

COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL

UPDATES FOR THE 2020 SEASON

ACCESSING THE NSWRL COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL

The 2020 version of the manual is available to download from the NSWRL website using the following link:

https://www.nswrl.com.au/about/documents/community/

NSWRL / CRL MERGER

In 2019 the New South Wales Rugby League and the Country Rugby League completed a historic merger to become one single organization that controls all Rugby League in the state of New South Wales.

Once the merger was complete the difficult task of aligning rules and policies for Community Rugby League was undertaken.

The NSW Community Rugby League Policies & Procedures Manual and associated forms now cover all Rugby League competitions in the state of New South Wales.

We endeavored to maintain consistency in rules for both Sydney Metro and Regional areas as much as possible, but you will notice in some policies there are differentiations for the two different areas.

ASSOCIATION NAME CHANGE

NSW Junior League Association

IS NOW

NSW Community Rugby League Association

All language has been amended to reflect the new name of the Association in all policies and all forms.





LANGUAGE CHANGES

Junior Rugby League
IS NOW
Community Rugby League

Junior League Administrator

IS NOW

League Administrator

LeagueNet
IS NOW
MySideline

All language has been amended to reflect these changes in all policies and forms.

KEY POLICY CHANGES

Policies and procedures have been updated to reflect new rules and procedures for all Community Rugby League Competitions.

The following identified changes are excerpts from relevant policies.

The updated policies should be read in their entirety for context and complete understanding of all Policies and Procedures.

POLICY 1.4 - FINES AND FEES

Late forfeit fee is now \$400 per offence

Not notifying th	ie League of a	\$400	The fee is paid to the Junior League.
forfeit by 10:00	Dam on the	per offence	
Friday prior to	the match		

POLICY 1.8 – PLAYING WITH MORE THAN ONE CLUB

Addition of Tackle / Tag registrations rule

A player is registered in and plays a "tackle" rugby league competition match (or a portion of a match) with a club and wishes to play "touch" or "tag" rugby league with a second club (or vice versa):

- » In SYDNEY METRO the players "tackle" Club shall be the primary Club and a permit will be allowed to play "tag"
- » In REGIONAL AREAS the players "tag" Club shall be the primary Club and a permit will be allowed to play "tackle"

POLICY 1.11 – REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Addition of requirement for parents to complete registration for Junior players.

Club Administrators, Committee Members and Directors should be reminded of the importance and legalities of having a parent / child's guardian sign off on the Terms and Conditions of registration. That is, a parent / guardian is the only person who can register their child to play Rugby League. This process should not be undertaken by a Club Administrator or a Club Representative on behalf of the child's parent or quardian.

POLICY 1.13 - TRIAL GAMES

Update of requirements for trials.

Clubs wishing to play trial matches may do so only with the prior permission of the relevant Community Rugby League District or Region.

Trial matches shall be controlled by appropriately qualified match officials.

If a player is sent off, clubs shall give the name and previous club to the hosting clubs Ground Official. The player cannot play again that weekend, and must attend judiciary in the District or Region in which he was dismissed from the field

POLICY 2.3 - CHILD PROTECTION

NEW POLICY

Outlines Club's requirements under the Child Protection (Working With Children) Act 2012.

Who needs a check, and what information does the Club need to retain for their records.

Who requires a Working With Children Check or Statutory Declaration?

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK REQUIRED	STATUARY DECLARATION REQUIRED	WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK <u>NOT REQUIRED</u>
» Coaches, Managers and Trainers who are NOT a close relative of a child in the team they are engaged with	» Coaches, Managers and Trainers who ARE a close relative of a member of the Team	 Canteen Personnel Committee Members Coach, Managers and Trainers with Team Members that are above the age of 18 Coach, Managers and Trainers that are under the age of 18 themselves

The Child Protection (Working With Children) Regulation defines "close relative" of a person as:

and includes, in the case of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, persons who are part of the extended family or kin of the person according to the indigenous kinship system of the person's culture.

