

SMALL BLACKS DEVELOPMENT MODEL

THE WAY TO PLAY

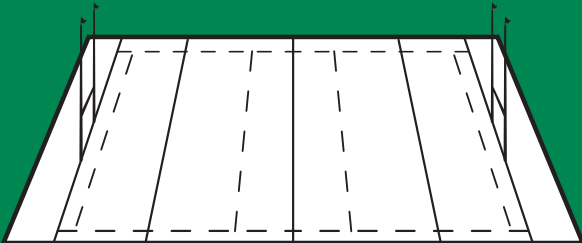
Rugby is a dynamic and exciting sport that is a whole lot of fun, and helps develop friendships that can last a lifetime. Small Blacks Rugby has been designed to help players develop their rugby skills as their physical ability develops, making the game as simple and safe as possible for all Kiwi kids, regardless of their age, shape or size. The Small Blacks Development Model has been developed to ensure that there is a consistency of play, coaching and player welfare at all levels throughout the country, and is a great way of getting kids involved in a team sport.

DIFFERENT AGES, DIFFERENT STAGES

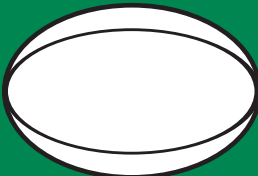
This poster clearly explains the Small Blacks Development model for coaches, parents and Small Blacks players. It contains easy to follow guidelines on how the game is to be played at each age. The Model has been designed to ensure that all kids who graduate from the Small Blacks programme have the best possible skill set to take them through their rugby career.

FIELD SIZE

U6/U7 YEAR 1 & 2	Goal to 10m (across the field). Portable goalposts recommended. Full size posts on sideline need bolsters.
U8 YEAR 3	
U9/U10 YEAR 4 & 5	
U11 YEAR 6	15s must be full field.
U12/U13 YEAR 7 & 8	

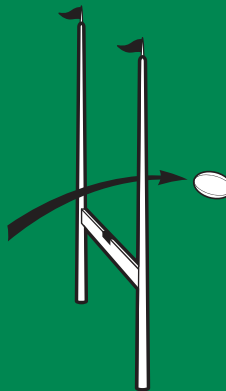


BALL SIZE



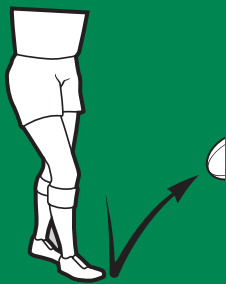
U6/U7 YEAR 1 & 2	Size 2.5 or 3 balls.
U8 YEAR 3	Size 3
U9/U10 YEAR 4 & 5	
U11 YEAR 6	Size 4
U12/U13 YEAR 7 & 8	

CONVERSION



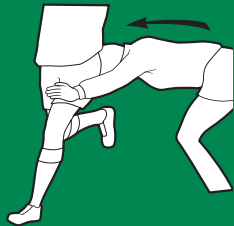
U6/U7 YEAR 1 & 2	No conversions.
U8 YEAR 3	Conversion taken from in front of posts either drop goal or punt. Points don't count.
U9/U10 YEAR 4 & 5	
U11 YEAR 6	Conversions not to be taken further out than the 15m line.
U12/U13 YEAR 7 & 8	

KICK-OFF



U6/U7 YEAR 1 & 2	Free pass.
U8 YEAR 3	Tap and pass. Kick-offs to be rotated through all players.
U9/U10 YEAR 4 & 5	Punt or drop kick by scoring side. Kick offs to be rotated through all players.
U11 YEAR 6	Normal
U12/U13 YEAR 7 & 8	

TACKLE



U6/U7 YEAR 1 & 2	(RIP) When 'rip' is made, player passes the ball.
U8 YEAR 3	Two 'tackle box' sessions must be carried out by all U8 coaches before the season kicks off. No fending.
U9/U10 YEAR 4 & 5	Tackle must be below the nipple. No fending to the head, face or neck regions.
U11 YEAR 6	
U12/U13 YEAR 7 & 8	

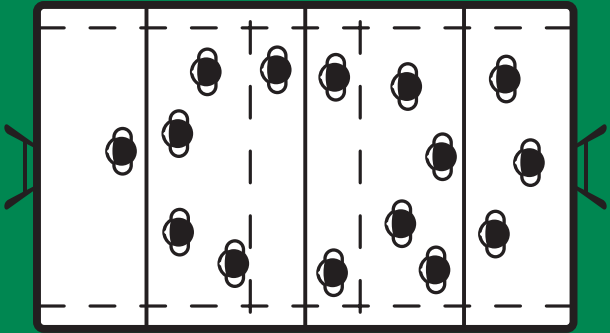
GAME LENGTH



U6/U7 YEAR 1 & 2	2 x 20 minutes maximum.
U8 YEAR 3	2 x 25 minutes maximum.
U9/U10 YEAR 4 & 5	
U11 YEAR 6	
U12/U13 YEAR 7 & 8	2 x 30 minutes maximum.

