



Canterbury Grade Formats 2026

(For Competitions governed by the Metropolitan committee)

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Formats Applying to all Grades

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General Format for all Grades Listed Above

All entries into grade competitions, must be in writing, and will be subject to the approval of the Metro Committee and it shall have the right to limit the numbers of teams in any grade.

1. STANDINGS

To determine the finishing order at the end of either round robin the following formula will apply:

- 1.1 Competition points – 4 for a win, 2 for a draw, 1 for a loss of 7 points or less, 1 for scoring 4 or more tries (win or loss), 0 for a loss of 8 points or more.
- 1.2 If teams are equal, standings will be on the results of the games played between the teams concerned on a mini table of competition points.
- 1.3 If teams are still equal, standings will be on the higher(est) points differential, ie: points scored for, less points scored against in the games played between the teams concerned.
- 1.4 If teams are still equal, standings will be on the higher(est) points differential, ie the average of points scored for and against in all games played in the competition.
- 1.5 If teams are still equal, the standings will be by lot (which means a draw “out of the hat”, the first drawn to be the winner, and so on).

2. SEMI FINALS (Includes Preliminary, Qualifying and Elimination Finals) – All competitions

If at the end of regular time in a semi-final the scores are tied, the following will apply to determine the winner:

- a. An extra ten minutes each way will be played,
- b. The team scoring the greatest number of tries in the match,
- c. The winner of any round robin match played between the two teams,
- d. The team having the higher points differential,
- e. The toss of a coin.

Weather Cancellation Rule

If weather causes cancellation of Semi Finals, the two top qualifying teams will contest Final.

3. FINALS – All competitions

In the event of a draw in the final and the winner is unable to be determined by playing an extra ten minutes each way, the teams will be declared joint winners.

Weather Cancellation Rule

If weather causes cancellation of Final, both teams will be declared joint winners

4. RESULTS

- 4.1 All open grade results are required to be submitted via the Canterbury Rugby Football Union App by 6.00pm on the day the match is played.
- 4.2 A late submission fine of \$20.00 applies
- 4.3 Any team wishing to protest a result of a game must do so in writing setting out the day and date of the match and the grounds for the protest accompanied by a deposit of \$200 to the Metro Committee (C/- CRFU offices) no later than 48 hours after the conclusion of the match. The committee shall meet as soon as practicable following the receipt of a protest to review and decide on the protest and may make such determination as it in its sole discretion thinks fit. In the event of any protest being dismissed as frivolous or vexatious the deposit may be forfeited. However, in such other circumstances the deposit shall be returned.

5. PLAYER MOVEMENT – MALE GRADES

- 5.1 Players may either freely move between Premier, Premier Reserve and Colts during the round robin stages of any competition; or
- 5.2 Players may move freely between Premier Reserve, Colts and Classics during the round robin stages of any competition.
- 5.3 A player may move from Classics to Premier during the season but may not play Classics again after this, only Premier, Premier Reserve or Colts.
- 5.4. In the event of having more than one team in any grade, the following rules apply:
 - a) Clubs need to rank their teams before the start of the competition
 - b) In any grade, the top ranked team is subject to 5.1, 5.2 & 5.3. All other teams in that grade have free movement up one team in the rankings. Once a player has played 3 or more games for the team above, they cannot return to the lower ranked team.
 - c) There is an option for players to be regraded if needed throughout the season.

6. GRADE & FINALS ELIGIBILITY – MALE GRADES

- 6.1 Any registered player who has played 3 games for their club during the 2025 season is eligible to play in the Premier Finals Series.

- 6.2 Clubs are entitled to include on the playing roster for any Premier finals match a maximum of two Contracted Players who are not otherwise qualified to contest the match. "Contracted Player" means a player who is contracted to play for the Canterbury Provincial Rugby team or that team's Wider Playing Group roster and who is eligible to play for a Metropolitan Rugby Club.
- 6.3 To be eligible for the finals series of Premier Reserve or Classics, players must have played 3 games for that team during the round robin.
- 6.4 Colts have free movement of players between all grades. Players who only play colts during the season, are automatically eligible for the finals series regardless of how many games they have played. Players who have played in other grades during the season need to have played 6 Colts games during the Colts round robin to be eligible for any colts games that take place following the round robin.
- 6.5 Colts players who is named for six or more Premier Matches during the season will be ineligible for Colts Finals.
- 6.6 U85kg players have free movement between all grades, players need to have played half (exact number to be confirmed once format for this grade is confirmed) the available U85kg round robin games to play in any games after the round robin, unless they only played in the U85kg grade in the current season.
- 6.7 Participation in the game means named on the teamsheet and substituted in the Match Day app.

