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## **Age Fraud Prevention & Control Policy**

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to prevent, detect, and deter age fraud in all age-grade rugby competitions conducted under the aegis of IRFU. Age fraud undermines fair play, athlete welfare, and the credibility of competitions. This policy establishes a uniform framework applicable across India to ensure integrity, transparency, and consistency in age-grade participation.

### **2. Scope & Applicability**

This policy shall apply to:

- All age-grade competitions (U15, U18, or any other notified age categories)
- All players, team officials, coaches, support staff, referees, and administrators
- All competitions organized, sanctioned, or recognized by IRFU and its Member Unions.

This policy is mandatory and binding on all stakeholders.

### **3. Definitions**




- **Age Fraud:** Any act of misrepresentation, falsification, concealment, or manipulation of a player's age or date of birth to gain eligibility in an age-grade competition.
- **Age-Grade Competition:** Any competition where eligibility is determined wholly or partly by age.
- **Player:** Any individual registered to participate in an IRFU sanctioned competition.
- **Member Union / Association:** State/UTs affiliated to IRFU.
- **Competent Authority:** IRFU Board or any committee/official authorized by it to administer this policy.

### **4. Guiding Principles**

- **Fair Play:** Equal opportunity for all eligible athletes
- **Athlete Welfare:** Protection of younger athletes from physical and psychological harm
- **Due Process:** Fair, transparent, and timely investigation and adjudication
- **Zero Tolerance:** Strict action against proven cases of age fraud

Indian Rugby Football Union

305, Floor - Basement B/2, Churchgate Chambers, Vitthaladas Thackersey Marg, New Marine Lines, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India - 400 020.

Tel: +91-22-2205 3897 • Email: info@rugbyindia.in • www.rugbyindia.in •    @RugbyIndia



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## 5. Age Eligibility Criteria

- Age eligibility for each competition shall be as notified by IRFU from time to time.
- The cut-off date for determining age shall be clearly mentioned in competition regulations.
- No relaxation, exemption, or discretion shall be permitted unless explicitly approved in writing by IRFU.

## 6. Mandatory Age Verification Documents

Each player must submit the following at the time of registration:

### 1. Primary Document (any one mandatory):

- Birth Certificate
- 10<sup>th</sup> Passing Certificate/Marksheet (as applicable)
- School leaving certificate

### 2. Secondary Document:

- Aadhaar Card

### 3. Tertiary Document:

- Undertaking from legal guardian confirming the age




IRFU reserves the right to notify additional or alternative documents.

## 7. Registration & Digital Records

- All players must be registered on the official IRFU registration platform, data as available on the IRFU online registration will be considered full & final. Any past data will not be considered for all future competitions.
- Date of birth once registered and verified it shall be considered final.
- All participating teams at competition are required to complete registration of teams one week before the competition giving IRFU sufficient time to review the data. Failing to meet this criterion will lead to financial or participatory sanctions against the participating state.
- All members to sign an undertaking that the team list submitted by them confirm with the age criteria for the competition.

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## 8. Responsibility & Accountability

- **Players & Parents/Guardians:** Primary responsibility for providing correct age details.
- **Member Unions / Teams:** Responsible for preliminary verification before nomination.
- **Coaches & Team Officials:** Duty to ensure compliance and report suspected cases
- **IRFU:** Oversight, random checks, investigations, and enforcement

Failure to exercise due diligence may invite sanctions.

## 9. Reporting of Suspected Age Fraud

- Any stakeholder may report suspected age fraud in writing only to the disciplinary committee appointed for the competition.
- Complaints must be supported by prima facie evidence.

## 10. Investigation Procedure

- Preliminary scrutiny of documents
- Temporary suspension of the player (if deemed necessary)
- Detailed investigation by a designated committee
- A notarized affidavit signed by parent/guardian confirming the correctness of the date of birth
- Opportunity of hearing to the player and concerned officials
- Reasoned written decision

Investigations shall be completed within a reasonable timeframe.

## 11. Sanctions & Penalties

If age fraud is established, one or more of the following penalties may be imposed:

### On Players:

- Immediate disqualification from the competition
- Ban from all IRFU competitions for 2–4 years (or as specified)
- Annulment of results and forfeiture of medals/titles

### On Teams / Member Unions:

- Forfeiture of matches
- Deduction of points

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- Monetary fine
- Suspension from future competitions

#### **On Officials / Coaches:**

- Suspension or de-registration
- Monetary penalties

#### **12. Appeals**

- An appeal against a decision may be filed within 7 days of communication of the order.
- Appeals shall lie with an Appellate Authority constituted by IRFU.
- The decision of the Appellate Authority shall be final and binding.

#### **13. Education & Awareness**

IRFU shall:

- Conduct awareness programs for players, parents, and officials
- Issue guidelines and advisories on age eligibility and compliance
- Promote ethical conduct and long-term athlete development

#### **14. Confidentiality**

All proceedings and personal data shall be handled in accordance with applicable data protection laws and kept strictly confidential.

#### **15. Review & Amendment**




- This policy shall be reviewed periodically.
- IRFU Football Union reserves the right to amend this policy at any time.
- Amendments shall come into force from the date notified.

#### **16. Effective Date**

This policy shall come into effect from the date of approval by the IRFU board and shall supersede all previous guidelines on age verification.

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