ordering Off (Red Card) from the Player's disciplinary record; or (ii) in the case of a Temporary Suspension (Yellow Card) issued by the referee, solely in circumstances attributed to mistaken identity, may expunge the Temporary Suspension from the Player's disciplinary record.

(d) In cases of multiple offending, Judicial Officers may impose sanctions to run either on a concurrent or a consecutive basis provided that the total sanction is in all the circumstances proportionate to the level of the overall offending.

(e) Judicial Officers shall ordinarily in their written decisions set out the reasoning for their findings, including the finding on culpability, how they have categorised the seriousness of the offence by reference to the features set out in Clause 10.1(a), how

they identified and applied any aggravating and mitigating factors and conclude with the resultant sanction, if any, imposed.

- (f) Decisions on sanctions and suspensions imposed on Players shall:
- (i) be applied universally by Unions, Associations, Rugby Bodies and their constituent bodies such that the Player may not play the Game (or any form thereof) or be involved in any on-field Match day activities anywhere during the period of suspension;
 - (ii) not allow Players to avoid the full consequences of their actions by, for example, playing in Matches prior to the commencement of their suspension, or playing in Matches during a break in the suspension and/or serving their suspension during a period of inconsequential pre-season and/ or so-called friendly Matches;
 - (iii) apply and be served when the Player is scheduled to play;
 - (iv) be imposed until a stated date which should be fixed after taking into consideration all playing consequences of such suspension; and
 - (v) be effective immediately (subject to Clause 10.3(g)(ii) below).
- (g) When imposing suspensions Judicial Officers shall comply with the requirements set out in Clause 10.3(f) above. In doing so Judicial Officers:
- (i) must not suspend the effect of any sanction imposed;
 - (ii) may defer the commencement of a suspension provided that the Player is not scheduled to play (and will not be permitted to play) prior to the commencement of the suspension;
 - (iii) shall, in respect of meaningful off-season application of sanctions, set out the reasons why they consider those Matches to be meaningful;
 - (iv) may, at their discretion in assessing the playing consequences of a sanction apply the suspension to scheduled pre-season and/or so-called friendly Matches, provided such scheduled pre-season and/or so-called friendly Matches have, in the opinion of the Judicial Officer concerned, a meaningful playing consequence for the Player. In making this assessment Judicial Officers may, in their discretion, take account of such factors as they consider relevant including, for example, the proximity of the Match to the commencement of the season, the identity and stature of the opponents, likely quality of teams to be selected, and the general Match profile;
 - (v) must, if a Player's suspension has not terminated by the end of the current playing season, continue the suspension until a stated date in the next playing season, unless the Player has been selected for a closed season tour, or he has made plans to play during the close of season in another Union. In this event (and subject to the Judicial Officer receiving satisfactory verification of

such tour or playing arrangements), the period of the tour or the fact that he intends to play in another Union shall be taken into account in determining when the suspension shall come to an end; and

- (vi) may divide the suspension into two separate periods in order to exclude the whole or part of the closed season provided that the Player is not permitted to play during such closed season.

(h) In respect of offences not referred to in the World Rugby Sanctions in Appendix 3, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant Judicial Officer and Appeal Officer.

- (i) Notwithstanding the World Rugby Sanctions in Appendix 3 and/or the provisions of this Clause 10, in cases where the Player's actions constitute mid range or top end offending for any type of offence which had the potential to result and, in fact, did result in serious/gross consequences to the health of the victim, the Judicial Officer may impose any period of suspension including a suspension for life.

- (j) When imposing sanctions, Judicial Officers dealing with an Ordering Off and/ or citing shall apply World Rugby's recommended penalties for Foul Play set out in Appendix 3 in accordance with this Clause 10. World Rugby's recommended sanctions for Foul Play set out in Appendix 3 have been established on the basis that a one week period of suspension would normally result in a Player missing one Match. During the Tournament (and Sevens tournaments generally), Players may, however, participate in more than one Match per week. During the Tournament, when determining the appropriate periods of suspension, Judicial Officers or Appeal Officers should take cognisance of the fact that a Player may miss more than one Match as a result of being made subject to a week's suspension and should impose a suspension based on a number of Matches in the Tournament. This does not preclude the imposition of periods of suspension running beyond a Player's participation in the Tournament (which may continue in Matches if the Player's next scheduled participation is Sevens or otherwise conclude in weeks).

- (k) For the avoidance of doubt, all Matches at all levels of rugby are equal.

11. Costs

Judicial Officers (and/or Appeal Officers, as applicable) shall have powers with respect to costs orders as further set out in Appendix 1 to World Rugby Regulation 18.

12. Post-Hearing Procedures

The decision of the Judicial Officer shall be advised to applicable parties, as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the hearing and shall be binding on notification to the Player or his/her representative or Union. The Judicial Officer may deliver a short oral decision at the conclusion of the hearing (with his/her reasons to be put in writing and

communicated to the parties at a later date) or he may reserve the decision. If an oral decision is made it shall be binding from the time of communication to the parties.

(a) The Union and (as applicable) the Player, Team Member or other person shall not publish the decision nor make any public comment in respect of the decision prior to official publication by World Rugby and/or SASNOC. Players, Team Members and other persons and Unions should be mindful of the Misconduct provisions in relation to any comment they do make in this respect.

(b) The hearing by the Judicial Officer may be audio or audio-visually recorded. The record of the proceedings and all papers associated with the proceedings, shall be held for a suitable period by World Rugby. Copies of the record shall be made available to the relevant parties on appeal of the decision of the Judicial Officer.

13. Appeals

For the purposes of this Clause 13, "decision" shall mean the final written decision of the Judicial Officer.

(a) A Player and/or the Player's Union may appeal from a decision of a Judicial Officer. Any appeal of such decision must be lodged with the Tournament Director (or his/her nominee, the Designated Disciplinary Official) within 24 hours of the date on which the decision of the Judicial Officer has been notified.

(b) World Rugby may appeal from a decision of a Judicial Officer. Any appeal of such decision must be lodged with the Tournament Director (or his/her nominee, the Designated Disciplinary Official) as soon as reasonably practicable but in any event no later than 24 hours following receipt by World Rugby of the decision.

(c) An appeal shall be deemed to have been lodged by the relevant party (Appellant) when the notice of appeal is received by the Tournament Director (or his/her nominee, the Designated Disciplinary Official) within the timeframes set out in Clause 13(a) or (b) together with the required deposit referred to in Clause 13(d).

