

OFSSA RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP

The sole basis for the very existence of high school sport is the contribution it makes to the general educational experience of those students who participate.

PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. Events and/or Classifications:

There shall be two classifications of Championships - "A/AA" and "AAA" for Rugby. Associations shall classify their school teams based on the criteria found in Regulation E, Section 2(b).

2. Championship Structure and Procedure:

- a. When the Boys' Championship is a 16 team draw, it shall be a single elimination tournament with a consolation round, as outlined in the sport specific directives.
- b. When the Girls' Championship is a 16 team draw, it shall be a single elimination with a consolation round and ranking matches, as outlined in the sport specific directives.
- c. When the Boys' and/or Girls' Championship is an 18 team draw, it shall be pool structure with 3 teams in each pool, as outlined in the sport specific directives.
- d. At the completion of the game, the teams will clap each other off the playing field. Registration materials will be given to the teacher accompanying the athletes upon receipt of the required entry materials as outlined on the OFSSA Rugby website.
- e. The teacher-coach/supervisor must attend the coaches' meeting. If the coach is a non-teacher, both the teacher-supervisor and the coach must attend.

3. Entry:

- a. Entries shall be accepted from Association convenors or designates only.
- b. Entries must be received by the convenor by the deadline date as indicated in the coaches' information package on the OFSSA Rugby website. Late entries will only be accepted if they can be accommodated, and an additional entry fee will be charged.
- c. Each Association is allowed one (1) entry into each Championship.
- d. Additional entries to be determined by the OFSSA office.
- e. Each team may register a maximum of thirty-four (34) participants, which includes players and team personnel. Only registered participants may represent the school and/or attend Championship activities.

- f. Any suspension or disciplinary actions in Association play shall be carried forward into OFSAA competition. The Association convenor shall be responsible for reporting such players and the nature of the disciplinary action on the OFSAA entry form.

4. Expenses:

- a. Those schools having entries are responsible for their entry fee, arranging and financing their own travel, meals and accommodation for the event.
- b. All schools entering a Federation Championship shall, by signature of the school principal on the entry form, acknowledge responsibility for making restitution for any damage resulting from misconduct by participants.

5. Eligibility:

a. School/Team Eligibility:

To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation, a school/team must:

- i. Conduct a 'bona fide' high school program consisting of fifteen (15) practices, including eight (8) contact practices during a minimum 4-week period under the supervision of a teacher as certified by the school principal.
- ii. Participate in an Association-approved league if one is held.
- iii. Participate in the Association Championship or qualifying event. If neither is held, then the team must play six (6) games/competitions.
- iv. Use only eligible athletes in any competition during the school year or the school forfeits its right to participate in the OFSAA Rugby Championship.
- v. In accordance with Rowan's Law, have all coaches and trainers confirm in writing on the OFSAA form provided, that they have reviewed the concussion awareness resource and OFSAA concussion code of conduct within the previous twelve (12) months.

b. Individual Student Eligibility:

To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation a student **must**:

- i. Be eligible for competition under the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules (Playing Regulations) of the Association to which his school belongs.
- ii. Be certified as eligible by the Principal of the school.
- iii. In the boys' championship meet the following age requirement: the individual's birth certificate indicates that he has not reached his 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held; and must have reached his 15th birthday by January 1st the year in which the competition is held.
- iv. In the girls' championship an individual must be in Grades 9-12.
- v. Be eligible under the OFSAA Transfer Policy
- vi. Be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from date of entry into Grade 9.
- vii. Have signed the Rules of Behaviour Policy signature form for the competition.
- viii. Have executed the Federation's "Release of Liability" form.
- ix. In accordance with Rowan's Law, confirm in writing on the OFSAA form provided, that they and their parent/guardian (if student is under 18 years of age) have reviewed the concussion awareness resource and OFSAA Concussion Code of Conduct within the previous twelve (12)

months.