⁽a) A spouse or de facto partner of the person or,

⁽b) A child, step-child, sibling, step-sibling, parent, step-parent, grandparent, step-grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew of the person,

POLICY 2.6 DEFAULTERS

Invoice requirement.

A player cannot be listed as a defaulter for the non-payment of registration and / or insurance fees unless listed in a player's contract.

A player can also not be listed as a defaulter unless the player has been invoiced for the amount due by the entity claiming the debt.

POLICY 2.9 - LICENSING PROGRAM

Update of submission of artwork and record keeping requirements.

Community Rugby League Clubs are required to submit artwork for on-field playing gear to their Community Rugby League Administrator for approval before orders are confirmed. The artwork must comply with the NSWRL Licensing Program guidelines for logo placement.

Clubs are also advised to save copies of their invoices for on-field playing gear from their chosen Licensed Supplier. This will ensure that rebates available under the NSWRL Licensing Program are recouped from suppliers and refunded accordingly.

Clubs that choose not to adhere to this policy may be fined, have competition points deducted, or be suspended from finals matches at the sole discretion of the NSWRL in its capacity as the governing body of Rugby League in New South Wales.

POLICY 2.10 - MANDATORY REPORTING

NEW POLICY

It is a requirement for Junior League Clubs and Districts and Regions to report to NSWRL any of the following incidents that may occur:

- » The need to engage any emergency service (Police, Ambulance or Fire) at any game day or training (exceptions being non-life threatening game related injuries attended by Ambulance)
- » Any financial impropriety by any office bearer within the Junior League Club, District or Region that is officially reported to Police
- » Any registered participant that is charged with an offence that is related to child abuse or child endangerment
- » Any registered participant that is listed as BARRED from working with children by the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian

POLICY 2.15 – MONARCH BLUES TAG COMPETITION RULE MODIFICATIONS

NEW POLICY

The following modifications of rules and policies will be applied to all Monarch Blues Tag competitions and participants.

Playing in More Than One Club / Playing in More Than One District or Region

Players participating in both Tackle and Monarch Blues Tag competitions are allowed to participate in two different Clubs and if necessary, two different Leagues or Regions if a Club does not field teams in both formats of the game.

In SYDNEY METRO the players "tackle" Club shall be the primary Club and a permit will be allowed to play "tag". The player must complete their registration (permit) at their secondary club as a League Tag participant.

In REGIONAL AREAS the players "tag" Club shall be the primary Club and a permit will be allowed to play "tackle". The player must complete their registration (permit) at their secondary club as a Tackle participant.

Minimum Age to Play Open Age

The minimum age to participate in Open Age Monarch Blues Tag Competitions is 16. The player must have turned 16 before they are eligible to participate.

In Regional areas, application can be made to participate before the age of 16 if extenuating circumstances exist.

Duration of Matches

The duration of all Monarch Blues Tag Competition matches are as follows:

Under 11 2 x 20 minute halves
Under 13 / Under 15 / Under 17 / Open Age 2 x 25 minute halves

Over 35s 2 x 25 minute halves

Interchange

All Monarch Blues Tag competitions have an unlimited interchange rule.

Mercy Rule

The Mercy Rule does not apply in Monarch Blues Tag competitions.

Number of Players on the Field

The minimum number of players required for competition is as follows:

Under 13 / Under 15 / Under 17 / Open Age / Over 35s Minimum eight (8) players
Under 11s Minimum six (6) players

Player Equipment

Tags provided by NSWRL are the only tags which are allowed to be used in all Monarch Blues Tag competitions.

Tag belts are not allowed to be used in competition matches.

Finger Nails

Finger nails must be kept short to prevent injury to you as a player and your opposition. As a guideline, nails should not be seen from the underside of the finger. Acrylic and gel nails are permitted as long as they adhere to the previous point and are rounded and not sharp in any way.

PLAYING A PLAYER ABOVE THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP (PLAYING UP)

For League Tag (Monarch Blues Tag) competitions, players may participate in competitions a maximum of 3 years above their natural age (i.e. a player turning 12 this year may play in an Under 15s competition but NOT in an Under 16s competition).

