

The background of the cover is a photograph of a rugby match in progress on a grass field. In the background, there is a large stadium with blue and green seating. A large, dark, overhanging roof structure is visible above the stands. The scene is captured during the 'blue hour' of twilight, with a soft, hazy light. A bright green decorative shape, resembling a stylized 'J' or a corner bracket, is positioned in the top right corner of the image.

**RUGBY  
AU**

# **NATIONAL FACILITY GUIDELINES**

## 1. PURPOSE

**1.1.** These guidelines have been developed in order to provide direction for the development of new facilities and/or those being considered for major refurbishment. It is acknowledged that many existing facilities may not meet these preferred standards, however it is not intended that they be used as a basis for assessing the suitability of existing facilities. Rather should existing facilities be considered for upgrade, then where possible, the guidelines should be used to inform future facility development.

**1.2.** Growing participation relies on having safe and appropriate facilities. This is a broad guide and it is important for clubs to consider who their participants are now and in the future (including women and girls and participations from different backgrounds and ethnicities) and consult with their members to ensure the facilities are appropriate.

**1.3.** Historically Rugby clubs were designed and built with only male participants in mind. Now Rugby has become an increasingly popular choice for females with demand at an all-time high.

However, the majority of our clubs' facilities remain the same. Rugby clubs need to be welcoming and offer the right amenities in order to attract and maintain all participants, coaches, referees, volunteers and supporters. The clubs' facilities need to be user friendly, well maintained and safe. There needs to be suitable change rooms, bathrooms and social areas to ensure there aren't barriers for involvement.

However, this doesn't mean all clubs need to build brand new facilities. For some it could mean altering their changerooms for unisex use such as removing the urinals and replacing them with bathroom cubicles or making the open showers private. It's hoped this document will offer further support and guidance on how to cater to all of those who want to be involved with your club and our great game.

## 2. FACILITY LEVELS

**2.1. ELITE/NATIONAL** Elite/National facilities and venues can host Under 16's, Schoolboys/Schoolgirls and Women's National Championship and other major National Competitions. These facilities are the next level down from Super Rugby and International facilities. The guidelines for this level are to be completed at a later date.

**2.2. STATE/REGIONAL** State/Regional facilities and venues can host Club Competition Finals, Intra-State Competitions and minor National Competitions (e.g. States Challenge) and are to be maintained to a high standard.

**2.3. CLUB LEVEL** Club facilities and venues are designed to cater for local club competitions within individual municipalities, usually a home ground for an individual club.

### 3. REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1. Core (C)** Increases participation numbers (key Government strategy for facilities) and/or is required under the Laws of the Game, Rugby Australia policies/procedures or State Union policies/procedures.
- 3.2. Preferred (P)** desired for that particular level of facility.
- 3.3. Optional (O)** optional for the facility.

### 4. PLAYING FIELDS

The playing field size, perimeter, markings, goal posts must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game, see *Appendix 1*.

Line marking material should not cause grass loss, erosion or soil damage. Chemicals and weed killers should not be used.

The playing field perimeter needs to be in accordance with relevant State Union Match Day Procedures as well as the Laws of the Game. The [Match Day Inspection Check List](#) is a good starting point for clubs to help identify safety concerns and record actions on match day to eliminate risks.

Playing field lighting must be in accordance with the Australian Standard -Sports Lighting (AS 2560.2.3-2007), see *Appendix 2* for the Rugby AU Lighting Criteria.

In addition to the standards outlined in the Laws of the Game the following field of play aspects must be considered.

- Sirens, preferably with multiple amplification sites located around the ground, must be installed in every venue
- Each venue should have a scoreboard visible to players, coaches and spectators showing team names, penalties, field goals, conversions, tries and total score.
- A digital scoreboard is preferred for state/regional venues and should fully integrate the components of the manual scoreboard outlined above as well as featuring a clock for game time
- It is preferred that the construction of the field should incorporate sub-surface drainage and irrigation as required, use robust drought resistant or low-water-use grass and have an even turf cover and level surface with no obvious depressions or holes
- A Scorer's Box with a clear view of the field of play is desirable for all venues
- Player and Coach Dugouts/Touchline line seating is required at all venues

### 5. EMERGENCY ACCESS

There must be clear access/entry for emergency vehicles to the playing field. [Click here to access the ambulance and helicopter guidelines.](#)



## 6. CLUB ROOMS

Club Room designs should consider spectator viewing and structure footprint as part of the planning process. This may result in single or multi-story developments as appropriate.

