



## THE IMPORT RULE AND SYDNEY JUNIOR CLUBS.

The Import Rule (Section 3.5 2016 SJRU Rules) appears to be the cause of concern and consternation for many Clubs and especially parents.

This Rule states:

### 3.5 IMPORTS

The intention of this Import rule is to stop the formation of “super” teams and to stop teams having insufficient players to form a viable team due to players transferring to another District / Club. The SJRU would prefer the formation of Joint Venture Teams whenever possible.

- (A) Districts / Clubs shall not actively seek to entice players from another District / Club. Any District / Club or District / Club Affiliate doing so shall immediately be reported to the Competition Manager. Any District / Club that knowingly entices or allows its District / Club Affiliates to entice players from another District / Club shall be required to show cause as to why it should not be suspended from all Competitions.
- (B) For each Age Group a District / Club cannot register more than two (2) Imports from any other District / Club unless the player(s) has received a release from their previous District / Club.
- (C) The District / Club President of a District / Club may release a player to another District / Club but is under no obligation to do so. The player released under this Competition Rule is not considered to be an Import.
- (D) Any Registered Player who has left a District / Club for only one season may return to their original District / Club and will not be considered to be an Import in accordance with these Competition Rules.
- (E) **Districts / Clubs may only register a maximum of two (2) Imports who are Representative Players or Development Players in each Age Group irrespective if they have been released by their previous District / Club in accordance with Competition Rule 3.5 (C).**
- (F) A player will not be considered an Import under these Competition Rules provided that player’s ordinary place of residence during the rugby season is within the District of the District / Club he is registering with subject to the following exceptions:-
  - i. The player was registered with that District / Club in the previous year; or
  - ii. There is no Team in the District in which they are ordinarily resident in their Age Group; or
  - iii. There is an extraordinary circumstance existing in relation to the player such that SJRU deems it will allow a special dispensation to this Competition Rule; and
  - iv. Ordinarily resident includes in the case of a player enrolled in a boarding school as a boarder - the location of the school.
- (G) The Competition Manager may overturn the release of a player in accordance with Competition Rule 3.5 (C) if the release causes a breach of Competition Rule 3.5 (E).
- (H) The Competition Manager may grant a District / Club dispensation from complying with this Competition Rule in exceptional circumstances.

I would also point out to all concerned with the Pathway age groups (U10s-U12s) that there are NO Representative teams in the U10s and U11s age groups. These age groups are considered as development only!

The NSWJRU run Development tournaments for the U10s and U11s age groups in conjunction with the State Championships. The U10s is a one day event and the U11s a two day event with NO finals for either age group.



The age groups U10s-U12s are to encourage the learning of new skills, and to help players develop their skills as their physical ability develops. **The main aim behind all coaching and playing in these age groups is for the game to be safe and enjoyable for every child regardless of their ability.**

Those parents and coaches who are trying to move children into higher graded teams in the mistaken belief that the child will receive a head start into Representative rugby are very misguided. Similarly those parents moving children to “chase” a rep coach are extremely shortsighted.

Club Presidents must ensure that a holistic approach is taken to coaching in these important age groups...the experiences that children have playing with their friends in a safe and enjoyable environment will shape their future involvement in the game...Whilst winning is an important part of success, for Junior Rugby there are other factors more important: the coach/parent relationship; enjoyment; skills development and the development of life skills such as being a member of a team.

Sydney Juniors has instituted many initiatives to ensure that all players have a safe and enjoyable experience...unfortunately this is why we have had to incorporate the Import Rule and the Mercy rule.

At the present time there is a large number of young players (U10s-U12s) moving Clubs for the wrong reasons.

**I would remind Club Presidents and parents to re read Rule 3.5 particularly section E.**

Presidents have been requested to give no more releases for transfers of players in these age groups and some parents will be notified that their request to play at another Club will be refused.

Any queries concerning the Import Rule etc should be directed to [kbrady@nswrugby.com.au](mailto:kbrady@nswrugby.com.au).