- x. Have participated as a member of a 'bona fide' high school program as outlined in section A, part i above and attended the majority of practices and competitions.

6. Rules and Officials:

The laws of World Rugby shall govern play at the OFSAA tournament with the following exceptions:

a. Replacement of Players:

- i. First round and championship side matches will follow the laws of World Rugby in regards to substitutions except that all 30 roster players can be substituted. Substituted players can only return for a player identified as needing blood or head injury assessment by the referee or athletic therapist or if a player is injured as a result of foul play resulting in a yellow or red card. Consolation side matches will allow unlimited rolling substitutions.
- ii. Should a player receive a red card during the games, the player will be ejected from the current game, and is no longer eligible to compete in the tournament. No replacement will be allowed for the remainder of that game during which the offense occurred. Any such instances shall be reported to the Protest Committee.
- iii. If a player receives a yellow card during the game, the temporary suspension (sin bin) shall be 5 minutes during a 40-minute game, and 7 minutes during a 50-minute game.

b. Playing Time:

- i. The OFSAA Championship shall be played under the laws of World Rugby toss and time regulations.
- ii. All games, except the championship games, will be two 20-minute halves. The consolation final, bronze medal game and gold medal game shall be two (2) 25-minute halves.
- iii. The start time of games shall be a minimum of two (2) hours from the end of their previous game.

c. Coaching Zone:

- i. Where possible, players and coaches from opposing teams shall be on opposite sides of the field, and a coach from each team is permitted to coach from the try zones. One coach must remain with the players at all times.
- ii. When teams must be on the same side of the field, players and coaches will be located between the try line and the 10m line on their respective half for the duration of the game.
- iii. When a playing enclosure exists at the field, a coach, a water person (who is not a coach ie. a substitute player) and medical personnel (if applicable) will be permitted within the playing enclosure.
- iv. One coach must remain with the team outside of the playing enclosure (when it exists), within the coaching zone, at all times.

d. Roster Limits:

- i. Each team may register a maximum tournament roster of thirty (30) players.
- ii. The game sheet provided by the convenor prior to the start of each game must identify a maximum of 30 players to compete in each game.

e. Tie-Breaking Procedures:

i. Tie Games:

1. On days when teams are scheduled to play one (1) game in a day in pool play, and in consolation final, bronze medal and gold medal games, there will be two (2) five (5) minute halves played with ten (10) a -side (five forwards and five backs) with two (2) minutes between halves. The ten (10) players must be selected from the players on the pitch at the end of the regulation time. The remaining players shall be directed to the end zone outside the dead ball line until the completion of the overtime. These players can be selected to kick at the end of the overtime period. If the teams are still tied at the end of two (2) five (5) minute halves, the game shall proceed to kicks.
2. Teams shall have a coin toss to select the right to kick or choice of end prior to the start of the overtime period, or kick.
3. Fifteen (15) aside laws shall be followed in the overtime period.
4. Kicks: Each team shall select up to three (3) players, from among the players on the field at the end of the regulation period. These players shall be organized to kick from designated spots with the wind at their backs. A best of three format shall be used. Kicks may be a drop kick or a place kick. The kicks shall be in the following sequence from the 22 m line:
 5. Midway between sidelines and 22 metre line.
 6. Left 15 metre line and 22 metre line intersection.
 7. Right 15 metre line and 22 metre line intersection.
 - If still tied after the three (3) kicks, single sudden victory kicks shall be attempted by a player from each team that was on the field at the end of the tied game. These sudden victory kicks shall be taken in the same progression and location as in (iv) above.
 - On days when teams play more than one (1) game in the day, the teams will go directly to kicks as outlined in (ii) and (iv) above to break the tie.

ii. Tie Breaking for Standings in Pool Play:

1. Tied games in pool play shall stand.
2. All pool matches carry three (3) points for a win; two (2) points for a draw; one (1) point for a loss by less than five (5) points; and zero for a loss of five points or greater. The team with the highest point total after pool play shall win the pool.
3. If two (2) teams are tied for pool standing at the end of pool play, the following tie-breaking procedures shall be used in the following order:
 - The winner of the match in which the tied teams played.
 - The team with the best defensive record (least number of points allowed in all pool games).
 - The team which scored the most tries in the head-to-head match between the two teams.
 - The team that scored the most tries in all its pool matches.
 - Total points scored by each team in all pool matches divided by the total points scored against, and the team with the higher quotient shall be the winner.
 - The team which scored the greatest number of converts on their tries.