(d) The notice of appeal shall be in writing and signed by the particular Appellant lodging the appeal and shall specify the:

- (i) name of the Appellant lodging the appeal;
- (ii) decision appealed against;
- (iii) date of the decision appealed against;
- (iv) date of receipt of the decision appealed against by the party appealing; and
- (v) grounds of the appeal.

Except as provided, no specific form of a notice of appeal is required.

Each notice of appeal shall be accompanied by a deposit of AUD\$500. In the event of the required deposit not being paid, the appeal shall be deemed to be abandoned, save that the Appeal Officer, in any case, shall have power to extend the time for payment of the deposit. In the event of an appeal by World Rugby no appeal deposit shall be payable.

- (e) On the lodgement of the appeal the Designated Disciplinary Official shall:
 - (i) notify the Judicial Panel Chairman and the appointed Appeal Officer;
 - (ii) notify the applicable parties in Clause 13(b) of the appeal; and
 - (iii) make available to the Appeal Officer and the Appellant(s) the full record of the proceedings before the Judicial Officer.

13.1 Appeal Officer

(a) The Appeal Officer shall determine the basis on which the appeal shall proceed. The General Procedures relating to appeal hearings contained in Appendix 1 to World Rugby Regulation 18 shall apply to any appeal.

(b) The Appellant(s) will be notified of the name of the Appeal Officer and the fact that the Player is not eligible to play the Game (or any form thereof) or be involved in any on-field Match day activities anywhere in the world pending the appeal save always where no sanction has been imposed by the Judicial Officer and/or that where a Player's suspension expires while his/her appeal is pending the Player shall be eligible to play immediately.

(c) An appeal should be heard as soon as reasonably practicable.

(d) In any appeal before an Appeal Officer:

- (i) an Appellant that is a Player may be represented by a Union representative and/or legal counsel. Any other appellant may be represented by legal counsel and/or another representative of the Appellant;
- (ii) where World Rugby appeals it shall be represented by the Designated Disciplinary Officer (and/or his/her nominee);

(e) If an Appeal Officer allows further evidence to be adduced at a hearing, there shall be no cross-examination of witnesses except to the extent allowed by the Appeal Officer.

14. Additional Provisions Relating to Hearings

(a) In all proceedings heard by Judicial Officers and/or Appeal Officers, referees and/or assistant referees may only give evidence of fact, not opinion.

(b) Judicial Officers and Appeal Officers, prior to a hearing or at any stage during a hearing, may amend the offence for which the Player has been Ordered Off or cited unless, having regard to the circumstances of the case, such amendment cannot be made without causing injustice. Where an amendment is made, in appropriate cases an adjournment may be granted.

15. Suspension

(a) Without in any way limiting the effect of Clause 10 above, a Player who is subject to an Ordering Off or citing in a Match is not entitled to play rugby union (or any form thereof) or be involved in any on-field match day activities anywhere in the world until his/her case has been resolved by a Judicial Officer and any suspension has expired.

(b) A suspended Player who elects to appeal remains suspended until his/her case has been resolved by an Appeal Officer and any suspension has expired.

16. Temporary Suspensions and Citing Commissioner Warnings

(a) Without limiting the effect of Clauses 10.2 and 10.3 of the Disciplinary Rules, for the purposes of calculating the number of Temporary Suspensions and Citing Commissioner Warnings accumulated during a Tournament, all Players will be regarded as having commenced the Tournament without any Temporary Suspensions or Citing Commissioner Warnings.

(b) During the Tournament, the referee shall report each Temporary Suspension to the Designated Disciplinary Official or his/her nominee ordinarily within 2 hours of the Match.

(c) The Designated Disciplinary Official or his/her nominee shall forward a copy of the report to the relevant parties ordinarily within 2 hours of receipt. Such report shall clearly state that the Player has the right to challenge the Temporary Suspension but if he wishes to do so he must give notice of his/her challenge to the Designated Disciplinary Official in writing, ordinarily specifying reasons, within 12 hours of receipt. Such notice shall be duly recorded by the Designated Disciplinary Official or his/her nominee and shall be considered by the Judicial Officer in the event of the Player subsequently being involved in any judicial hearing in relation to the accumulation of Temporary Suspensions.

(d) Citing Commissioner Warnings shall become part of the Player's disciplinary record. In this regard:

- (i) The Citing Commissioner is not limited in the number of Citing Commissioner Warnings he may issue to a Player for Foul Play during a Match;
- (ii) If a Player has received two Citing Commissioner Warnings or a combination of a Citing Commissioner Warning and a Temporary Suspension during a Match he shall be treated for disciplinary purposes as if he had been Ordered Off;
- (iii) If the Player concerned wishes to challenge the Citing Commissioner Warning, he shall give notice of his/her intention to challenge it within 12 hours of its notification. Such notice shall be duly recorded by the Designated Disciplinary Official and shall be considered in the event of the Player subsequently being involved in any judicial hearing in relation to the accumulation of Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings;

(e) A Player who has received three Citing Commissioner Warnings, three Temporary Suspensions and/or a combination of three Citing Commissioner Warnings and/or Temporary Suspensions in three or more Matches during the Tournament shall be required to appear before a Judicial Officer at an appointed time and place. At that time the Player will be notified as follows:

- (i) that the purpose of the hearing is to consider whether any further penalty should be imposed on him for his/her persistent offending;
- (ii) that he may be represented by his/her Union and/or by a legal representative;
- (iii) that save where the Player has given notice of his/her intention to challenge a Temporary Suspension within the time period specified in Clause 16(d) above and/or a Citing Commissioner Warning within the time period specified in Clause 16(e)(iii) above and in the absence of exceptional circumstances relating to the failure to give the prescribed notice, no evidence will be heard other than on the question of sanction;
- (iv) the identity of the Judicial Officer, as the case may be; and
- (v) that the Player shall not be permitted to play in any Match and shall be suspended from all on-field activities on Match days anywhere in the world pending the outcome of his/her case.

(f) The general procedures for hearings and appeals under these Disciplinary Rules, subject to such modifications as may be necessary, shall also apply to the hearings and appeals in relation to the accumulation of Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings.

(g) Given the numerous permutations of potential sanctions that could arise in cases involving accumulated Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings the sanctioning of the Player shall be solely within the discretion of the Judicial Officer. Sanctions guidance for such cases is set out at Appendix 4 to World Rugby Regulation 17.

