

## RUGBYSMART SAFETY COURSE FOR REFEREES AND COACHES

In 2000 the NZR Board mandated that all referees and coaches of full contact tackle grade teams must attend the compulsory RugbySmart safety coaching course. Since the RugbySmart course was introduced catastrophic injuries have fallen from an average of nine per year, to two per year. This policy statement reaffirms the original NZRU Board mandate.

### Policy:

All coaches and referees of U14 level rugby and above, including assistant coaches, position specific coaches and technical assistants must attend a RugbySmart coaching course prior to the commencement of competition games each season.

For completeness, this includes all professional coaches, professional referees and representative coaches.

However, for 2025, the attendance requirement of this policy does not apply to a coach who attended a RugbySmart course in 2024 and such attendance can be demonstrated to NZR's satisfaction.

### Sanction: Coach

*Failure to attend the course, where required by this policy, will see the designated coach stood down from all coaching activity until they have completed the course.* The coach's team will be withdrawn from its relevant competition if any of its coaches fail to attend RugbySmart, where required by the policy, prior to the season commencing until such time as the requirement has been fulfilled.

### Referees

Any referee who has not completed the RugbySmart course is not to be appointed to any fixture. This requirement is to be monitored by the Provincial Union in conjunction with the Provincial Union RRA and cross referenced between registration lists and RugbySmart attendance lists.

### Social Teams

A social team with no coach must designate a player/coach who must fulfil RugbySmart requirements.

However, for 2025, the attendance requirement of this policy does not apply to a player/coach who attended a RugbySmart course in 2024 and such attendance can be demonstrated to NZR's satisfaction.

### Responsibilities:

NZR:

- Will provide the course content and materials each year including communication campaigns and related material.
- Will train Provincial Union Course presenters each year.

Provincial Unions:

- Will nominate course presenters, venues and course timings.
- Will keep accurate records of teams in competitions, coaches involved and cross reference to attendance at RugbySmart courses.

- Will remove teams from competitions should any coaching personnel, who have not attended RugbySmart as required by this policy, engage in coaching activity once the competition commences.

### Audit

NZR reserves the right to undertake spot audits of RugbySmart attendance lists and club and school team coaching lists.