



TE PUKE HIGH SCHOOL

Rugby Code Handbook

GUIDING EXCELLENCE, SPORTSMANSHIP & COMMUNITY PATHWAYS • PLUS ULTRA

WELCOME, PURPOSE & GUIDING VALUES

At Te Puke High School (TPHS), sport is an integral vehicle for developing our rangatahi (youth) holistically. We hold a proud history of regional, national, and international sporting achievement. Whether playing competitively or socially, all student-athletes, coaches, and parents are guided by our school's core values and Sport New Zealand's **Balance is Better** philosophy, which emphasises multi-sport participation and delaying early specialisation.

- **Respect (Whakawhanaungatanga):** Showing honour to opponents, officials, rules, and spectators on and off the field.
- **Responsibility (Takohanga):** Demonstrating self-management, punctuality, high attendance, and personal accountability.
- **Relationships (Whanaungatanga):** Fostering positive connections between staff, student-athletes, coaches, and whānau.
- **Resilience (Manawaroa):** Building mental toughness, physical conditioning, perseverance, and strong sportsmanship.
- **Realising Potential (Whakapakari):** Striving for continuous skill development, personal excellence, and growth (*Plus Ultra*).

KEY PERSONNEL & CONTACT DETAILS

TEACHER IN CHARGE (TIC) & DIRECTOR OF SPORT

Martin Ash NZRU Level 3

martin.ash@tepuke.school.nz

SPORTS COORDINATOR

Ben Hopkins

ben.hopkins@tepuke.school.nz

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / LITT FUND

Jocelyn Reardon

jocelyn.reardon@tepuke.school.nz

PROGRAMME TECHNICAL OVERSIGHT

Martin Ash

Leading S&C and skill development

RESULTS-DRIVEN & COMPETITION GOALS

- **BOPSS Division 1 & Regional Titles:** Drive premier squads (1st XV Boys, Senior & Junior Girls) toward podium finishes and championship titles in Bay of Plenty Secondary Schools (BOPSS) Division 1 and BOP 10s competitions.
- **National & Tournament Qualification:** Earn permanent qualification and high-ranking standings in regional and national pinnacle tournaments, including the BOPSS Sevens and Condor Rugby Sevens.

PROGRAMME PATHWAYS & DEVELOPMENT

TPHS provides clear development pathways for rugby players ranging from junior social participation to elite regional pathways, aligning with feeder schools and community clubs.

TIER / COMPETITION	SCOPE & TARGET COMPETITIONS	FOCUS & EXPECTATIONS
1st XV (Boys)	BOPSS Division 1	High performance, tactical mastery, fitness, merit-based selection, and a results-driven focus.
Senior Girls	BOP 10s & Regional Competitions	High performance, physical conditioning, squad growth, winning regional competitions.
Junior Girls	BOP Division 1 Competition	High performance, physical conditioning, squad growth, winning regional competitions.
U16 & U14 Boys	BOPSS Regional Competitions	Core skill acquisition, tactical awareness, strength & conditioning, and player retention.

TIER / COMPETITION	SCOPE & TARGET COMPETITIONS	FOCUS & EXPECTATIONS
Sevens (Jr & Sr)	BOPSS Sevens & Condor Sevens	Fast-paced skill progression, agility, speed development, and regional representation.
Feeder Pathway	Te Puke Intermediate (TPI) Integration	S&C at SUB10 Gym, Term 4 joint sevens trainings, smooth transition into TPHS rugby.

Year 9 & Junior Athlete Development Pathway

Supported by SUB10 Fitness & Recovery, Mitre 10 Mega Te Puke, and Deacon Construction

- **Schedule:** Weekly off-site sessions held Wednesdays, 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM, at SUB10 Fitness & Recovery.
- **Focus & Monitoring:** Movement mechanics, safe lifting techniques, injury prevention, S&C, and year-long athletic tracking.

TALENT PIPELINE & TPI ACADEMY INTEGRATION

Connecting directly with Te Puke Intermediate (TPI) Rugby Academy to secure local talent:

- **Late Term 3:** Host TPI Rugby Academy students (boys & girls) at SUB10 Fitness to showcase TPHS pathways.
- **Term 4:** Run combined/opposing Sevens system trainings against TPI Rugby Academy to align tactical terminology.