This will operate as per PLAYER PLAYING ONE YEAR ABOVE THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP rules as above. This will not require the additional approval of a Senior Club Coach.

In Open Age League Tag (Monarch Blues Tag) Competitions, players are not able to participate until the calendar year in which they are turning 16 years old.

Any application to vary from the rules as they apply to League Tag competitions should be made through the Local League to the NSWRL.

POLICY 2.19 - PLAYING A PLAYER ABOVE THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP

Updates for clarity on playing one year up and two years up. Also clarity around dual age group competitions.

PLAYERS PLAYING ONE YEAR ABOVE THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP

A player shall be allowed to play in an age grade competition that is one year above the competition that he or she is naturally eligible to play in (player born in 2005 and registered in 2015 CAN PLAY in Under 10s and Under 11s).

All players who are playing up an age group must have a completed Playing in a Higher Age Group Consent Form before taking the field. This form must then be sent to the League Administrator at the earliest convenience after participation. The form must be authorised and uploaded to the player's member record on MySideline.

PLAYERS PLAYING TWO YEARS ABOVE THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP

In exceptional circumstances only, a club can apply to the NSWRL to have a player permitted to play two years above the age group that he or she is naturally eligible to play in under the following conditions:

- » A Playing in a Higher Age Group form, with parental consent, is to be completed and submitted to the Junior League for approval
- » The application must be accompanied by a letter from a Senior Club Coach (SCC) or local NRL Game Development Officer as a minimum requirement that outlines the player's ability to take part in an age group two years above their natural age group
- » In SYDNEY METRO Once approved by the District, the application should be forwarded to the NSWRL for final approval before the player can take the field in the higher age group
- » In REGIONAL AREAS The player is able to take the field in the higher age group once parental approval and SCC or GDO letter is obtained. Both parental approval and SCC or GDO letter must be forwarded to NSWRL at the earliest convenience for final approval
- » The decision of the NSWRL will be final and no appeal available to any decision made
- » If approved, the form will be authorised by NSWRL and uploaded to the player's member record on MySideline

DUAL AGE GROUP COMPETITIONS - PLAYING TWO YEARS ABOVE THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP

If a player wishes to participate in a dual age group competition (e.g. Female Tackle Competitions where age groups offered are Under 14 then Under 16 then Under 18) from an age group that is not within that dual age group (e.g. player turning 12 wishing to play in Under 14s (that includes Under 13s and Under 14s players) or Under 14s player wishing to play in Under 16s (that includes Under 15s and Under 16s) then only under exceptional circumstances the player can apply to play in the higher age group using the process for PLAYERS PLAYING TWO YEARS ABOVE THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP.

PLAYERS RESPONSIBILITY TO THEIR OWN TEAM

Any player granted permission to play in a higher age group is required to fulfil their obligations to their correct (natural) age group before playing in a higher age group. For example, if a players natural age group is Under 10s then that player shall not be permitted to play in any Under 11s for their Club if that Clubs Under 10s team has insufficient players to properly compete in the competitions in which they participate.

It should also be noted that players who have been granted permission to play in a higher age group are not permitted to take the field before a player of the correct age in the team in the higher age group. For example, an Under 10s player shall not be permitted to start a game in Under 11s while a correct aged Under 11s player is on the reserve bench.

LEAGUE TAG (MONARCH BLUES TAG) COMPETITIONS

For League Tag (Monarch Blues Tag) competitions, players may participate in competitions a maximum of 3 years above their natural age (i.e. a player turning 12 this year may play in an Under 15s competition but NOT in an Under 16s competition).

This will operate as per PLAYER PLAYING ONE YEAR ABOVE THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP rules as above. This will not require the additional approval of a Senior Club Coach.

In Open Age League Tag (Monarch Blues Tag) Competitions, players are not able to participate until the calendar year in which they are turning 16 years old.

Any application to vary from the rules as they apply to League Tag competitions should be made through the Local League to the NSWRL.

POLICY 2.25 - RELIGIOUS HEADWEAR / CLOTHING

NEW POLICY

The NSWRL acknowledges the necessity for some players to wear an altered playing uniform (headwear and long sleeves / legwear) based on their religious beliefs.