7. GRADE & FINALS ELIGIBILITY – FEMALE PLAYERS

- 7.1 Any registered player who has played 3 games for their club during the 2025 season is eligible to play in the Premier Women's Finals Series.
- 7.2 To be eligible for the finals series of Premier Reserve Women's, players must have played 3 games for that team during the round robin and must not have started in 3 or more Premier games.
- 7.3 There is free movement between Premier and Premier Reserve Women's, until a player has started in 3 or more Premier games
- 7.4 Playing in the game means named on the teamsheet on match day and present on the sideline available to take part in the game.

8. TRANSFER OF PLAYERS BETWEEN CLUBS – Mens Premier

- 8.1 Free movement of players is permitted between club's subject to the following:

- I. A club can only accept 3 transferred players for their Premier team from another club Premier teams.
- II. The maximum number of transfers accepted from any 1 club is 2 players. Transfers from other grades are not limited.
- III. Any transferring Premier players in excess of the three are only permitted to play in Premier Reserve or below.
- IV. Clubs are required to seek clearance for transferring players across all open grades, from that player's current club within the Metro Competition prior to participating in any games.
- V. The clearance for the transfer of a player shall not be unreasonably withheld but may be refused where a player is not in good financial standing with his current Club.
- VI. If a player transfers from a Premier side and registers as a Premier Reserve player at a new club, that player cannot play Premier if the receiving club already has their quota of transfers. This stands for the full season regardless of injury to the other three transfers or Premier players.
- VII. If a club's top side is a Premier Reserve team the same rules will apply as above.
- VIII. Transfers between clubs can be made up to and including round 4 of the first round of the season.
- IX. This applies to all open grades. A player can only transfer once during the season.
- X. If a player has registered and played in a Metro Club in the current season, transfers out of Metro and then back into Metro, the season transfer rules will still apply in full.

8.2 For the purpose of transfers Premier players are players who have played in the Metropolitan Premier Grade for six or more games in the season immediately preceding the season the transfer is sought. Playing in the game means named on the teamsheet on match day and present on the sideline available to take part in the game.

8.3 Players from outside Canterbury Metropolitan clubs are not subject to the transfer rules (therefore there is no limit to the number of players who can be recruited from outside Metro).

8.4 Metro Premier Reserve players in a club that has no Premier team will be treated as Premier players as per above clauses.

- 8.5 Players who played for a Premier team the previous season that was subsequently relegated will be deemed to be Premier players at the start of the new season.
- 8.6 Players from amalgamated clubs will be deemed to be players at the level they were playing prior to amalgamation and will be treated as members of the amalgamated club.
- 8.7 A club will forfeit competition points for the game where either of the following occurs:
- The three transferred in players have not been registered with the Canterbury Metropolitan Rugby Clubs' Association at the CRFU office;
 - A transferred Premier player, other than those registered, plays in a Premier game
- I. If a player transfers from a Premier side and registers as a Premier Reserve player at a new club, that player cannot play Premier if the receiving club already has their quota of transfers. This stands for the full season regardless of injury to the other three transfers.
 - II. If a club's top side is a Premier Reserve team the same rules will apply as above.
 - III. Transfers between clubs can be made up to and including round 4 of the first round.
 - IV. Premier players are defined as players who have played in 4 or more games in the season immediately preceding the season the transfer is sought in the Premier Grade in Canterbury and who were not enrolled at a school in the previous year. Playing in the game means named on the teamsheet on match day and on the sideline available to take part in the game.

9. GAME ON – LOCAL VARIATION for all Game On grades in Senior Rugby

9.1 The team who initiates Game On, cannot earn a bonus point should they win the match.

This does not apply to Premier Reserve Women.

