

# Competition Rules of the Alpe Adria Rugby Competition

## Season 24/25

Version 27.09.2024



## Introduction

The league operates under the Austrian Rugby Federation (ÖRV), acting largely independently while utilizing resources provided by the ÖRV. Should these resources be unsuitable or unavailable, the league will provide appropriate tools in consultation with the ÖRV.

The league aims to ensure consistency and planning for all participating teams. It promotes mutual understanding, cooperation, and coordination among teams. Disputes are resolved by the league committee, in which all participating teams are represented.

The goal of the league is to provide existing and potential new clubs/teams with a stable platform to establish a structured and reliable competition, thus promoting the overall development of rugby.

The relaxed regulations are intended to ensure all clubs can participate in the league. However, if these relaxed rules are misused in a way that violates fairness and good sportsmanship, the league committee reserves the right to tighten the rules.

In case of discrepancies due to translations into other languages, the German version is considered binding.

## Season

The season runs from mid-September to the end of November and resumes in the spring from mid-March to the end of June.

## Eligibility

All rugby clubs in Austria are eligible to participate. They may send one or more teams or combined teams consisting of several clubs.

The inclusion of foreign teams is decided by the representatives of the Austrian teams in the league committee and the league chairperson.

## League Committee

The league committee consists of one representative per team and the league chairperson. Each team appoints a permanent representative for the season. Voting rights may be transferred in writing to a substitute.

The league chairperson is elected by the representatives of the Austrian teams.

The league committee decides in all disputes and uncertainties by a simple majority vote. The representatives and the league chairperson have voting rights.

League committee meetings are scheduled at short notice with the topic specified. The chairperson presents the different viewpoints of the parties involved and then quickly proceeds to a vote to reach a decision.

Votes should be conducted as quickly and transparently as possible using digital media (e.g., WhatsApp group, online meetings), with the goal of maintaining a functioning league.

## League Fee

Each participating team must pay a fee of €400 before the start of the season. This fee consists of a €200 administrative fee and a €200 deposit for possible penalties. The deposit is refunded at the end of the season, minus any penalties incurred.

Penalties can exceed the deposit amount.

## Player Eligibility

All registered players aged 17 and older are eligible to play. Individual U18 players may be granted permission to play in the senior category according to ÖRV rules.

(There is no entitlement to receive such permission, and priority is given to players whose participation is in the interest of Austrian rugby. The prerequisite for granting permission to play in the senior category is the complete submission of U18 forms: from the doctor, parents, player, and coach. The ÖRV reserves the right to request additional documents.)

Before the start of the season, players must be registered with a team. Switching teams during the season is not allowed unless otherwise specified by the league committee. Registration is conducted informally via a digital player list submitted to the league chairperson.

Players who have never before played for an Austrian senior team may be registered during the season. This rule also applies to foreign teams.

## Game Format

The league should be played in the 15s format whenever possible. If a team does not have enough players on match day, the format may be adjusted as follows:

15s: 8 forwards, 7 backs, min. 3 substitutes, 2x 40 min

14s: 7 forwards, 7 backs, min. 3 substitutes, 2x 40 min

13s: 7 forwards, 6 backs, min. 3 substitutes, 2x 35 min

12s: 6 forwards, 6 backs, min. 2 substitutes, 4x 20 min

11s: 6 forwards, 5 backs, min. 2 substitutes, 4x 15 min

10s: 5 forwards, 5 backs, min. 2 substitutes, 4x 15 min

These rules can be modified on match day by mutual agreement between the team captains and the head referee. Changes must be recorded in writing before the start of the game. Teams are responsible for coordinating the game format in advance. The final decision on the game format is made at the captains' meeting before the game. If no agreement is reached, the head referee has the authority to make the final decision.

The maximum number of substitutes allowed in all formats is 8, according to 15s rugby rules. Rolling substitutions are allowed but must be reported to the referee and can only take place during a stoppage.

## Scoring/Standings

Win:	4 points
Draw:	2 points
Loss:	0 points

Bonus points:

For scoring 4 or more tries:	+1 point
For a loss by no more than 7 points:	+1 point

If a team does not show up or has too few players, the game will be scored 0:100 with 0 points. The opposing team receives 4 points for the win and +1 bonus point.

Standings are based on points earned. In the event of a tie, the ranking is determined as follows:

- 1) Head-to-head results (first wins, then point difference)
- 2) Better point differential in all games.
- 3) Higher number of tries scored in all matches
- 4) Drawing lots

## Bad Weather/Cancellation

If a game cannot be played due to bad weather or another valid reason, the following rules apply in this order:

- 1) The opponent must be informed at least 24 hours before the scheduled game.
- 2) The opponent can host the game (home advantage goes to the opponent).
- 3) The game is played at a neutral location.
- 4) The game is rescheduled for the next available date.

If the game cannot be played even on the rescheduled date due to bad weather, it is recorded as 30:30 in the standings.

## Referees/Touch Judges

Referees are appointed by the ÖRV referee department. Foreign teams are responsible for appointing referees for their home games. The second league particularly promotes youth and trainee referees. Both the home and away teams must provide a qualified touch judge on match day.

## Administration

Within one hour of the end of the game, the result must be announced in the league WhatsApp group. The provided forms for the team list and match report must be submitted to the email address specified on the form.

## Penalties

If a team fails to show up for a game through its own fault, a penalty of €100 must be paid. For each additional missed game, the penalty doubles, up to a maximum of €400 per missed game.

## Competition Format

The second Austrian rugby league for the 24/25 season is divided into two groups:

### **Division North**

Wombats RC Wiener Neustadt (AT)

Celtic Flying Wanderers (AT)

Rugby Wachau/Linz (AT)

Rugby Club Slovan United (SK)

Piestany Rugby Union Club (SK)

Stade Rugby Club Wien (AT)

### **Division South**

Rugby-Club Anexia-Tigers Klagenfurt (AT)

Rugby Klub Rijeka (HR)

Rugby atletski Klub Olimpija (SLO)

Novi Zagreb Rugby (HR)

Rugby club Lokomotiva Zagreb (HR)

After a preliminary round in the autumn (one leg, home advantage decided by the league chairperson), two more rounds are played in the spring as follows:

### **Round 1:**

Match A (1st-4th place): 1st place North vs. 2nd place South

Match B (1st-4th place): 2nd place North vs. 1st place South

Match C (5th-8th place): 3rd place North vs. 4th place South

Match D (5th-8th place): 4th place North vs. 3rd place South

Match E (9th-11th place): 5th place North vs. 5th place South

### **Round 2:**

Match F (1st-2nd place): Winner of Match A vs. Winner of Match B

Match G (3rd-4th place): Loser of Match A vs. Loser of Match B

Match H (5th-6th place): Winner of Match C vs. Winner of Match D

Match I (7th-8th place): Loser of Match C vs. Loser of Match D

Match J (9th-11th place): 6th place North vs. 5th place South

Match K (9th-11th place): 5th place North vs. 6th place North

Home advantage goes to the higher-placed team. If no higher-placed team can be determined, the draw decides.

## Match Days

The league, in consultation with the ÖRV, the referee committee, and other leagues, sets the match weekends. The teams involved can freely arrange the match date for that weekend. A fixed date is provided for reporting the match date to the league. If no agreement is reached, the match will take place on Saturday at 2:00 p.m.