17. Miscellaneous

In circumstances where an act of Foul Play and an act of Misconduct (as defined in Clause 18 below) arise in respect of the same Match for the same Player and provided it does not give rise to an injustice to the Player, for convenience both matters may be dealt with by the same Judicial Officer notwithstanding that the acts may be governed by different Clauses of these Disciplinary Rules.

18. Misconduct

(a) Adherence to the Laws of the Game, Regulations Relating to the Game, the Disciplinary Rules and the spirit of fair play is fundamental to the proper administration of the Tournament and the game of rugby union more broadly.

(b) Accordingly, Unions are responsible and accountable for the conduct of their Players, Team Members and other persons affiliated to the Union/Team. Unions, Players, Team

Members and all other persons affiliated to the Union/ Team must conduct themselves in a disciplined and sporting manner and ensure that they do not commit an act or acts or Misconduct.

(c) For the purposes of these Disciplinary Rules, "Misconduct" shall mean any conduct, behaviour, statements and/or practices on or off the playing enclosure during or in connection with the Tournament, any Match or otherwise that is unsporting and/or cheating and/or insulting and/or unruly and/or ill-disciplined and/or is in breach of Tournament rules (including for the avoidance of doubt the HIA Protocol) and/or that brings or has the potential to bring rugby union and/or any of its constituent bodies, the Pacific Games Federation, SASNOC, World Rugby and/or the Tournament and/or its appointed personnel and/or commercial partners and/or Match Officials and/or disciplinary and/or medical personnel (including without limitation Tournament doctors, Judicial Officers, Appeal Officers, members of Appeal Committees and Citing Commissioners) into disrepute. Misconduct shall only exclude Foul Play during a Match which has been the subject of consideration and a finding under the regime prescribed for Ordering Off and/or Citing in this Disciplinary Rules.

(d) While it is not possible to provide a definitive and exhaustive list of the types of conduct, behaviour, statements or practices that may amount to Misconduct under this Disciplinary Rules, the following types of conduct, behaviour, statements or practices however or wherever undertaken are examples of and constitute Misconduct:

- (i) acts of violence or intimidation within the Match Venue including (without limitation) the tunnel, changing rooms and/or warm-up areas;
- (ii) acting in an abusive, insulting, intimidating or offensive manner towards referees, assistant referees, Citing Commissioners, Judicial Officers, Appeal Officer and members of Appeal Committees or other officials or any person associated with the Pacific Games Federation, SASNOC, World Rugby, and/or Unions participating in the Match and/or the Tournament and/or spectators;
- (iii) acts or statements that are, or conduct that is, discriminatory by reason of religion, race, sex, sexual orientation, colour or national or ethnic origin;
- (iv) any breach of World Rugby Regulation 6 (Anti-Corruption and Betting) and/or equivalent rules specifically in place for the Games;
- (v) providing inaccurate and/or misleading information about the previous disciplinary record of the Player or Person in any proceedings under these Disciplinary Rules or other disciplinary proceedings and/or misleading information concerning the Player's future playing intentions;
- (vi) any breach of the World Rugby Code of Conduct as set out in World Rugby Regulation 20;
- (vii) comments and/or conduct in connection with current and/or anticipated disciplinary proceedings and/or Match officiating (or any aspect thereof), which may be prejudicial to or adversely impact such proceedings and/or

- any disciplinary personnel (including Judicial Officers, Appeal Officers, members of Appeal Committees and Citing Commissioners);
- (viii) failing to cooperate with the citing and/or judicial process in the absence of a reasonable explanation or making a citing referral frivolously or in bad faith;
 - (ix) failure or refusal by a Player, Person or Union to cooperate fully with any investigations conducted pursuant to applicable anti-corruption and betting rules (including without limitation World Rugby Regulation 6) or applicable anti-doping rules (including without limitation World Rugby Regulation 21), or in connection with any complaint or dispute which is or could be brought before a Judicial Officer, Appeal Officer and/or Appeal Committee;
 - (x) making any comments (including to the media) that attack, disparage or denigrate the Pacific Games, SASNOC and/or the Tournament (including without limitation in relation to their appointed personnel, commercial partners, facilities, accommodation, provisions and/or the host country or city generally) and/or the game of rugby union and/or any of its/their constituent bodies, World Rugby and/or its appointed personnel or commercial partners and/or Match Officials and/or disciplinary personnel (including Judicial Officers, Appeal Officers, members of Appeal Committees and Citing Commissioners) and/or Tournament medical personnel (including without limitation in relation to the HIA process);
 - (xi) failing to comply with relevant protocols and/or directions of Match Officials and/or other Tournament personnel including in respect of the technical zone and the warming-up of substitutes within the playing enclosure;
 - (xii) failing to ensure that the Concussion Protocol (recognize and remove) and/or blood pro-ocol (including as contained in the Laws of the Game and World Rugby Regulation 15 is/are fully complied with (either deliberately or recklessly);
 - (xiii) verbal and/or physical abuse and/or the use of insulting, intimidating and/or offensive language and/or behaviour towards the Match Day Doctor, Competition Medical Director, World Rugby Chief Medical Officer, match day medical team and/or any other person in connection with Concussion protocols;
 - (xiv) a deliberate attempt by any Team Member to influence any medical personnel in relation to the concussion protocols;
 - (xv) any attempt to obstruct the Concussion protocols Process and/or any failure to comply promptly with any request and/or direction made by the Medical personnel;
 - (xvi) any participation or attempted participation of any Player in a Match who has sustained a confirmed concussion and who has not fully complied with the Graduated Return to Play protocol;

- (xvii) any act and/or omission related to Concussion Process which may constitute a breach of prevailing medical and/or health professional regulations and/or similar applicable in Australia and/or in the home country of the relevant team medical staff member

Notwithstanding Clause 18(b) above, the Union, the Team Manager and head coach (and Team doctor where the relevant Team has a Team doctor at the Tournament) shall be vicariously liable for any Misconduct in breach of any of sub-clause(s) (xi) to (xvi) above by any of its/their Player, Team Member(s) and/or other person affiliated to the Union/Team.

18.1 The Role of the Designated Disciplinary Official in Misconduct Matters

The Designated Disciplinary Official or his/her nominee may undertake investigations into incidents that constitute or may be capable of constituting Misconduct in relation to the Tournament (and/or the Pacific Games more broadly) involving any Union, Player(s), Team Member(s) or other person affiliated to the Union/Team.

