



July 4th, 2016

To: All Club Presidents and Registrars

Re: Weight/Age issue

Dear Presidents/Registrars

You will have undoubtedly seen comments in the media recently concerning the issue of introducing weight limits into junior rugby.

SJRU sent a note to all clubs to share with their players and parents about the dispensation arrangements we currently have in place and which are currently used by a number of players.

We also indicated that the ARU has convened a panel of experts to look into safety issues in junior rugby including weight/age, with the intention of developing policy in that regard.

As the largest junior rugby union body in Australia we have written to ARU CEO Bill Pulver, via NSWRU, to request involvement in the development of such a policy.

We believe that based on our player numbers, demographics and experience we are well qualified to influence this policy development so that we achieve an outcome that meets both safety concerns and is administratively workable.

What do we need your help with?

In short, the collection of the data.

You will recall that late last year we committed that no changes would be made to our competition until we had collected data and consulted with the clubs. The intention was to do that via the new MyRugby administration system to make the capture and entering of data as easy as possible. The My Rugby system has now been amended to include fields to capture players' height and weight.

We need your support in collecting this data over the next 4 weeks.

The timing is driven by the need to:

- Collect the data
- Sense check it
- Analyse it
- Be able to share it with both clubs and the ARU

SYDNEY JUNIOR RUGBY UNION

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We are hopeful that any policy developed by the ARU will be shared well in advance of the start of next year to enable clubs across the country to be sufficiently prepared to be able to implement any change, if there is any.

With the season heading towards the last couple of months, much of the work on this data collection, analysis and policy development will need to occur now.

What data do we need and for whom?

We would like to collect data for **all registered juniors in the U11, U12, U13 and U14 age groups, regardless of their age**, even if players are playing up or down in any of those age groups.

How we need the data:

- height in centimetres, to the nearest cm, ie 149cm
- weight in kilograms to one decimal place, ie 39.9kg
- weight to be measured, dressed, without shoes/boots
- parents/guardians to enter the data and then if possible, sense checked by someone at the club who knows the players

Example:

Height: 149cm

Weight: 39.9 kg

When do we need this data by?

The earlier we have this data the earlier we will be able to both share it with you and contribute to the ARU policy development.

Given the end of the season is fast approaching we would like to have this data within the next 4 weeks, that is by **Monday 8 August**.

Questions?

If you have any questions about how to enter the data into MyRugby, please contact Susan Stenning at SJRU at sstenning@nswrugby.com.au

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If you have any questions about how to collect the data or any other aspects of this request please contact John O'Farrell at john@ofarrells.org

We realise that this is a significant request of clubs and have tried to make it as simple as possible. We are grateful for your support in helping us gather as much data as we can in the time available. Our ability to influence the ARU policy development will be very much helped by your assistance.

Tony Fisher
Chairman, SJRU

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