If a player is required to wear full length compression (or other) garments, an application should be made to the League Administrator who will refer the matter and application to NSWRL for approval.

Written approval should be kept readily available at each game to present to the Referee is requested.

Players wearing religious headwear are advised that they must at all times wear headgear.

POLICY 2.26 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Addition to policy with corresponding detail from NRL National Code of Conduct.

Social Media and the NRL National Code of Conduct

All participants – all players, coaches, sports trainers (including League Safe Officers), match officials, club officials, volunteers, parents / carers as well as spectators – are bound by the NRL National Code of Conduct which states 'understand that cyber-bullying, which includes negative or demeaning comments, status posts, personal messages or emails, is deemed as a serious form of harassment'.

Any behaviour that is deemed to be in breach of the NRL National Code of Conduct may be deemed as an offence which may require investigation and possible suspension or any other penalty deemed fit by a NSW CRLA Code of Conduct Tribunal.

POLICY 3.11 - MIXED GENDER PARTICIPATION

Addition of rationale of policy.

The rationale for this is that the sport of rugby league is a vigorous, high-intensity body-contact physical activity. The strength, stamina and physique generally of boys aged 12 years and older, when compared and contrasted to the strength, stamina and physique generally of girls of a corresponding age (for example, in the case of a comparison between the strength, stamina and physique of 13 year old boys and 13 year old girls) is materially disparate. If boys and girls aged 12 years or more (and within the same age group, such as under 13s) were allowed to compete in the same teams and against each other in competitive rugby league matches, then the competition in those matches would be rendered uneven because of the magnitude of disparity between the relative strength, stamina and physique of girls and boys of the same age.

POLICY 3.12 - NSWRL REGIONAL MEMBERS - CLAYTON CUP

<u>POLICY 3.13 – NSWRL REGIONAL MEMBERS – CUP COMPETITION AND PLATE COMPETITION RULES</u>

POLICY 3.14 - NSWRL REGIONAL MEMBERS - TROPHIES

<u>POLICY 4.1 – ADMISSION PRICES, GATES & SEASON PASSES AT REGIONAL MEMBER</u> MATCHES

Addition of the above policies in line with Regional Competitions.

POLICY 4.2 - AIR QUALITY POLICY

NEW POLICY

Air Quality Index

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is an accepted method of objectively measuring air quality that can be used to assist in determining the risks of exposure to athletes training or playing in those conditions. The measure is monitored daily and can be used to identify the following:

- » Air pollution levels at your nearest monitoring site or region;
- » Common contributing pollutants; and
- » The overall health risk associated with a given rating.

The table below can be used to determine what, if any action should be taken to modify currently scheduled training or games according to the AQI in your region.

General Population, low intensity exercise			High Intensity Exercise		
AQI	Recommendation	AQI	Recommendation		
VERY GOOD (0-33)	Enjoy Activities	VERY GOOD (0-33)	Enjoy Activities		
GOOD (34-66)	Enjoy Activities	GOOD (34-66)	Enjoy Activities		
FAIR (67-99)	People unusually sensitive to air pollution- plan strenuous outdoor activities for when quality is better	FAIR (67-99)	Asthmatic athletes: Should have medical review prior to training or playing. Consider moving training indoors		
POOR (100-149)	Air Pollution Health Alert Sensitive groups: Avoid strenuous outdoor activities Everyone: cut back or reschedule outdoor physical activities	VERY POOR (100-149)	Air Pollution Health Alert Asthmatics or symptomatic non- asthmatics should not compete or train outdoors. Minimise exposure to pollutants for all athletes by training indoors or modifying rules of the game. (4 quarters, shortened game time etc)		
VERY POOR (150-200)	Air Pollution Health Alert Sensitive Groups: Avoid strenuous outdoor activities Everyone: Cut back or reschedule outdoor physical activities	HAZARDOUS (150-200)	Air Pollution Health Alert Outdoor training should be rescheduled indoors. Games should be cancelled, and exposure minimized for everyone.		
HAZARDOUS (>200)	Air Pollution Health Alert Sensitive Groups: Avoid strenuous outdoor activity Everyone: Significantly cut back on outdoor physical activities				

