



MEMO

Date: December 9, 2009
To: ASAA Member Schools and Zones
cc: Rugby Alberta
Alberta Junior Rugby Association (AJRA)
ASAA Rugby Commissioners Pat Forsyth and Craig Patton
From: John Paton, Executive Director
Re: Clarification on ASAA Rugby Policy and Rugby Tours/Trips

Thanks to the introduction of Rugby as an ASAA sport, and the great support of ASAA member schools and the rugby community, we have seen the number of high school teams playing rugby in Alberta increase from 86 in 2006 to 134 teams in 2009. Clearly there have been some challenges in introducing a pre-existing sport into the ASAA structure, however while we have worked closely with AJRA and Rugby Alberta to inform the rugby community of ASAA policy requirements there are still some outstanding issues that require clarification.

The ASAA Board of Governors has requested the ASAA office to clarify an interpretation of ASAA policy regarding Rugby tours that take place during the ASAA Season of Play. ASAA Policy ***Participation on a non-school team*** (p. 35 ASAA Policy Handbook) states the following:

“To be eligible for high school provincial competition in the ASAA sports of basketball, volleyball, football, cheerleading, team handball and rugby, a high school student is not permitted to play on a non-school rugby team in the same sport during the same season.”

The ASAA Board has clarified that the terms “Season” and Season of Play” are congruent for the purposes of non-school tours or trips. Therefore, all rugby teams should be advised that any student traveling on a non-school team rugby tour/trip during the ASAA Season of Play for Rugby (Feb 15 until provincials on June 12, 2009) will be ineligible to participate on their school’s rugby team during the 2009/2010 school year. School teams undertaking tours or trips remain eligible as long as the players on the tour/trip are the same players that would be eligible for their school team during the ASAA season.

All teams should also be aware that playing against a team with ineligible athletes (i.e. in this case it would be those that went on non-school rugby trips between February 15 and June 12, 2009), put the eligibility of their own team at risk. Please note the following ASAA Policies:

Section IV: Activities (both items on page 44, 2009/2010ASAA Policy Handbook)

B. All tournaments or interschool competition involving students from ASAA member schools must follow all ByLaws and Policies set forth in the ASAA handbook, including eligibility and supervision requirements; and,

B.1. Each participating team.....must guarantee that participation in a contest will not violate any standard of that zone and provincial or state association

“Violations of this policy could be subject to penalties at the discretion of the Executive” (p. 47)

**Please contact John Paton at the ASAA office if you have any questions on rugby tours/trips.
ASAA Office: 780-427-8182**