18.2 Initial Procedures – Misconduct

(a) Every Union, Player, Team Member or other person affiliated to the Union/ Team shall be obliged to cooperate with any investigations under these Disciplinary Rules and a failure to co-operate with such investigation may itself constitute Misconduct under these Disciplinary Rules.

(b) Subject to the provisions of this Disciplinary Rules, the Designated Disciplinary Official has sole discretion to determine whether to investigate an incident or incidents and/or to bring a Misconduct complaint against any Union, Player(s) and/or Team Member(s) and/or other person under these Disciplinary Rules and such decision in respect of both initiating an investigation and/or bringing a Misconduct complaint shall be final.

(c) If the Designated Disciplinary Official elects to bring a Misconduct complaint, then the matter shall be referred to an independent Judicial Officer for consideration.

18.3 Misconduct Complaint

(a) Any Misconduct complaint by the Designated Disciplinary Official shall be sent in writing to the Player, Team Member or person against whom the Misconduct complaint is made (either directly and/or via their Team Manager) or to the Team Manager on behalf of the Union in the case of a complaint against the Union itself. The Misconduct complaint should contain the following information:

- (i) date and place of the alleged Misconduct;
- (ii) the name of the Union, Player or Team Member or other person in respect of whom the complaint is made and his/her/their Union;
- (iii) details of the alleged Misconduct (including brief details of the relevant evidence).

(b) The subject of the Misconduct complaint shall also be notified of the date, time and place for the Judicial Officer hearing at which the Misconduct complaint will be heard.

19. Judicial Officer – Power to Regulate own Procedures

(a) The general procedures relating to hearings before Judicial Officers contained in World Rugby Regulation 20 shall apply to Misconduct matters arising under these Disciplinary Rules.

(b) The Judicial Officer shall deal with cases involving alleged Misconduct as soon as practicable and at a convenient location for the Union, Player, Team Member or person subject to the Misconduct proceedings. This location does not have to be in the country in which the alleged Misconduct took place and shall be determined by the Judicial Officer in conjunction with World Rugby and SASNOC as appropriate. Any hearing held during the Tournament shall take place on the Gold Coast

(c) The Judicial Officer may at his/her discretion impose a provisional suspension on a Player and/or Team Member and/or person subject to a Misconduct complaint pending the resolution of the case.

(d) At any hearing of a Misconduct complaint, the Designated Disciplinary Official or his/her nominee shall be in attendance to explain the basis of the Misconduct complaint and present the Misconduct complaint and he may be assisted by a legal advisor.

(e) The Designated Disciplinary Official or his/her nominee shall have the burden of proving, on the balance of probabilities that an act or acts of Misconduct have been committed. The Union, Player or Team Member or other person subject to the Misconduct complaint will be asked if it/he/she accepts that it/ he/she has committed an act or acts of Misconduct. The Judicial Officer shall determine his/her factual findings and whether he is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that an act or acts of Misconduct has been committed by the Union, Player or Team Member or other person concerned.

20. Sanctions for Misconduct

(a) If a Judicial Officer determines that an act or acts of Misconduct has been committed then he shall receive and consider representations on Sanctions. The Judicial Officer shall be entitled to impose such sanction as he thinks fit on the Union and/or Team Member and/or Player and/or other person concerned including, but not limited to, the following:

- (i) a caution, warning as to future conduct, reprimand;
- (ii) a fine and/or compensation orders;
- (iii) a suspension for a specified number of Matches (including all on-field activities) or period of time;
- (iv) expulsion from the remainder of the Tournament (including without limitation against a Union, Team, Player, Team Member or other person);

- (v) exclusion orders from Match Venues, Training Grounds and other Tournament environments;
- (vi) suspension from involvement in officiating, coaching and/or administration of the Game;
- (vii) the withdrawal of other benefits of membership of World Rugby including but not limited to the right to apply to host World Rugby Matches or International Tournaments and/or funding;
- (viii) the deduction or cancellation of points or any similar sports or Tournament-based sanction; and/or
- (ix) any combination of the above or such other sanction as may be appropriate.

When imposing a sanction for Misconduct the Judicial Officer shall describe the precise nature of any suspension and its scope and the extent of any activities restricted and/or prohibited.

(b) The decision of the Judicial Officer shall be communicated to the relevant Union, Player, Team Member or other person concerned or their representatives as soon as reasonably practicable and shall be binding on notification to the Union, Player and/or Team Member or other person concerned.

(c) Any decision of a Judicial Officer (or Appeal Officer or Appeal Committee) pursuant to these Disciplinary Rules shall be recognised and applied (including any sanctions there under) by all Unions who shall take all necessary action to render such decision effective within their jurisdiction(s).

21. Appeals In Relation To Misconduct Matters

(a) A Union, Player or Team Member or other person who is found to have committed an act or acts of Misconduct shall have the right to appeal against the finding of an offence of Misconduct and/or the sanction imposed.

(b) The following parties (Appellants) shall be entitled to appeal to an Appeal Officer (or Appeal Committee) from the decision of a Judicial Officer:

- (i) the Union, Player or Team Member or other person the subject of the Misconduct decision; and/or
- (ii) World Rugby; and/or
- (iii) SASNOC and/or the Pacific Games Federation.

(c) To be valid, any appeal against the decision of a Judicial Officer in relation to Misconduct must be lodged with a Designated Disciplinary Official or his/ her nominee in writing within 7 days of the notification of the decision to the party. For the purposes of this Disciplinary Rules, "decision" shall mean the final written decision of the Judicial Officer.

(d) Each notice of appeal shall be accompanied by a deposit of the equivalent of AUD\$500. In the event of the required deposit not being paid, the appeal shall be deemed to be abandoned, save that the Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer, in any case, shall have power to extend the time for payment of the deposit. In the event of an appeal by World Rugby, SASNOC and/or the Pacific Games Federation no appeal deposit shall be payable.

(e) The appeal shall be heard as soon as reasonably practicable. The appeal shall be dealt with in the most convenient location having regard to the Union(s), Player(s), Team Member(s), person(s) or other parties involved. This will be determined by the Appeal Officer or Appeal Committee Chairman in consultation with World Rugby.

(f) The Appeal Officer or Appeal Committee shall determine the basis on which the appeal shall proceed, including the standard of review. The general procedures relating to hearings before Appeal Committees and Appeal Officers contained in World Rugby Regulation 20 shall apply to any Misconduct matter arising under these Disciplinary Rules.