- The team which had the least number of players ordered off the field throughout the Tournament.
 - Coin toss.
4. If three (3) teams tie in standings after pool play the following tie-breakers shall be used in the following order:
- The team allowing the fewest points during pool play.
 - The team which scored the most tries in all pool matches.
 - The total points scored by each team in all pools games shall be divided by the total points
 - scored against and the team with the highest quotient shall be the winner.
 - The team which had the least number of players ordered off the field throughout the Tournament.
 - Coin toss.

7. Uniforms and Equipment:

All requirements outlined in the OFSAA General Uniform Policy must be met both on and in the immediate vicinity of the competitive area and during the awards ceremonies. Incidents of non-compliance shall be forwarded to the Protest Committee for resolution.

Sport Specific:

- a. Players must wear full fit interior mouth guards at all times during play.
- b. Uniforms, protective equipment and appropriate footwear must conform to laws of World Rugby. Players shall wear rugby type shorts and socks and identical rugby numbered jerseys (colour and style).
- c. Teams must provide a second set of uniforms or pinnies in case of a colour conflict. A coin toss shall decide which team changes.
- d. All uniforms must be intact at the start of each game.
- e. Any braces must comply with the laws of World Rugby and must be approved by the head official at the coaches meeting prior to the start of the Championship. Players must not wear items containing buckles, clips, rings, zippers, screws, bolts, rigid material, or protection not otherwise permitted by law.

8. Awards:

- a. OFSAA gold, silver, bronze and antique bronze medallions thirty-four (34) shall be presented to the members of the top four (4) teams in each Championship.
- b. The school represented by the Championship teams shall receive an OFSAA banner to be retained by the school.

- c. The winner of the Consolation round shall receive a plaque to be retained by the school.

9. Supervision:

A teacher is defined as a member of the Ontario College of Teachers or a holder of an Ontario Teacher's Certificate or equivalent.

- a. For team sports ("A team consists of all athletes from the same school who qualify for Federation competition as a unit...", a teacher from the same school, or a retired teacher, as approved by the principal of the school, must accompany and be responsible for the team.
- b. For all sports, where the teacher, as indicated above, is not of the same sex as the athletes, and where the athletes are required or might be required to stay overnight, a supervisory adult, as approved by the principal of the school, of the same sex as the athletes, must be present and available at the accommodation site for the duration of their stay in the accommodation.

10. Deportment:

- a. Definitions:
 - i. A team is defined as, "All participants representing the same school at an OFSAA Championship event".
 - ii. A participant is defined as, "Anyone who has been granted proper authorization to enter a restricted area." "Restricted area" includes "those areas occupied by athletes and to which access by the general public is restricted or prohibited."
- b. Codes of Behaviour:
 - i. All participants are expected to abide by the, Rules of Behaviour Policy for Participants to OFSAA Championships.
 - ii. Supervising adults are responsible for the behaviour of participants for the duration of the Championships.
 - iii. Teams are open to censure for failure of its participants to abide by the Rules of Behaviour Policy.
 - iv. All coaches are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics Policy for Coaches to OFSAA Championships.
 - v. School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Recruitment Policy.
 - vi. Spectators are expected to adhere to the Code of Behaviour Policy for Spectators.
 - vii. All coaches are expected to adhere to the Return to Play Policy.
 - viii. School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Policy on dispensing drugs, medication and food supplements.
- c. No artificial noisemakers are permitted at OFSAA Championship events.

