



# **SMALL BLACKS DEVELOPMENT MODEL**

**POCKET GUIDE  
YEARS 4 / UNDER 9**

# **APPLAUD**

Together we can create a great experience for everyone in rugby by role modelling good sideline behaviour and calling out bad sideline behaviour.

Applaud is a New Zealand Rugby programme that outlines the expectations for all parents, caregivers, and spectators of rugby.

These are:

- be a good role model
- calmly call out any bad behaviour when you see or hear it
- remember children play sport for their enjoyment, not yours
- respect officials' and coaches' decisions even if you don't agree
- applaud good play and performances by both teams
- give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort
- thank the coaches, officials, and other volunteers
- assist when asked by a coach or official
- respect the rights and dignity of everyone in the game and
- behave appropriately at pre- and post-match functions.

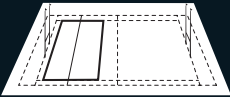
Help us keep kids in sport by creating a positive rugby environment in schools and clubs.

# SMALL BLACKS DEVELOPMENT MODEL

## YEAR 4 / UNDER 9

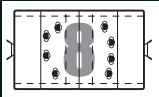
### FIELD SIZE

60m x 35m maximum.



### NUMBERS PER TEAM

8-a-side. Numbers are maximum.  
If a team doesn't have enough players to start a game, it should then be played with equal numbers.



### GAME LENGTH

2 x 25 minutes maximum.



### LINEOUT

No lineout.



### BALL SIZE

Size 3 balls.



### KICKING

Encourage running and passing.



### REFEREE

If no Learning Rugby referee, no tackling.



### KICK-OFF

Tap and pass. Kick-offs to be rotated through all players.



### PENALTY

Tap and pass.



### TRY

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.



### TACKLE

A "Tackle Clinic" must be carried out by all U8 coaches before the season kicks off.  
No fending. Tackle must be below the sternum.



### CONVERSION

No conversions.



### SUBS

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 or quarter time.



### SCRUM

No scrums.



FUN    ACHIEVE    BELONG    SAFE

# FABS

- Fun is a key component of success in sport and life
- Every player and coach are capable of achieving.
- Rugby brings people together.
- Safety is keeping all participants in our game safe physically and mentally.