



Mahurangi
COLLEGE

An Introduction to Mahurangi College Rugby 2024



Welcome to Mahurangi College Rugby in 2024! We are looking forward to a great season. This booklet provides a brief introduction to rugby at Mahurangi College this year.

Secondary School Rugby Management

Secondary school rugby in North Harbour is managed by the North Harbour Rugby Union.

Mahurangi College Rugby is managed by a committee, comprising Jamie McLagan as the teacher-in-charge of rugby and other members (volunteers) with defined roles.

Each team requires a coach, assistant coach(es) and a manager to run effectively. We rely on volunteer coaches and managers from our community. We are also fortunate to have several teachers involved.

Games are played at the various college grounds throughout North Harbour, generally on a home/away basis. Our teams often play home fixtures at Warkworth Showgrounds.

North Harbour Grades

The North Harbour boys' competition runs according to the following 2023 weight/age chart:

Grade	Organisation	Year Born	Age at Jan 1st	Weight not to exceed (kg) as at 1st May
Premier Youth 17 1A 1B Open C	School	2008	15	Open
		2007	16	Open
		2006	17	Open
Youth 16	School	2009	14	Open
		2008	15	80
		2007	16	68
Youth 15	School	2010	13	Open
		2009	14	72
		2008	15	62
Youth 14	School/Club	2011	12	Open
		2010	13	63
		2009	14	55

The North Harbour girls' tackle competition in 2023 constitutes the following grades:

Grade	Organisation	Year Born	Age at Jan 1st	Weight not to exceed (kg) as at 1st May
Girls Premier School	School	2007	16	Open
		2006	17	
Girls Youth 15	School	2010	13	Open
		2009	14	
		2008	15	

The North Harbour girls' Rip competition in 2023 constitutes the following grades:

Grade	Organisation	Year Born	Age at Jan 1st	Weight not to exceed (kg) as at 1st May
Under 18 RR	School	2008	15	Open
		2007	16	
		2006	17	
Under 15's RR	School/Club	2010	12	Open
		2009	13	

Team Formation

A compulsory weigh-in is held early in term 1 (see below key dates). This is advertised in the school notices and via email. The weigh-in is used to form teams based on players' age/weight. All male players must be officially weighed by North Harbor Rugby Union.

Team formation is driven primarily by the need to make viable teams. The player's team preferences, and rugby development within the school, are also important considerations. While we aim to accommodate as many players' choices as possible, your child may not necessarily end up in their preferred team.

The grades that Mahurangi College enters within the North Harbour competition also depend on player numbers and may vary from year to year. We may not have enough players to enter a team in every grade. Composite teams may be formed with players from other schools if both schools need more players to make a viable team.

In 2024, we are aiming to form teams in the following grades:

- Senior squad: 1st XV
- Junior boys' teams: Youth 16, Youth 15 and Youth 14
- Girls' teams: Youth 17 (tbc), Youth 15, Under 15 Rip

North Harbour Rugby Competition

College rugby is competitive - scores are recorded and points are accumulated over the season to determine places for semi's/finals. Rip rugby is non-competitive.

The competition consists of 16 weeks of rugby (maximum) for boys' teams and girls' Rip, and ~12 weeks for girls' tackle. Playing formats differ by grade, depending on team entries, with some grades having seeding pools, leading to semi-finals and finals.

The North Harbour Secondary School Rugby Bylaws are published annually. These provide the competition rules. Some of the most important rules are:

- A maximum of 22 players can take the field for a boys' team. Girls' teams have a maximum of 20 players.
- Coaches will field their best team to win the game but must adhere to the New Zealand Rugby (NZR) 50% game time rule. This applies to all competitions (except 1A and 1B), ensuring that all players receive at least half a game.
- There are age and weight eligibility rules for each grade. These rules are managed carefully, and breaches may result in penalties on competition points earned for teams.

Key Dates

Feb	Senior Squad pre-season training starts 20th Feb College pre-weigh in for all boys teams at the gym 23 rd Feb Official Harbour weigh-in at lunch time (at Athletics Day)
26th Feb (tbc)	Girls' muster
6th March	Junior skills sessions for boys & girls (i.e., non 1st XV and 2nd XV)
11th Mar	All other training begins
4 May	1A and Rip rugby begin
6 May	Youth 17 girls begin
11 May	First games for other boys' teams
14th May	Youth 15 girls begin
24th August (tbc)	Finals

Training & Club Nights

Boys' teams generally train twice per week and play on Saturday mornings.

Girls' teams may train once or twice a week. Youth 17 girls play Mondays and Youth 15 girls Tuesdays after school.

Mahurangi College Rugby works as 'one-Club' with Mahurangi Rugby Club. College players are automatically Club members. The Club bar and kitchen, which provides great family meals at very reasonable prices, is open on Thursdays.

Playing Fees

The playing fee for all tackle players is \$130. Premier teams (1st XV and Youth 17 Girls) will also have a small additional fee to cover further team specific expenses. The playing fee for girls' Rip is \$90/player. Automatic payments can be set up.

Fees must be paid in full by the end of term 2. If you have any difficulty paying fees, please see a committee member as there are several options available.

Gear

All players need to play in rugby/football boots, navy school rugby shorts and navy & white socks. Training t-shirts are compulsory for Senior Squad players. A mouthguard is a necessity; no mouthguard, no play. All gear can be sized at the Gear Sales days, and either purchased then (limited supply) or through the online Paladin gear store - more details will be provided on this once available.

The team jerseys are issued to the team manager. These are handed out and collected in for each game, and professionally laundered after each use. Due to the generous sponsorship of Haydn & Rollett, all players will also be loaned a training jacket for the season. Should these not be returned, the player will be charged \$75+GST for replacement.

Mahurangi Club Hospitality

Mahurangi College continues the tradition of hosting an after-match function for visiting teams. Each Mahurangi player is asked to bring a plate to share after a home game. Obviously as our players get bigger, they and their opposition eat more, so we need to ensure that our contributions are substantial.

Communications

To keep informed during the season you can join the Facebook pages "Mahurangi College Rugby" and "Mahurangi College Senior Squad 2024" (for parents/caregivers of 1st & 2nd XV players only). During the season your team manager will contact you via email and text and may use other apps also to keep in contact. School notices are also used for communication. It is critical that families stay informed via these mechanisms.

Other College Rugby Activities

Mahurangi College has other rugby activities that occur alongside the regular season, such as:

- School exchanges – annual (Hauraki, Murray Jones, Mt Roskill, Mt Richmond, Battle of the Dome), and ad hoc tours/visits
- School trips, e.g., 1st XV 'Rugby by the Beach' tournament in Papamoa
- Representative rugby programmes, e.g., North Harbour's Emerging Player programmes.
- 7s tournaments
- Stayers versus leavers matches
- Referees' courses for NCEA credits

Further information

For further information, please contact either Teacher in Charge Jamie McLagan at j.mclagan@mahurangi.school.nz or the Mahurangi College Rugby Committee Secretary, Deborah Steel at dsdebstee@gmail.com.

Sponsors

Mahurangi College Rugby relies on the support of generous sponsors. Sponsorship opportunities exist from the very large to the very small, and all offers of involvement are gratefully received. We also hope to grow sponsors to support our 'Let them Play' fund - assisting players who find paying for fees and gear more difficult. If you would like to help, please contact evan.mcfarlane@gmail.com.

A big thank you to all our Mahurangi College Rugby Club sponsors for their support.

Haydn + Rollett

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