11. Social:

- a. If a special event is arranged all team members and coaches must attend.
- b. Participants are expected to wear 'dress casual' attire. No jeans, shorts, tank tops, or hats

are permitted.

- c. Should there be an instance of improper attire, the Protest Committee shall deal with the matter and forward a report to the OFSAA Sanctions Committee.

12. Medical:

- a. Qualified sports therapist(s) or other medical personnel and equipment must be available for each Championship field.
- b. Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (e.g. tape, band aids, ice packs) for their athletes.

13. Protest Committee:

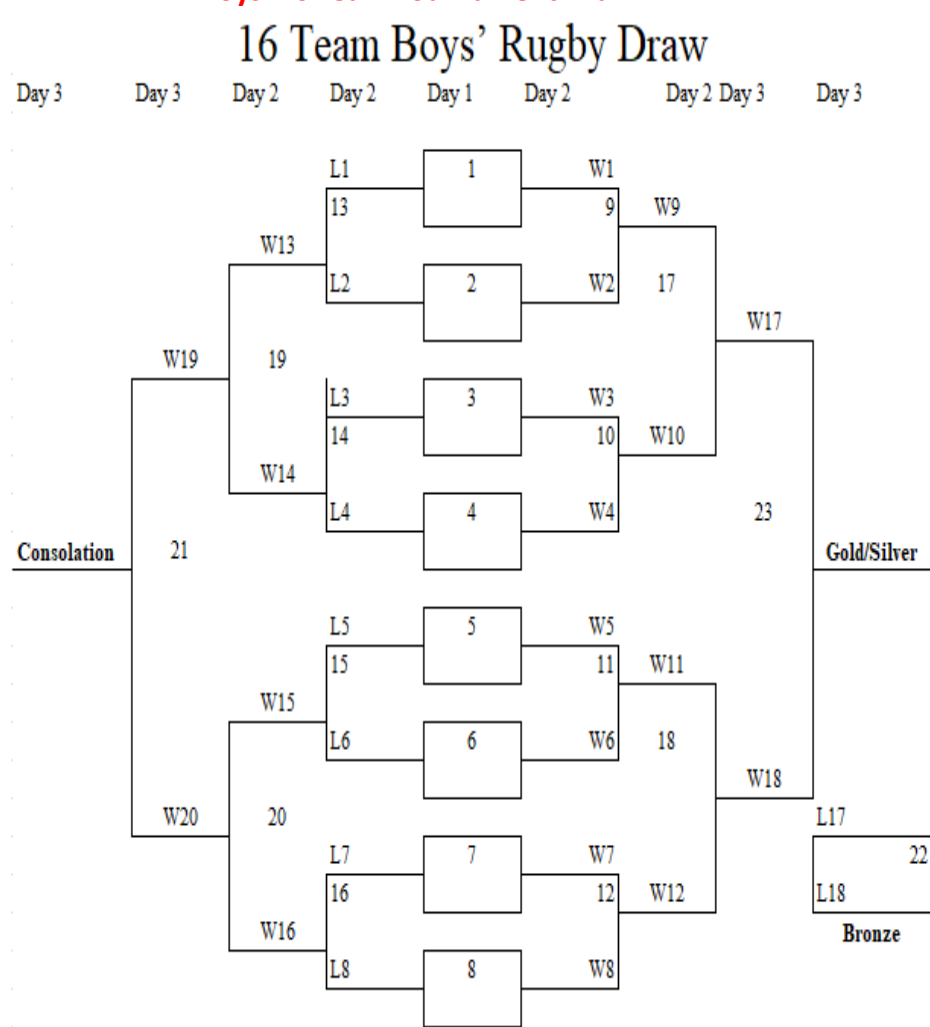
All disputes during an OFSAA Championship shall be directed to the Protest Committee for resolution.