TOURNAMENT PATHWAYS & TRADITIONAL FIXTURES

- **Term 4 Sevens:** Permanent entry of junior boys' and girls' teams into BOP & Condor Rugby Sevens.
- **Annual Tours:** Establishing recurring interprovincial and overseas traditional fixtures for cultural and athletic growth.

CODES OF CONDUCT & EXPECTATIONS

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

- **Academic & Behavioural Eligibility:** Players must maintain an 80% minimum school attendance record and exhibit positive classroom behaviour to remain eligible.
- **Commitment:** Attend all scheduled trainings and matches. Communicate any unavoidable absences to coaches well in advance.
- **Substance Policy:** Strict adherence to TPHS rules regarding alcohol, vaping, and banned substances at all times.
- **Fair Play:** Show respect to all officials and opponents. Swearing, foul language, or abuse towards teammates, opponents, or referees will not be tolerated.

SPECTATOR & WHĀNAU CODE OF CONDUCT

- **Positive Sideline Culture:** Cheer positively; remember that school sport is played for the enjoyment and development of the students.
- **Respect Officials:** Never argue with, harass, or verbally abuse referees, touch judges, or coaches.
- **Zero Tolerance:** Physical or severe verbal altercations will result in immediate removal from the grounds and a ban from future matches.

TEAM SELECTION & TRIALS

TRIAL PROCEDURES & TRANSPARENCY

1. **Notice:** Trial dates, expectations, and criteria are publicly announced at least 2 weeks prior.
2. **Multiple Windows:** Players participate in a minimum of two trial sessions.
3. **Assessment Panel:** Evaluations are conducted by the Head Coach, TIC, and independent evaluators to eliminate bias.
4. **Sign-Off:** Premier rosters are strictly provisional until reviewed and signed off by both the TIC and Director of Sport.

SELECTION PROTOCOLS & RULES

- **1st XV Roster:** Selected pre-season. Junior students may trial; if a junior and senior player demonstrate equal skill and capability, preference and selection will be awarded to the senior student.

- **Game Time Equity:** For all non-Premier/1st Teams, coaches are mandated to give every player a minimum of half a game per fixture.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Selectors or coaches with family ties (e.g., parents or relatives) to a trialist must declare the relationship and recuse themselves from scoring that athlete. Independent selectors will score the athlete, and any tie-breakers rest solely with the TIC and Director of Sport.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

TPHS enforces a strict, staged procedure for addressing team selection enquiries or sideline complaints:

- 1 **Stage 1 – The 24-Hour Rule:** Parents, carers, and students must wait 24 hours after team announcements or match completions before lodging a complaint or requesting feedback. Immediate sideline or post-trial confrontations are strictly prohibited.
- 2 **Stage 2 – Informal Resolution (TIC Level):** The student or parent contacts TIC Martin Ash via email. The TIC will consult with the coaching staff and arrange a meeting to provide constructive feedback and developmental steps.
- 3 **Stage 3 – Formal Complaint (Director of Sport):** If procedural unfairness or code of conduct breaches persist, a written complaint must be submitted to Director of Sport Martin Ash. The Director will review scoring rubrics, interview independent selectors, and provide a formal written resolution within 5 school days.

LOGISTICS, UNIFORMS & HEALTH SERVICES

- **Fees & Payment:** Fees vary based on venue, transport, and tournament entries and must be paid prior to season start.

Account: **12-3217-0084683-02** | Reference: **[Student Name/ID & Rugby]**

- **Financial Aid:** Confidential financial assistance is available via the A. Lionel Litt Memorial Education Fund by contacting jocelyn.reardon@tepuke.school.nz.
- **Playing Uniforms:** Official playing gear is provided by the TIC and dry-cleaned post-match. Custom team gear (hoodies, bags) must go through Legend Sportswear via the Sports Department — unauthorized use of school logos is prohibited.
- **Physiotherapy & Health:** Free on-site ACC physiotherapy operated by Boutique Physiotherapy is available Mondays and Fridays (8:00 AM – 12:00 PM). Parent consent forms and injury registration forms must be submitted at school reception.
- **Safety & Police Vetting:** All adult volunteers, managers, and coaches involved in regular duties or overnight trips must complete a police background check per TPHS & NZRU policies.