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## Schoolboy eligible for First XV selection

On 23 June 2023 the Sports Tribunal delivered an oral decision in which it made a declaration that Tommy Taylor (Tommy), a Year 13 student at King's College in Auckland (King's), was immediately eligible to be selected for the school's First XV.

The Tribunal's reasons for the decision (which are set out in full in a reasons document) are briefly:

- (i) Tommy transferred to King's for reasons relating to his personal well-being which had nothing to do with rugby;
- (ii) Tommy had not been involved in a rugby development programme from year 8, having dropped out of the MAGS rugby academy over a year before the transfer; and
- (iii) Due regard ought to be given to the guiding principles under the College Sport Auckland Rules where the overall best interests of the student must be paramount.

The Tribunal states that its decision is confined to the parties who brought the dispute to the Tribunal, namely Tommy and King's and it is not a detailed review of the Code. The decision is not intended to create a precedent which binds the other schools in other cases involving different players.

The Tribunal agreed to a request by the parties to deal with the matter urgently and on the papers, consequently there was no time to seek the views of the principals of the other schools involved in the Auckland 1A Rugby Competition, as to how the Auckland 1A Rugby Code of Practice (the Code) that governed the competition was to be interpreted or applied.

**The reasons for the decision in this case will be available at [www.sportstribunal.org.nz](http://www.sportstribunal.org.nz)**

***Taylor v King's College ST 05/23.***