(g) In the event of an appeal against the decision of a Judicial Officer with respect to Misconduct, the sanction, if any, imposed by the Judicial Officer shall apply until the case has been dealt with by the Appeal Officer or Appeal Committee.

(h) The decision of the Appeal Officer or the majority decision of the Appeal Committee (as the case may be) shall be effective immediately on notification to the appellant and/or his/her representatives and shall be final and binding.

22. Exceptional Circumstances in relation to Players' Conduct

(a) In exceptional circumstances where the conduct of a Player(s), Team Member(s) or other person is of such a serious/gross nature that his/her or their continued involvement in the rugby union (including without limitation the Tournament) in any capacity pending the final determination of the matter by the relevant authority is deemed by World Rugby to be inappropriate and/or potentially prejudicial to the image and reputation of the sport, then World Rugby is entitled to provisionally suspend such Player(s), Team Member(s) or other person from any involvement in the sport.

(b) It is the responsibility of each Union in membership of World Rugby to ensure that in such circumstances it is able by reference to its regulations or otherwise to effect and/or recognise such provisional suspension on the Player, Team Member or other person concerned.

23. Unforeseen Circumstances

In the event that a particular incident takes place for which there is no provision in these Disciplinary Rules and/or in World Rugby Regulations 17, 18 and/or 20 or otherwise in the Regulations Relating to the Game then World Rugby may take such action or require such action to be taken as it considers appropriate in the circumstances in accordance with general principles of natural justice and fairness.

24. Technical Non-Compliance

Any procedures pursuant to disciplinary processes under these Disciplinary Rules or proceedings, findings or decisions of Judicial Officers, Appeal Officers and/or Appeal Committees shall not be quashed or invalidated by reason of any departure from these Disciplinary Rules, defect, irregularity, omission or technicality unless such departure, defect, irregularity, omission or technicality raises a material doubt as to the reliability of the findings or decisions of the Judicial Officer, Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer (as applicable) or results in a miscarriage of justice.

25. Announcements

World Rugby and/or SASNOC will, via their official platforms, announce the outcome of disciplinary hearings and decisions. Unions, Players, Team Members and other persons shall not announce, nor make any public comment in respect of, decisions before they have been announced by World Rugby and/or SASNOC.

Appendix 1

Summary of Process when a Player is Ordered Off

Referee and where applicable, assistant referee, prepare a written report of the incident. Such reports shall ordinarily be provided to a Designated Disciplinary Official as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the Match.



The Player Ordered Off will be provided with a copy of the applicable report(s) and other relevant information and notified of the date, place and time of the Judicial Officer hearing.



The Judicial Officer hearing will take place whenever practicable, within 2 hours of the Match. The Player and witnesses will attend the hearing to give evidence.



The Judicial Officer shall consider the evidence. He may decide to impose a sanction or take no further action. Judicial Officers shall apply World Rugby's recommended sanctions for Foul Play subject to relevant aggravating and/or mitigating factors.



A Player, their Union and World Rugby, may appeal against the decision of the Judicial Officer provided such appeal is competent and made within 24 hours of notification of the Judicial Officer's written decision. The appeal must state the specific grounds of appeal.



The appeal will ordinarily be heard by an Appeal Officer as soon as reasonably practicable after the appeal is lodged. If the Player was suspended by the Judicial Officer, his/her suspension remains in force for the period stipulated by the Judicial Officer and he/she will not be entitled to perform any on-field role while subject to suspension.



The Appeal Officer has the power to quash, vary or increase any decision and/or penalty appealed against and/or refund any deposit lodged on an appeal.

Appendix 2

Summary of process when a player is cited

Citing Commissioners may cite a Player for Foul Play, which in the opinion of the Citing Commissioner warranted the Player concerned being Ordered Off, notwithstanding that the act of Foul Play may have been detected by the referee and/or assistant referee.

Citing Complaints must be made by the Citing Commissioner to a Designated Disciplinary Official within 60 minutes of the completion of the Match in which the Foul Play is alleged to have occurred.

Unions are not entitled to cite Players, but they may refer acts of Foul Play through a Designated Disciplinary Official to the Citing Commissioner for consideration, provided such reference is made within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the Match. The Citing Commissioner decides whether or not to pursue a citing complaint and his decision is final.

If a citing complaint is initiated by a Citing Commissioner a copy of the complaint and other relevant information is sent to the Player and the matter will be referred to a Judicial Officer.

A Judicial Officer will hear the citing complaint as soon as reasonably practicable and will consider evidence from the Player and other relevant witnesses.

The Judicial Officer shall consider the evidence and determine whether the act(s) of Foul Play have been committed. He may decide to impose a sanction or take no further action. Judicial Officers shall apply World Rugby's recommended sanctions for Foul Play subject to relevant aggravating and/or mitigating factors.

A Player, their Union and World Rugby may appeal against the decision of the Judicial Officer provided such appeal is made to a Designated Disciplinary Official within 24 hours of notification of the Judicial Officer's written decision. The appeal must state the specific grounds of appeal.

The appeal will ordinarily be heard by an Appeal Officer as soon as reasonably practicable after the appeal is lodged. If the Player was suspended by the Judicial Officer, his/her suspension remains in force for the period stipulated by the Judicial Officer and he/she will not be entitled to perform any on-field role while subject to suspension.

The Appeal Officer has the power to quash, vary or increase any decision and/or penalty appealed against and/or refund any deposit lodged on an appeal.

Appendix 3

World Rugby Sanctions for Foul Play (Regulation 17, Appendix 1)

9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others

Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 4 weeks	Top-end: 8+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:

Biting	Low-end: 12 weeks	Mid-range: 18 weeks	Top-end: 24+ weeks	Max: 208 weeks	
Punching	Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 4 weeks	Top-end: 8+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks	A punch to the head shall result in at least a mid-range entry point sanction
Contact with Eye(s) ³	Low-end: 12 weeks	Mid-range: 18 weeks	Top-end: 24+ weeks	Max: 208 weeks	
Contact with Eye Area ⁴	Low-end: 4 weeks	Mid-range: 8 weeks	Top-end: 12+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks	
Striking with hand or arm (including stiff-arm tackle)	Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 4 weeks	Top-end: 8+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks	A strike to the head shall result in at least a mid-range entry point sanction
Striking with the elbow	Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 6 weeks	Top-end: 10+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks	A strike to the head shall result in at least a mid-range point sanction

Striking with the shoulder	Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 6 weeks	Top-end: 10+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks	A strike to the head shall result in at least a mid-range point sanction
Striking with head	Low-end: 4 weeks	Mid-range: 10 weeks	Top-end: 16+ weeks	Max: 104 weeks	
Striking with knee	Low-end: 4 weeks	Mid-range: 8 weeks	Top-end: 12+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks	A strike to the head shall result in at least a mid-range point sanction
Stamping or Trampling	Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 6 weeks	Top-end: 12+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks	Stamping/ trampling on the head shall result in a top-end entry point sanction
Tripping	Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 4 weeks	Top-end: 8+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks	
Kicking	Low-end: 4 weeks	Mid-range: 8 weeks	Top-end: 12+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks	Kicking the head shall result in a top-end entry sanction

^{3,4} The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.