(Table modified from AIS recommendations, adapted from NSW Public Health Unit,

POLICY 4.5 – BITING, GOUGING, SPITTING OR VILIFICATION ALLEGATIONS

NEW POLICY

When a participant indicates to the Referee that they have been bitten, spat at, eye gouged or subjected to verbal vilification (racial, sexual etc.) the Referee will:

- 1. Signal time off
- 2. Witness the injury (bite or gouge mark), or ask the participant to state the offending remark(s)
- 3. Ask the participant to identify the alleged offender
- Call on to the field the Touch Judge who is situated on the official table side of the ground (or the Ground Manager if Touch Judge not assigned)
- Call both Captains and the alleged offender to witness the injury (bite or gouge mark) and / or to hear the allegation
- **6.** In the case of biting or gouging allegations, the Ground Manager shall be called on to the field to take a photograph of the injury
- 7. The Referee will ask the alleged victim if they wish to proceed with the allegation. If the response is affirmative the complaint cannot be withdrawn.
- 8. The Referee shall then inform players that he / she will complete a formal complaint form after the game regarding the incident
- 9. The Tough Judge on the official side of the ground (or Ground Manager if Touch Judge not assigned) will report the alleged offender's jumper number and the complainant's jumper number on the game sign on sheet
- 10. Play will then resume.

POLICY 4.8 - COACH / SPORTS TRAINER AT EACH GAME

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LINE WITH NEW HEAD INJURY POLICY

The minimum requirements for on-field safety personnel for each match are prescribed by section 1.2 of the NRL On-Field Policy. These vary for each age range and from the under 16 age group upwards require there to be a currently accredited and registered sports trainer at the venue for each team playing in the match.

No match will start under any circumstances whatsoever without, as a minimum, the on-field safety personnel prescribed by the NRL On-Field Policy present and available at the match venue. Reference must be made to the NRL On-Field Policy, where these requirements are specified.

Please note: A Coach cannot act in the role of both an on-field safety person required under the NRL On-Field Policy and Coach during the same game, and vice versa, even if appropriately accredited. One individual is required for each role.

Further to the requirements of NSWRL Community Rugby League Policy 4.15 and this Policies & Procedures Manual generally:

- The ground manager is required to, and must do all things necessary for the purposes of determining whether or not the persons required to be present at a match in order for that match to be allowed to commence are indeed present in the capacities required;
- 2. It shall be the responsibility of the ground manager to record (and the ground manager must record) in his or her match day report the names of, and all other details of each of the people identified as being present at a match in order for that match to have been allowed to commence;
- 3. The ground manager must, in circumstances where he or she is not satisfied that the on-field safety personnel prescribed by the NRL On-Field Policy are present, direct that the match not commence.

FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF ANY DOUBT it shall be considered an egregious and extremely serious breach, by each club participating in a match, to allow or be involved in allowing a match to commence or continue under any circumstances, where one or more of the people required by this Policy 4.8 and the NRL On-Field Policy to be in attendance at the commencement of and for the duration of that match is not in attendance or present, regardless as to the reason for the absence or non-attendance of that person. Without limiting the sanction that might be imposed on a club, the match will be deemed as a forfeit by any team that does not have the required personnel present.

For the avoidance of any doubt, the minimum qualification requirements for sports trainer and other roles specified in these rules are as set out in the applicable NRL Policies incorporated into this Policies and Procedures Manual, including in particular the NRL On-Field Policy.

POLICY 4.12 – ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Update for mobile phone use within the playing area.

The use of 'walkie-talkies', mobile phones or other electronic devices on the field of play OR within the playing area is prohibited for the purpose of communication between team staff and other team staff either within the playing area or outside of the playing area.

The only exception being the use of mobile phones or tablets to display Match Day Cards for player and team staff identification or for live scoring.

POLICY 4.15 - GROUND MANAGERS

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LINE WITH NEW HEAD INJURY POLICY.