- a. The Protest Committee shall consist of three (3) individuals; the chairperson of the Sport Advisory Committee or designate, a tournament committee member, and one other member appointed by the Championship convenor. The Head Official in some cases, may serve as a member of the Protest Committee. Members of the Protest Committee must not have any conflict of interest relevant to the incident under protest.
- b. All protests must be submitted in writing to the Championship convenor or designate, shall fully outline the incident under protest, and shall be accompanied by a \$50.00 fee. (refundable if protest is upheld)
- c. A protest must be submitted within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the game/event in which the incident under protest occurred, or within thirty minutes of the occurrence if protesting an incident outside the field of play.
- d. In the event of foul play (red card), video evidence may be submitted to the Protest Committee within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the game. Full game footage must be provided. Incidents dealt with by officials on the field may not be submitted for review.
The following areas may not be protested at a Championship:
 - i. Officials' decisions
 - ii. Eligibility of transfer students
- e. Any disputes or protests re: tournament structure and procedure must be addressed no later than the coaches' meeting.
- f. The Protest Committee shall be the body empowered to delay/modify/cancel an event due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. weather conditions) at the site(s).
- g. Decisions of the Protest Committee shall be final.

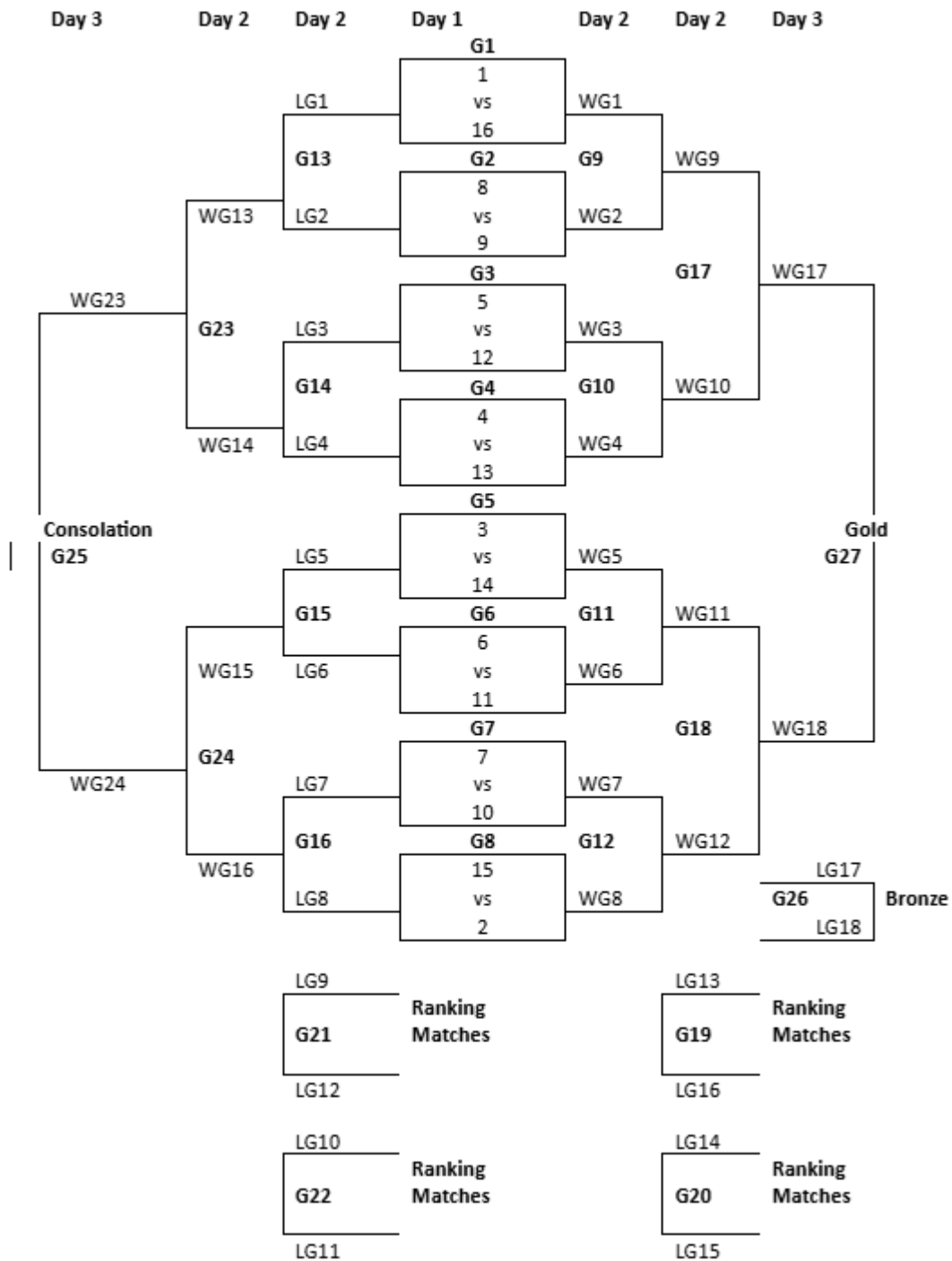
- h. A report of all appeals and decisions shall be forwarded to the OFSAA Sanctions Committee, who may determine that additional sanctions are necessary.