Low-end: 6 weeks Mid-range: 12 weeks Top-end: 18+ weeks Max: 52 weeks

9.13 A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.

Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 6 weeks	Top-end: 10+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks	A dangerous tackle which results in a strike to the head shall result in at least a mid-range entry point sanction
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9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.

Low-end: 2 weeks Mid-range: 6 weeks Top-end: 10+ weeks Max: 52 weeks

9.15 Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball must not hold, push, charge or obstruct an opponent not in possession of the ball.

Low-end: 2 weeks Mid-range: 4 weeks Top-end: 6+ weeks Max: 52 weeks

9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.

Low-end: 2 weeks Mid-range: 6 weeks Top-end: 10+ weeks Max: 52 weeks

9.17 A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.

Low-end: 4 weeks Mid-range: 8 weeks Top-end: 12+ weeks Max: 52 weeks

9.18 A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground.

Low-end: 4 weeks Mid-range: 8 weeks Top-end: 12+ weeks Max: 52 weeks

9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.

- i. The front row of a scrum must not form at a distance from its opponents and rush against them.
- ii. A front-row player must not pull an opponent.
- iii. A front-row player must not intentionally lift an opponent off their feet or force the opponent upwards out of the scrum.
- iv. A front-row player must not intentionally collapse a scrum.

Low-end: 2 weeks Mid-range: 4 weeks Top-end: 8+ weeks Max: 52 weeks

9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul.

- i. A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without binding onto another player in the ruck or maul.
- ii. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.
- iii. A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul.

Low-end: 2 weeks Mid-range: 4 weeks Top-end: 8+ weeks Max: 52 weeks

9.25 A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.

Low-end: 2 weeks Mid-range: 6 weeks Top-end: 10+ weeks Max: 52 weeks

9.26 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to:

Hair pulling or grabbing	Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 4 weeks	Top-end: 6+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
Spitting at anyone	Low-end: 4 weeks	Mid-range: 8 weeks	Top-end: 12+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)	Low-end: 12 weeks	Mid-range: 18 weeks	Top-end: 24+ weeks	Max: 208 weeks
Other	Low-end: 4 weeks	Mid-range: 8 weeks	Top-end: 12+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks

9.27 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials.

Low-end: 24 weeks Mid-range: 48 weeks Top-end: 96+ weeks Max: Life

9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.

Low-end: 12 weeks Mid-range: 24 weeks Top-end: 48+ weeks Max: 260 weeks

9.29 A player must not make incidental physical contact with Match Officials.

Low-end: 6 weeks Mid-range: 12 weeks Top-end: 18+ weeks Max: 52 weeks

In respect of offences not referred to in Appendix 3 above, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant Judicial Officer, Disciplinary Committee, Appeal Officer and/or Appeal Committee (as the case may be).

Notwithstanding the Sanctions in Appendix 3 and/or the provisions of Regulation 17.19 in cases where the player's actions constitute mid-range or top end offending for any type of offence which had the potential to result and, in fact, did result in serious/gross consequences to the health of the victim, the Judicial Officers and/ or Disciplinary Committees may impose any period of suspension including a suspension for life

3.9.2 Team composition

A match shall be played by no more than seven players in each team on the playing area.

A team may nominate up to five replacements/substitutes.

A team may substitute or replace up to five players.

A team may substitute the same player more than once as long as no more than five substitutions are made in total.

No replacement or substitution may be made except with the permission of the referee and only during a stoppage in play.

In addition to which players may return to play when replacing:

- A player with a blood injury in accordance with Law 3.33(b)
- A player undertaking a Head Injury in accordance with Law 3.33(c)
- A player who has been injured as a result of foul play (as verified by the match officials in accordance with Law 3.33 (d))

Matches can be played with fewer than seven players in each team. When that happens, all the Laws of the Game apply except that each team must have a minimum of five players on the pitch (at least three players in the scrum at all times and a minimum of two backs).

3.9.3 The field of play (FOP)

Only players, the referee, assistant referees, in-goal judges and on field team medical staff (in order to tend to an injured player) may enter the playing area during the run of play.

Water carriers may enter field of play only following tries scored by either of the two teams or when the referee stops the clock for run-of-play during matches.

During the interval coaches, substitute players and camera crews may enter the playing area but they must leave it before resumption of play and must not do anything to delay the punctual resumption of play.

All on field team medical staff who wish to practice pitch side or enter the field of play must have completed Level 2 Immediate Care in Rugby or equivalent.

3.9.4 Tie break rules

(a) Preliminaries (pool round)

A match in the preliminaries (pool round) can end in a draw.

If at the completion of the pool round two teams are tied for any position in the pool, the team that won the match between those teams is ranked higher in the pool.

If the match between the two teams was a draw are level on match points, the following criteria is used in the following order until one of the teams can be determined as the higher ranked:

- The team which has the best difference between points scored for and points scored against in all its pool matches shall be higher ranked;
- 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;
- The team which has scored most points in all its pool matches shall be the higher ranked;
- The team which has scored the most tries in all its pool matches shall be the higher ranked; and
- If none of the above produce a result, then it is resolved with a coin toss between the team Man-agers concerned and overseen by the SCM.

If at the end of the pool stage more than two Teams are tied on points then the following process shall be used to determined the placings:

- The team which has the best difference between points scored for and points scored against in all its pool matches shall be higher ranked;
- 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;
- The team which has scored most points in all its pool matches shall be the higher ranked;
- The team which has scored the most tries in all its pool matches shall be the higher ranked: and
- If none of the above produce a result, then it is resolved with a coin toss between the Team Managers concerned. This will be overseen by the Sport Competition Manager. In-itially all three Team Managers will toss a coin until there are one heads and two tails or vice versa. The single coin shall be

deemed the higher ranked Team in the pool. The two remaining Team Managers will then toss in a traditional manner to decide who is ranked next highest in the pool.