9.2 If a team initiates Game On due to lack of front row players, rolling substitutions are not invoked.

9.3 The only time that rolling substitutions occur is when a team has less than 15 players.

9.4 Both teams are required to use the app when submitting the score to report when Game On has been used.

Schedule 1 - Fine Tables

Results:

All open grade results are required to be submitted via Canterbury Rugby App by 6.00pm on the day the match is played.

A late submission fine of Loss of 1 Competition Point may apply

Team Sheets:

All Premier Grade team sheets are required to be submitted via the Rugby Xplorer Match Day app by 12pm the day before the match.

All remaining open grade team sheets are required to be submitted via the Rugby Xplorer Match Day app 2 hours before kick-off.

The following fines shall apply;

- Late submission of a team sheet - loss of 1 Competition Point
- Failure to submit a team sheet – loss of 1 Competition points for each instance or failure
- Submitting a false or incorrect team sheet – loss of 2 Competition Points

Unregistered/Ineligible Players:

Where a team fields a player who is Unregistered or Ineligible to play in the grade – deduction of Match points will apply for each instance. Further penalties from the Canterbury Metro Committee for continued offending may apply.

Defaults:

No points will be awarded for any round cancelled.

If a team defaults the following applies:

5 points will be awarded to the winning default team

A team default after 10.00am the day before the match – loss of 2 Competition Points

Please note: Fines and penalties may be applied at the discretion of the Metro Committee.

BASCIK TRANSPORT PREMIER WOMEN'S COMPETITION FORMAT

1. BASICK TRANSPORT PREMIER WOMEN'S COMPETITION

The teams to play in the Bascik Transport Canterbury Women's Competition in 2026 are: Lincoln University, New Brighton, HSOB, University, Linwood & Christchurch.

2. FORMAT

2.1 Game On:

Game On does not apply to this competition.

This grade will play under the World Rugby Laws of the Game 2025 (including the Global Law Trial) and the NZ Rugby Domestic Safety Law Variations (including applicable Experimental DSLV's)

These can be found via the following links:

[World Rugby](#)

[NZ Rugby DSLV's](#)

[Experimental DSLV's](#)

2.2 BASCIK TRANSPORT PREMIER WOMEN'S COMPETITION

Games will begin on 11th April 2026 and games will be played on Saturdays. There is no play on Anzac weekend (25th April), Kings Birthday (30th May) and Matariki Weekend (11th July).

Teams will play a double round robin of ten games.

No points will be awarded for any round cancelled.

If a team in Premier defaults the following applies:
5 points will be awarded to the winning default team
\$100 fine for first and second offence in one season

Bascik Transport Premier Women's Trophy

Week One Super 6 Finals Series (4th July)

BASCIK TRANSPORT Super Six Trophy Final 1 1 vs 6

BASCIK TRANSPORT Super Six Trophy Final 2 2 vs 5

BASCIK TRANSPORT Super Six Trophy Final 3 3 vs 4

Week Two - Semi Finals (18th July)

BASCIK TRANSPORT Trophy Semi Final 1 & 2: Three qualifying winners and the highest placed loser of the Super six Trophy Finals, to be determined from week one results.

Week 3 – Final (Sunday 26th July)

BASCIK TRANSPORT Trophy Final: Winners of semi-final 1 & 2 will contest for the trophy

1. BASCIK TRANSPORT PREMIER RESERVE WOMEN'S COMPETITION

The teams to play in the Bascik Transport Canterbury Women's Premier Reserve Competition in 2026 are: HSOB, University, Kaiapoi, Springston, Oxford, Woodend, Marist Albion, Prebbleton, Belfast, Ōtautahi, Burnside, Hurunui & Ashley.

Game On applies in this Grade

This grade will play under the World Rugby Laws of the Game 2025 (including the Global Law Trial) and the NZ Rugby Domestic Safety Law Variations (including applicable Experimental DSLV's)

These can be found via the following links:

[World Rugby](#)

[NZ Rugby DSLV's](#)

[Experimental DSLV's](#)

2. FORMAT

2.1 BASCIK TRANSPORT PREMIER RESERVE WOMEN

Games will begin on 11th April 2026.