ITEM	STATE/REGIONAL	CLUB	STATE/ REGIONAL	CLUB	DESCRIPTION
Amenities (Toilets/ Showers)	Shower Area 15-20m <sup>2</sup>  Toilets 10m <sup>2</sup>	Shower Area 10-25m <sup>2</sup>  Toilets 10m <sup>2</sup>	C	C	Each changing room requires its own shower and toilet area. State/regional facilities must have a minimum of six shower heads with hot and cold in each shower area. At Club level a minimum of 4 shower heads is required in each shower area.  Separate cubicles are recommended where possible for use by males or females.  Each change room should have a minimum of 2 toilets.
Change Rooms	30-45m <sup>2</sup> x 4 (2 home and 2 away)	30-45m <sup>2</sup> x 2 (4 is preferred)	C	C	Each change room must be separate from the others with secure entry from toilets and other change rooms. Four change rooms allows 2 men's and 2 women's teams to play/change at the same time.  Change rooms must have capacity fit 28 people and include clothing/bag hooks and seating (bench) around the perimeter of the room.
First Aid/ Medical Room	15-20m <sup>2</sup>	15-20m <sup>2</sup>	C	C	Must include sink, wash basin, hot and cold taps, space for examination bench, sharp disposal container, disposal unit for bloodied dressings, soap dispenser, hand towel dispenser.  The room must be regularly cleaned, have adequate lighting (angle poise light/s), telephone (for use in emergency), first aid kit, emergency contacts for nearest hospital, doctor, dentist, etc.  Compliance with Rugby AU Medical & Safety Recommendations Compliance with Safe Work Australia 's Model WHS Act.
Referees Change Room	15-30m <sup>2</sup>	12-20m <sup>2</sup>	C	C	Minimum of one shower with lockable cubicle (to accommodate both genders), one toilet, one hand basin, bag storage and clothing hooks - Preference is for unisex change rooms.