(b) Knock-out round

For all matches in the knock-out round, if teams are tied at full time, then the winner is determined by sudden-death extra time until a winner is determined.

After a break of two minutes, during which the referee organises a coin toss with the team managers to decide which team kicks off and from which end, the extra time is played in periods of five minutes.

The team which scores first in extra time is immediately declared the winner without further play. If additional periods of extra time are required teams change ends without an interval.

3.10 Protests, Appeals and Arbitration Procedures

Relevant disputes or protests, along with applicable appeals are dealt with in accordance with Articles 28 and 30 of the PG Constitution and the rules or processes defined by World Rugby.

Sport technical disputes for the PG2019 Rugby Sevens competition are addressed in accordance with the relevant World Rugby Laws & Regulations as follows:

- World Rugby Regulation 17 and 18 (See World Rugby 'Regulations of the Game' available on the World Rugby website: worldrugby.org/regulations)
- At the discretion of World Rugby, sanctions imposed during the Games may be acknowledged by World Rugby after the Games

The integrity and disciplinary rules for PG2019 Rugby Sevens found in Section 3.9.1 Integrity and Disciplinary Rules.

4.

**COMPETITION
VENUE**

4.1. Apia Park Stadium

The Rugby 7s competition of the Samoa 2019 XVI Pacific Games will be held at Apia Park Stadium.

4.2. Travel time

Apia Park Stadium is approximately 30 minutes journey time from the Games Village.

4.3. Facilities

The venue will provide the following facilities:

- Warm-up area
- Athletes' area
- Officials area
- Competition Management Room
- Sport Information Desk

4.4. Technical Details

The field of play will contain a standard World Rugby-sized field.

4.5. Sport Information Desk

Each competition venue will have a Sport Information Desk (SID). This will be your main point of contact during your stay to provide you with additional information you may require, as well as being the main collection point of relevant competition information.

The main Sports Information Centre (SIC) will be located in the international zone at the Games Village, Faleula, Apia.

5.

TRAINING VENUE

Training for Rugby 7s will take place at the Congregational Church of Western Samoa (CCWS) Pe-sega, Samoa Rugby Union Grounds Faleata, and Wesley College Faleula.

5.1 Travel time

These venues are located approximately 25 minutes journey time from the Games Village.

5.2 Facilities

The venue will provide the following facilities:

- Toilets and changing rooms

5.3 Availability

The training venue will be available from 8 July 2019. A detailed training schedule will be drawn up for all teams.

5.4 Amendment and Booking of Training Venues

Upon arrival in Apia, each team will receive a detailed schedule of the slots they have been allocated before and during the event.

Amendments to and the booking for additional training times should be done at the SIC in the Games Village.

5.5 Media Access to Training Venues

Media will not be permitted at any XVI Pacific Games Non-Competition Training Venues.

However, nominated PGA team photographers will be permitted.

Media access at all XVI Pacific Games Competition Training Venues will be at the discretion of the Sports Competition Manager.



INFORMATION

6.1. Information before 4 July, 2019

PGAs requiring any information or clarification should contact the relevant Sports Competition Manager.

6.2. Information from 4 July, 2019

The main Sport Information Centre (SIC) is located in the Games Village at Faleula. There will also be a Sports Information Desk (SID) at each of the Competition Venues.

6.3. Sport Information Centre at the Games Village

The SIC at the Games Village will be open from 4 July, 2019. It will open from 0700hrs until 2200hrs and will provide Chef de Mission, Team Managers and Team Officials with critical information relating to specifically to training and competition for each of the 27 Sports.

Athletes will not have access to the Sports Information Centre.

The SIC will be staffed by personnel who can liaise directly with relevant Sports Competition Managers, to provide a one-stop sport, transport information and troubleshooting service to Team Officials and their technical staff.

The SIC will provide all sports information and results. Other general services offered by the information centre are:

- Distribution of technical information, such as results, start lists, competition schedules etc.
- Distribution of information regarding Technical meetings, seedings and draws, Technical Officials appointments, training sessions, transport arrangements, etc.
- Procedures for PGAs to book/amend training sessions.
- Procedure for PGAs to declare training sessions open to the media and for advising media on a daily basis of any "open" training sessions.
- Providing communication links between competition venue, Competition Management and Teams.
- Receipt and authorization of requests for Athlete Venue Meals.
- Co-ordination of sports and other information for PGAs.

6.4. Results

Results will be available for publication and online between 30 and 60 minutes after the conclusion of competition.

7.

MEDICAL

7.1. Games Polyclinic

The Village Medical Centre at the Games Village will provide primary medical care services from 4 July – 22 July, 2019 to all Athletes, Team Members and Officials.

The Games Polyclinic will be open daily between 0700hrs and 2200hrs. Emergency medical, dental and pharmacy advice and dispensing services will be provided on a 24-hour basis.

7.2. Technical Officials

Technical Officials will be able to use the facilities at the Games Polyclinic, during the stated times of operation. Technical officials can access all of the services provided, including the stated 24-hour emergency services.

7.3. Competition Venues

Medical services will be provided for athletes at each of the Competition Venues. The service will be available from one (1) hour prior to start of competition until all athletes have been treated. Where required by the sport, paramedic ambulances will also be on standby at the venue.

7.4. Training Venues

Medical services provided to the Training Venues shall be on an on-call basis. Referrals from team doctors requiring further attention can be attended to at the Polyclinic.

Where required by the sport, paramedic ambulances will also be on standby on an on-call basis.

7.5. Prosthesis Repair

Prosthesis repairs will be provided at the TTM General Hospital Medical Device Services. All requests for repairs should be through the Polyclinic.

7.6. Doping Control

The Athletes are informed that drug testing will be organised for the duration of the Games, in close collaboration with the World Anti-Doping Association, WADA.

It is the responsibility of supervisors and Athletes to refer to the list of prohibited substances and to abstain from consuming them.

This list can be downloaded from the World Anti-Doping Association website:
www.wada-ama.org

Any Athlete that tests positive to a prohibited substance will be disqualified from the Samoa 2019 XVI Pacific Games.

8.