The competition will be split into two pools, one to be played on Friday nights and one to be played on Saturdays.

No points will be awarded for any round cancelled.

If a team in Premier Reserve defaults the following applies:

5 points will be awarded to the winning default team

\$100 fine for first and second offence in one season

Second default may result in removal from the competition

BASCIK TRANSPORT Women's Premier Reserve (Friday)

There are 6 teams in this pool and all games to be played on Friday nights. There is no play Anzac Weekend (24th April) or Kings Birthday (29th May).

Teams will play a double round robin of 10 games

At the conclusion of the round robin, teams will play a 3-week finals series

Bascik Transport Women's Premier Reserve (Friday) Trophy

Week 1 (4th July) Super Six Finals

BASCIK TRANSPORT Super Six Trophy Final 1 1 vs 6

BASCIK TRANSPORT Super Six Trophy Final 2 2 vs 5

BASCIK TRANSPORT Super Six Trophy Final 3 3 vs 4

Week 2 – Semi Finals (11th July)

BASCIK TRANSPORT Women's Premier Reserve (Friday) Semi Finals 1 & 2: Three qualifying winners and the highest placed loser of the Super 6 Series, to be determined after week 1

Week 3 - Final (18th July)

BASCIK TRANSPORT Women's Premier Reserve (Friday) Trophy: Winners of semi-final 1 & 2 will contest in the final.

BASCIK TRANSPORT Women's Premier Reserve (Saturday)

There are seven teams in this pool and all games to be played on Saturday. There is no play on Anzac Weekend (25th April).

Teams will play a double (but incomplete) round robin of 13 games (including byes), The final round will not be able to be played due to not enough playing weeks available.

Due to there being a bye in the round and the incomplete round robin, some teams will need to be awarded points for their bye round to ensure it is fair. The following teams are; Oxford, Marist Albion, Belfast, HSOB, Burnside, Prebbleton.

These will be awarded using the following formula:

The points that each team has earned from **second round only** will be divided by the number of games played in that round, which will be 5. They will then be awarded that number onto their final points before finals are determined.

At the conclusion of the round robin, teams will play a one-week finals series

Bascik Transport Women's Premier Reserve (Saturday) Trophy

Straight Final (18th July)

BASCIK TRANSPORT Women's Premier Reserve (Saturday) Trophy: 1st v 2nd place at the conclusion of the round robin

The qualifying rules for each sub union is to be determined by their respective organizing committees. The same competition and eligibility rules for finals applies as outlined in this document.

SOUTHERN ALPS ULTRA U85KG COMPETITION FORMAT

1. SOUTHERN ALPS ULTRA U85KG COMPETITION

The teams to play in the Southern Alps Ultra U85KG Competition in 2026 are: New Brighton, University of Canterbury, Burnside, Sydenham & West Melton

2. FORMAT

2.1 Game On:

Game On applies to this competition.

This grade will play under the World Rugby Laws of the Game 2025 (including the Global Law Trial) and the NZ Rugby Domestic Safety Law Variations (including applicable Experimental DSLV's)

These can be found via the following links:

[World Rugby](#)

[NZ Rugby DSLV's](#)

[Experimental DSLV's](#)

2.3 SOUTHERN ALPS ULTRA U85KG COMPETITION

Games will begin on 2nd May 2026 and games will be played on Saturdays. There will be no play at Kings Birthday (30th May).

Teams will play a double round robin of ten games.

No points will be awarded for any round cancelled.

If a team in U85kgs defaults the following applies:

5 points will be awarded to the winning default team

\$100 fine for first and second offence in one season

SOUTHERN ALPS ULTRA U85KG TROPHY

Semi Finals (18th July)

SOUTHERN ALPS ULTRA U85KG Trophy Semi Final – 1v4

SOUTHERN ALPS ULTRA U85KG Trophy Semi Final – 2v3

Final (25th July)

SOUTHERN ALPS ULTRA U85KG Trophy: Winner of the Trophy Semi Final 1 v

Winner of the Trophy Semi Final 2

SOUTHERN ALPS ULTRA U85KG 3v4 Play-off: Loser of the Trophy Semi Final 1 v

Loser of the Trophy Semi Final 2