SPORT SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES**1. Championship Structure and Procedure:**

- a. Convenors, whenever possible, should ensure that all participating teams are rotated throughout all Championship sites during the preliminary rounds of competition.
- b. Boys' 16 Team draw will be a single elimination format with a consolation round. Each team in the Girls' 16 team draw is guaranteed 3 matches.
- c. Semi-final games shall be run concurrently whenever possible.
- d. 18 team draw shall play a round robin series with all pool games taking place on the first day of competition.
- e. To ensure a 16-team championship, extra berths will be awarded using the criteria in Regulation D, Section 10 of the OFSAA Regulations until berths are filled.
- f.

i. Boys' 16 Team Tournament Draw:

ii. Girls' 16 Team Tournament Draw:



iii. 18 Team Playoff Structure:

The first place team in each pool and the two (2) best wild cards shall advance to the quarterfinals.

Playoffs - six (6) pools

Quarter finals

- #1 A1 vs. Wild Card A]
 #2 B1 vs. Wild Card B]
 #3 C1 vs. F1] 2nd day
 #4 D1 vs. E1]

Semi finals

- #5 Winner #1 vs. #4]
 #6 Winner #2 vs. #3] 2nd day

Finals

- Bronze finals - losers #5 vs. #6]
 Gold finals - winners #5 vs. #6] 3rd day

18 Team/6 Pool Draw

A	B	C	D	E	F
1 st seed	2 nd seed	3 rd seed	4 th seed	5 th seed	6 th seed
Random	Random	Random	Random	8 th seed	7 th seed
Random	Random	Random	Random	Random	Random

2. Officials:

- Members of the championship committee and the head official will consult with each other prior to and during the championship in deciding referee selections and game assignments.
- The head official must attend the coaches' meeting, and is encouraged to hold an officials' meeting prior to the start of the first game, when possible. Otherwise the head official is responsible for communicating the information to all officials participating.
- Beyond the preliminary round on the championship side, assistant referees/linesmen (if available), shall be Level I certification and all referees shall be Level II certification for OFSAA championship games.

3. Facilities and equipment:

The Tournament Convenor shall provide match quality game balls for the Championship in the event sponsor game balls are not provided.

4. Medical:

- a. Provision shall be made by the Convenor to have a medical doctor in attendance or readily available and to follow appropriate policy on hygienic precautions with regard to bodily fluids and communicable diseases.
- b. Qualified sports therapist(s) and equipment **must be present at each** of the Championship site(s).

All Federation Championships/Festivals are non-smoking and non-vaping events.

This includes the use of all tobacco and vaping related products.

Participants must obey the Ministry of Education's Code of Conduct

September 2025