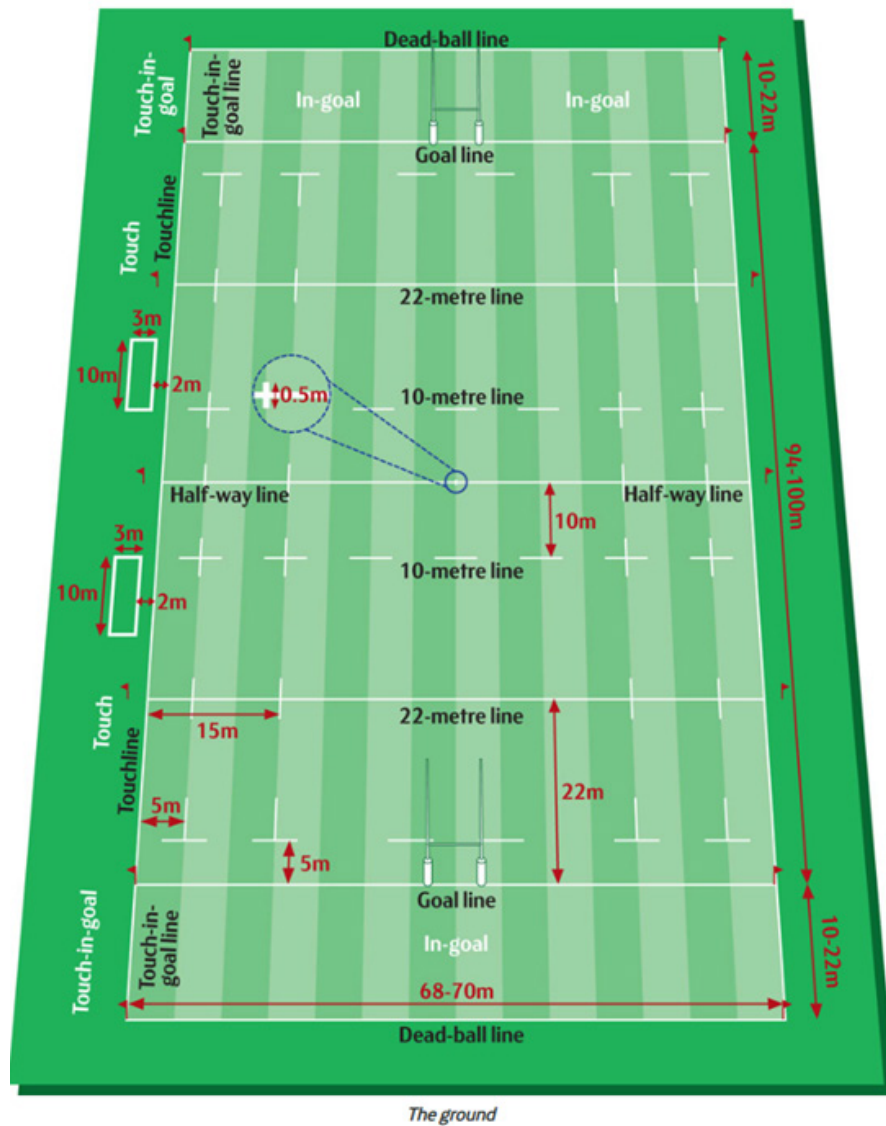
Strapping Room	10-12m <sup>2</sup>	8-10m <sup>2</sup>	P	P	Two massage tables provided within a room immediately adjacent to each change room
Meeting Room/ Administration	15-20m <sup>2</sup>	15m <sup>2</sup>	C	P	Room to include table, chairs, internet connection, computer, printer, telecommunications and file storage. At State/Regional facilities such a room can be utilised for competition management at larger scale events.
Club Social Room	150-300m <sup>2</sup>	75 - 250m <sup>2</sup>	C	C	Facilitates opportunities for social interaction, community use, fundraising events and club financial sustainability. Spaces should be tailored to Club membership numbers, usage and local factors. Should include bar facilities and/or access to appropriate kiosk/ canteen/kitchen.
Kiosk/ Canteen	30 - 40m <sup>2</sup>	15-30m <sup>2</sup>	C	C	Design will require local government (council) approval and must comply with state health standards. Internal/external serving options is preferred. Access to storage adjacent to the kitchen/kiosk is required.
Cleaner's Storeroom	5m <sup>2</sup>	5m <sup>2</sup>	C	O	Lockable storage for cleaning supplies.
Ground Maintenance Storage	-	-	C	C	Storage for ground maintenance equipment.

## 7. OTHER FACILITIES

ITEM	STATE/REGIONAL	CLUB	STATE/ REGIONAL	CLUB
External Public Toilets	Male, Female and Accessible	Male, Female and Accessible	C	C
Car Parking	75+ spaces desirable	50+ spaces desirable	C	C
Utility Room	5m <sup>2</sup> +	5m <sup>2</sup> +	C	C
Internal Storage	15-30m <sup>2</sup>	12-20m <sup>2</sup>	C	C
External Storage	15-30m <sup>2</sup>	15-30m <sup>2</sup>	C	C
Venue Fencing	-	-	C	O
Spectator Seating	Grandstand or tiered structure for 300+ is desirable	Grandstand or tiered structure for 50-100 is desirable	P	O
Recording Facilities	-	-	P	P
PA System	-	-	P	P
Water Harvesting	-	-	O	O

## PLAYING FIELD SIZE, PLAYING FIELD MARKING, GOAL POSTS

As per the Laws of the Game.



## APPENDIX 2:

## LIGHTING CRITERIA

Access the Sports Lighting – Australia Standard [here](#)