The key tasks of a ground manager are:

- » Have a good knowledge of the club and junior league disciplinary procedures and rules that apply to both the home and visiting clubs.
- » Do everything possible to ensure the safety and wellbeing of patrons whilst they are at the venue.
- » Attend meetings and co-operate with the district or regional junior league manager.
- » Observe and support district or regional club crowd and ground control requirements and report any exceptions.
- » During game day duties, check appropriate accreditations and player identification
- » DO NOT ALLOW GAMES TO COMMENCE WITHOUT THE NECESSARY TEAM STAFF IN ATTENDANCE AS PER THESE POLICIES & PROCEDURES
- » Have a list of Local Hospital Emergency Departments or Local Doctors or Medical Centres available to assess injured players

Sports Trainers in Attendance

Ground Managers are responsible for ensuring that each venue or team has appropriately accredited Sports Trainers in attendance before any match can commence. These requirements are outlined in the NRL On-Field Policy.

Ground Managers must identify Sports Trainers through Match Day Cards and their accreditation verified using the same process. Sports Trainers should be marked on the sign on sheet and their signature is required prior to the commencement of the game.

Should a team present without the required Sports Trainer the Ground Manager must direct that the match CANNOT start. All persons must comply with the direction of the Ground Manager that the match not start and it shall be deemed a forfeit.

POLICY 4.17 – HEAD INJURY ASSESSMENT AND RETURN TO PLAY PROCEDURES

NEW POLICY WITH SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO HEAD INJURY ASSESSMENT AND RETURN TO PLAY PROCEDURE.

PLEASE SEE 2020 HEAD INJURY AND CONCUSSION PROTOCOL PRESENTATION.

POLICY 4.32 – TEAMS NOT READY AT KICK OFF

Update to clarify result of match.

The result of the match shall be declared in accordance with the applicable competition rules that apply to that match. A club forfeiting a match shall be subject to sanction in accordance with the rules and regulations of the NSWRL.

POLICY 5.4 – TOUGH LOVE IN LEAGUE POLICY

Addition of finals series match outcome if Referee / Match Official Abuse rules are breached.

Finals Series Matches

8. Any breach of Rules 2.2, 3.2, 5, 6 or 7 that are identified and proven in finals series matches will result in the offenders team being disqualified from the Competition.

SECTION 6 - CODE OF CONDUCT

Significant changes to entire Section 6 to clarify references and rules as they apply to the Code of Conduct Discipline Procedure for all Community Rugby League participants.

Clubs should ensure they have a good working knowledge of the entire Code of Conduct Disciplinary Procedure.

SECTION 7 – JUDICIARY

Significant changes to entire Section 7 to clarify references and rules as they apply to the Judiciary Procedure for all Community Rugby League participants.

Clubs should ensure they have a good working knowledge of the entire Judiciary Procedure.

SECTION 8 – APPEALS CODE OF PROCEDURE (CODE OF CONDUCT AND JUDICIARY)

Single Appeals Code of Procedure created to align with both the Code of Conduct and Judiciary Procedures.

Previously there were Appeals Procedures in both Sections 6 and 7.

Clubs should ensure that they have a good working knowledge of the Appeals Code of Procedure.

SECTION 10 - APPENDIX AND NRL POLICIES

All referenced policies and appendix documents are now listed in Section 10 as hyperlinks to allow access to current and up to date policies and forms from both NSWRL and the NRL.

(example of contents below)

- NSWRL Event Sanctioning Form
 https://www.nswrl.com.au/siteassets/documents/2020/nswrl-event-sanctioning-form-2020.pdf
- NSW CRLA Request for Leave to Appeal Application Form
 https://www.nswrl.com.au/siteassets/documents/2020/nsw-crla-request-for-leave-to-appeal-application-form-2020.pdf
- 3. NSW CRLA Transfer Policy Appeal Form https://www.nswrl.com.au/siteassets/documents/2020/nsw-crla-transfer-policy-appeal-form-2020.pdf
- 4. WWCC Statutory Declaration

 https://www.nswrl.com.au/siteassets/documents/2020/wwcc-statutory-declaration-under-the-oaths-act-1900-nsw.pdf