Activity scope
This document relates to student participation in Rugby Union as a curriculum activity.

Special Considerations
• Safety rules and procedures are important because of the degree of body contact in Rugby Union.
• The nature of the activities makes it unsuitable for very young students.
• Rules for the game of Walla Rugby and other approved modified forms of the game should be used for the specific age-groups.

Minimum activity-specific qualifications for supervisors
Medium risk level (Rugby Sevens, Walla Rugby (age 6-8 years), Mini age (9-10 years), Midi age (11-12 years)
• Smart Rugby – safety course mandatory for all coaches and referees.
• For a registered teacher:
  o Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program rugby union coaching course, OR
  o Smart Rugby qualifications from Queensland Rugby, OR
  o Competence (demonstrated ability/experience) in the teaching of Rugby Union, OR
  o Coaching kids' rugby qualifications from Queensland Rugby, OR
  o Foundation course qualifications from Queensland Rugby, OR
• For a leader other than a registered teacher:
  o Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program rugby union coaching course, OR
  o Smart Rugby qualifications from Queensland Rugby.

High risk level (rugby union)
• An adult leader with:
  o Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program rugby union coaching course, OR
  o Smart Rugby qualifications from Queensland Rugby.
• Competition games must be controlled by competent coaches and officials. The minimum requirements are qualifications in Smart Rugby.
• A referee who is currently a student of a participating school should not be appointed to referee a game in which his/her school is playing, unless there is agreement by officials of both teams for that to occur.
• In competition games, where touch judges are not provided by the Referees' Association, each school should endeavour to provide a competent touch judge (such as an older student or parent).
• For further information, refer to Queensland Rugby coaching courses and accreditation.

Minimum activity-specific equipment/facilities
• Padding on goal posts.
• Corner flags and other markers made of non-injurious material.
• Minimum clearance of five metres surrounding playing area. Some suggested alternate controls where minimum boundary clearance is not met:
  o reduce the size of the playing field to achieve an adequate clearance zone
  o remove spectators/dangerous obstacles within the clearance zone
  o provide instructions to the official/supervisors and players about the limited clearance zone
  o station supervisors near any obstacles within the clearance zone.
• It is recommended that players wear a specially made and fitted mouth guard during matches and training sessions.
• Player equipment (footwear, shin pads and headgear) should comply with age standard levels appropriate to the laws of the game.
• When playing on a field, if one or more students are wearing footwear, all students should have footwear. All boots should be made of safe materials, provide protection for the feet and have non-slip soles.
• Injury management procedure (including head injuries) in place.
• Ice packs available.
• Mouthguards and other body padding (especially headgear) should be considered for full-contact games.

Activity-specific hazards/risks and suggested control measures
• Ensure there is strict adherence to modified rules of rugby union.
• The teacher should introduce the activity comprehensively and include:
  o a structured training and coaching program and selection criteria for teams (training should be specific to player position)
  o modified games that match the skill and fitness levels of students, e.g. Walla Rugby.
• Progress students through the skills and knowledge areas associated with the modified games before participating at a level governed by the full laws of the game.
• A player should not participate in an age grade competition more than two years above their age as at 1 January in the year which the competition is run. Refer to Australian Rugby Union (ARU) for exemptions.
• Select students on the basis of ability and suitability for the position/s they are to play (for example, students with long thin necks should not play in the front or second rows of the scrum).
• Students should not return to playing after injury until it is clear that the injury has been managed. If there is any doubt, the student should not play until medically cleared.
• Boots should be inspected before each match. Boots with loose, sharp-edged or excessively worn studs and sharp edged soles should not be worn.
• Guidelines/codes of practice have been established for this activity, refer to Queensland Rugby and ARU.

Useful activity-specific links
• Australian Rugby Union (ARU)  
• Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program  
• Queensland Rugby  

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