NUMBERS PER TEAM

U6/U7 YEAR 1 & 2	7-a-side. Numbers are maximum. If a team doesn't have enough players to start a game, they lose the game, but a game should then be played with equal numbers.
U8 YEAR 3	10-a-side. Numbers are maximum. If a team doesn't have enough players to start a game, they lose the game, but a game should then be played with equal numbers.
U9/U10 YEAR 4 & 5	
U11 YEAR 6	15-a-side. Numbers are maximum. If a team doesn't have enough players to start a game, they lose the game, but a game should then be played with equal numbers.
U12/U13 YEAR 7 & 8	

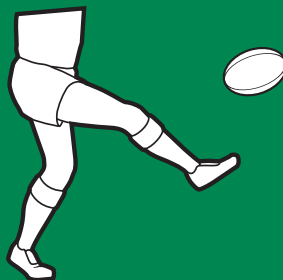


LINEOUT

U6/U7 YEAR 1 & 2	None
U8 YEAR 3	Always 5 in lineout. Lineouts not to be contested. There is to be no lineout lifting at any level.
U9/U10 YEAR 4 & 5	
U11 YEAR 6	Always 8 in lineout. Lineouts can be contested. There is no lineout lifting at any level.
U12/U13 YEAR 7 & 8	



KICKING



U6/U7 YEAR 1 & 2	No kicking in general play.
U8 YEAR 3	Encourage running and passing.
U9/U10 YEAR 4 & 5	
U11 YEAR 6	Yes
U12/U13 YEAR 7 & 8	

SUBS



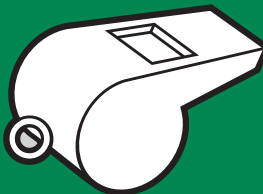
U6/U7 YEAR 1 & 2	All players must play a minimum of half a game (this is to include at least two full quarters). Rolling substitutions are not permitted. Substitutions may be made at half time or approximately half way through each half when the referee will allow and signal a Substitution Break. This applies to representative games.
U8 YEAR 3	
U9/U10 YEAR 4 & 5	
U11 YEAR 6	
U12/U13 YEAR 7 & 8	

TRY



U6/U7 YEAR 1 & 2	If score blow-outs are occurring (ie 35+ at halftime), both coaches MUST meet and come to an agreement as to how they can generate a more even contest. Try = 5 pts.
U8 YEAR 3	
U9/U10 YEAR 4 & 5	
U11 YEAR 6	
U12/U13 YEAR 7 & 8	

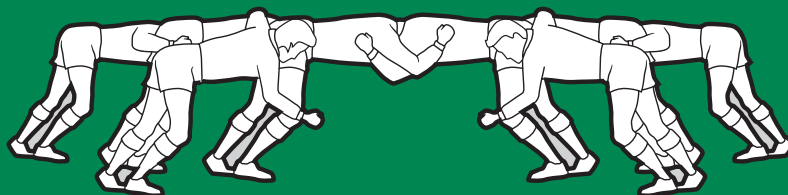
REFeree



U6/U7 YEAR 1 & 2	Beginning coach.
U8 YEAR 3	If no Learning Rugby referee, no tackling.
U9/U10 YEAR 4 & 5	
U11 YEAR 6	If no Playing Rugby referee, no tackling.
U12/U13 YEAR 7 & 8	

SCRUMS

U6/U7 YEAR 1 & 2	None
U8 YEAR 3	Always 5 in scrum. No contest and no pushing.
U9/U10 YEAR 4 & 5	
U11 YEAR 6	Always 8 in scrum. No contest and no pushing.
U12/U13 YEAR 7 & 8	



PENALTY



U6/U7 YEAR 1 & 2	Tap and pass.
U8 YEAR 3	
U9/U10 YEAR 4 & 5	
U11 YEAR 6	Normal
U12/U13 YEAR 7 & 8	

APPLAUD



BY COMMITTING TO APPLAUD; ALL PARENTS, CARE-GIVERS AND SUPPORTERS IN NEW ZEALAND ARE CREATING A GREAT PLACE FOR RUGBY.

FIND OUT MORE BY GOING TO [SMALLBLACKS.COM](https://smallblacks.com)

