

2025 TERMS OF REFERENCE YEAR 14 EXEMPTION SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE

On 24 January 2025 New Zealand Secondary Schools Rowing Association (NZSSRA) adopted Rule 2.5 to implement an NZSSRA policy that excludes Year 14 students from participating in Maadi Regatta unless an exception is granted.

The special committee will assess all applications for Year 14's exceptions, taking into consideration the criteria below and decide whether an exception is granted.

Note: This is the first season in which this process is in effect, and it may be refined over the coming years.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Exception applications open 25th January 2025 and close 11th February 2025.
- 2.2 The special committee will convene within 10 business days of applications closing and will meet as often as it needs to complete its responsibilities.
- 2.3 The special committee may conduct business in person or by electronic means.
- 2.4 If an application is incomplete the special committee may decline to consider it until the application has been completed, the applicant must be advised immediately.
- 2.5 In reaching a decision whether or not to approve an application the special committee must consider whether the Principal has declared an academic need for the student to be enrolled as a Year 14.
- 2.6 In reaching a decision whether or not to approve an application the special committee may consider matters it identifies as relevant to the legitimacy of the student's eligibility to compete at Maadi.
- 2.7 The special committee is to provide its written rationale for decisions.
- 2.8 The special committee will issue the decision to the applicant and NZSSRA at the earliest opportunity, but no later than 10 business days on receipt of the exemption application.
- 2.9. 2025 is the first season Rule 2.5 is in effect, the responsibilities of this special committee may be reviewed and adjusted in the future.

Note: all students must meet the eligibility criteria of School Sport NZ's School Team Eligibility Criteria to compete at Maadi

3. AUTHORITY:

- 3.1 The special committee is authorised, within the scope of its role and responsibilities, to:
 - a. Obtain additional information from the applicant or NZSSRA, if it deems that necessary to consider the exemption application;
 - b. Seek funds for committee business from NZSSRA. NZSSRA will approve reasonable requests for costs for the special committee to complete its responsibilities;
 - c. Make the final decision on exception requests.

4. COMPOSITION:

- 4.1 Members of the special committee shall be appointed by the Schools Committee.
- 4.2 The special committee shall consist of:
 - a. Three Principals who are not Principals of current NZSSRA member Schools,
 - b. However if three members cannot be sourced, remaining Principals will be selected from the Schools Committee and/or NZSSRA Board.

- 4.3 The appointments shall be made annually.
- 4.4 The membership may be changed by NZSSRA Schools Committee if required.

5. APPEALS

- 5.1 Appeals will be managed by School Sport NZ.