TRANSPORT

8.1. Athletes and Team Officials

Athletes and Team Officials from each country will use dedicated private vehicles for their movement through Games locations, including the Games Village, the competition venue, the training venue and the dining halls. These vehicles will come with a dedicated driver. Each team is responsible for the driver. The vehicles will be available from the date of arrival of the team to the end of competition.

8.2. Technical Officials

Technical Officials will use a Technical Official Shuttle Service for their movement to and from their accommodation to the Competition Venues. This service will run from date of arrival through the day after competition. As different sports are accommodated at different hotels, the service will be dedicated to each group of Technical Officials. Technical Officials will use a pool vehicle service to access the dining halls on an individual technical official basis.

8.3. Competition Venues

Shuttle Bus Services to Competition Venues will cease upon completion of that venue's competition. Note the shuttle bus service does not stop at every competition venue.

Bus services to all Sporting Venues cease by 1900hrs, on 20 July, 2019.

9.

GENERAL REFERENCE INFORMATION

9.1. Technical Committee

The date, time and place of the meeting will be confirmed on 25 June, 2019 at the latest.

Role of the Technical Committee.

The Technical Committee will abide by the following rules enacted by the Pacific Games Council Charter amended on 7 June , 2018.

Protocol 15 of the Pacific Games Charter:

Organisation of the Different Sports Competition Committees.

15.1 The Council has complete control of the policy of the Games.

15.2 The OC shall set up its own sports division and also one such sports competition committee for each sport. Each National Federation of the Host PGA affiliated to the relevant International Federation whose sport is included in the programme of the Games shall appoint one of its representatives to serve on the sports competition committee. Each representative shall keep his /her governing body informed on progress made. The governing body shall maintain close liaison with the sports competition committee of its sport and be initially responsible, within the overall policy of the OC, for the arrangements of its sport.

15.3 Under the direction of the Council, the Organising Committee shall convene meetings of a PGC Technical Committee for each sport. The PGC Technical Committee will supervise and assume complete control of the technical arrangements for the sport, and ensure that the sport is conducted in accordance with the relevant International Federation's regulations unless as varied by the PGC Executive Board.

15.4 Membership of each PGC Technical Committee shall consist of two representatives from the Host country/territory, one representative from each of the other competing countries/territories and the International Federation representative (or their nominee), all with voting rights. Other members maybe co-opted, but without voting rights.

15.5 The date, time and place of the meeting of a PGC Technical Committee for each sport will be communicated to all PGAs at least one month prior to the opening of the Games. The meeting itself will be held not more than 48 hours prior to the commencement of the sport.

15.6 Each PGC Technical Committee shall elect its own Chairman and have an officer of the Council as an ex-officio member.

15.7 No PGC Technical Committee can validly meet without at least 50% of participating PGAs (excluding the Host) in that sport being present.

15.8 The PGC Technical Committee may alter the order and timing of events during and between each day of competition on the programme, but it may not alter the detailed programme and/or dates of sport competition without the approval of the PGC Executive Board.

9.2. International Rules

The events will be organised in conformity with the regulations of the international rules of Rugby.

9.3. Medals

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded in the Pacific Games Rugby 7s in accordance with the PGC Charter; Protocol 26.

- Four (4) or more contestants: Gold Silver and Bronze
- Three (3) contestants: Gold and Silver only
- Two (2) contestants: Gold only
- One (1) contestant: No Event, No Medal

9.4. Medal Ceremonies

In conformity with Protocol 23 of the Charter, the Medal Ceremonies will be held after the finals.

Each Athlete is requested to wear the official sports uniform of her/his delegation to attend the Medal Ceremony.

Athletes should attend all medal ceremonies in their official PGA team tracksuit and appropriate footwear, even where the medal ceremony is scheduled for a different day to the day of competition.

9.5. Personal Clothing and Personal Equipment

As per the Pacific Game Charter:

Regulation 17 Part II Rules Relating to Identification of Personal Clothing and Personal Equipment.

There shall be no advertising or publicity on personal equipment and competition clothing used or worn at the Games. Subject to the International Federations rules identification of the manufacturer (Name and/ or Logo) of the equipment and clothing may appear, if not marked conspicuously for advertising purpose as follows;

1. **Manufacturer's Identification:** The identification of the manufacturer shall not appear more than once per item of Clothing and equipment.
2. **Equipment:** Manufacturer's identification shall not exceed 10 percent of the surface area of the equipment that is exposed during competition and shall not be more than 60 square centimetres.

3. **Head gear (hats, helmets, sunglasses, goggles etc.) and gloves:** Any identification of the manufacturer shall not exceed 6 square centimetres.
4. **Clothing:** One identification of the manufacturer (Logo, Name or combination) may appear on each article of clothing worn by athletes, officials or judges (vest, shorts, track-suits, etc.) the maximum height of 4 centimetres. No other form advertising or sponsorship on clothing shall be permitted.
5. **Shoes:** The normal distinctive design pattern of the manufacturer is permitted. The manufacturer's name and/ or logo may also appear, up to a maximum of 6 square centimetres, either as part of the normal distinctive design pattern or independent of the normal distinctive design pattern.
6. Variation of the above rules shall be subject to approval of the Executive Board.

9.6. Eligibility

All athletes wishing to compete in the Pacific Games must comply with current requirements for representing a Country and participating in the Games according to the PGC charter: Article 26.

In the event of a challenge to a competitor's eligibility, the Executive Board shall immediately refer the challenge to the Disputes Tribunal in accordance with PGC Charter: Article 26.8.

The Tribunal's decision shall be final. No further challenges shall be considered thereafter.

Pacific Games Association delegation entries are required to be finalised, confirmed and posted on the Pacific Games Council and Organising Committee websites 20 days prior to the commencement of the Games. PGC Charter: Article 26.10.

9.7. Mixed Zone

On each competition site a zone dedicated to exchanges between the Athletes and accredited journalists will be reserved near the exit from the competition area (mixed zone). Athletes and team supervisors are requested to cooperate with the media.

9.8. Charter of the Games

The events will be organised in conformity with the Pacific Games Council Charter which should be referred to whenever technical information which does not appear in the international regulations.

The Pacific Games Council Charter can be downloaded from the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games website (www.samoa2019.ws) in the "About Us" section.

10.

MAPS AND PLANS

APIA PARK



- Toilets
- Shuttle Stop
- Security
- VIP Area
- Ticket Sales
- Food Stalls
- Anti-doping Clinic
- Fire Emergency Assembly Point

