



RUGBY LEAGUE
BRISBANE
OPERATIONS MANUAL
2021



RLB JUNIORS

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FOREWARD

This 2021 Operations Manual supersedes all previous versions and is a reference for all persons involved in the day-to-day management, administration, coaching, playing, and officiating of all Rugby League Brisbane (RLB) clubs affiliated with the QRL, SEQ Region and RLB. This includes management committees, development staff, team coaches, managers, referees, sports trainers and league safe officers, duty officials, players, and spectators.

Only the Rugby League Brisbane Board can amend this document. All amendments will be issued under covering RLB Area Manager's Memo. The rules detailed in this document will be operative and enforced for all rulings and proceedings from the date of issue.

Reference Documents:

- A. Rules of the Queensland Rugby Football League Limited
- B. Constitution of Rugby League Brisbane Limited
- C. Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act (2000)
- D. NRL Policies and Guidelines – <https://playnrl.com/policies/>
- E. NRL Laws of the Game – International, Junior International, Mod and Mini Laws
- F. NRL Code of Conduct
- G. Associations Incorporations Act 1981

INTRODUCTION

The Rules of the Queensland Rugby Football League Limited (QRL Rules), as amended from time to time, provide the framework under which all Rugby League is administered within the State of Queensland.

The rules detailed within this operation manual are to supplement the QRL Rules and to ensure the common interpretation and consistent application across all Rugby League clubs affiliated with RLB.

The rules detailed in this operation manual have been written in good faith; however, the Rugby League Brisbane Board of Directors reserves the right to modify or override any rule that unintentionally hinders or favours any affiliated club, their officials, players, and staff.

Should any information within this document conflict or contradict any of the QRL Rules, then the QRL rule as documented within the Rules of the Queensland Rugby Football League Limited (as amended from time to time) will have precedence. Please notify in writing to the RLB Area Manager of any such issues.

1. ADMISSION PRICES

- 1.1. RLB Junior** matches will normally only attract an admission fee of seven dollars (\$7) for all Finals Series matches.
- 1.2.** Aged, invalid, and service pensions shall be recognised by all clubs throughout the season. Eligible holders of these pensions shall be permitted entry into general admission areas for all matches free of charge.
- 1.3.** Children seventeen (17) years and under shall be permitted entry into general admission areas for all matches free of charge.
- 1.4.** The League shall confirm admission prices at the first meeting of the Board after the AGM and publish these on the League website prior to the start of the season.
- 1.5.** RLB season passes shall be recognised by all clubs during premiership rounds only. Entry shall be subject to the terms and conditions printed on the passes.

2. BLEEDING PLAYERS AND HYGIENE - Bleeding player procedure. The following procedure will apply in all cases where a player is bleeding, or his/her person, clothing or equipment has been contaminated by blood.

- 2.2.** If the referee notices a bleeding or blood contaminated player, he will immediately stop play and call 'time-out' and signal to the team trainer to attend to the player. The team trainer will immediately enter the field of play to assess whether the player can be quickly treated on the field or whether he will require treatment off the field.
- 2.3.** If the trainer advises that the player can be treated on the field, the referee will instruct the player to drop out behind play for that purpose and the match will immediately recommence.
- 2.4.** If the trainer advises the referee that the player will have to be treated off the field, the match will not restart until the player has left the field.
- 2.5.** The player may be interchanged, or alternatively the team can elect to temporarily play on with 12 players. (Note: other than for the initial assessment, the match will not be held up while the bleeding player receives treatment or is interchanged).
- 2.6.** If the referee stops play twice for the same player and the same wound, the player must be taken from the field for treatment and either interchanged or the team may elect to play on with 12 players until the bleeding player returns.
- 2.7.** The referee will hold the game up to replace a bleeding player, but a trainer must first advise the referee that an interchange is going to take place.
- 2.8.** If a bleeding player has left the field for treatment and is not interchanged, he may return to the field of play at any time provided he does so from an on-side position. If the bleeding player has been interchanged, he may only return to the field through the interchange official as a normal interchange player.
- 2.9.** A bleeding player returning to the field of play, who has not been interchanged, is not to be regarded as a replacement/interchange player and therefore may take a kick for goal. Conversely, a bleeding

player returning to the field of play who has been interchanged may not take a kick for goal at that time.

- 2.10. Stitching / Stapling:** Any player who is bleeding and requires treatment by way of either stitches, stapling or otherwise, must be taken to the team dressing room or shared medical facility so this procedure can be conducted out of the view of the public. After the treatment, the wound must be bandaged or covered to protect the injury, to eliminate the risk of further bleeding and to prevent the potential risk of transmission of blood-borne infectious diseases.
- 2.11. Contaminated Clothing:** In any case where a player's person, clothing or equipment has been contaminated by blood, whether through a wound to himself or through contact with a wounded player, the referee shall direct the team trainer to enter the field of play to attend to that player by taking immediate steps to ensure that the player is free of any blood contamination before that player shall be permitted by the referee to re-join play. Until those steps have been taken, the player shall, at the minimum, drop out behind play. Minor occasions of contaminated clothing and/or equipment should be treated with a solution of 15mls of household detergent and 17mls of household bleach. All but minor occasions of contaminated clothing or equipment will require the replacement of such clothing or equipment prior to the player re-entering the field of play.
- 2.12. Hygiene:** Players should be made aware of the potential danger of transferring infectious diseases, e.g., Hepatitis A, B and C and HIV. No spitting is permitted, except in specified controlled areas. Contaminated and blood-stained articles and dressings are to be placed in appropriate 'contaminated waste' disposal bags. Dressing room floors should be cleaned and swept prior to the team leaving the room. Players must not share drink containers. Each player should have his/her own drink container. Shared drink containers may transmit meningococcal disease.

3. CANCELLATION, SUSPENSION, POSTPONEMENT

3.1. Emergency circumstances include:

- 3.1.1.** A natural disaster such as an earthquake, flood, or fire.
- 3.1.2.** A situation where the safety of players, match officials or spectators is potentially at risk such as lightning, or extreme heat.
- 3.1.3.** Where scheduled transport for one of the teams for the playing of the match is delayed or cancelled.
- 3.1.4.** Such other circumstances deemed to be an emergency by the RLB Area Manager (or nominee).

3.2. If any such occurrence arises, the procedure shall be as follows:

- 3.2.1.** The RLB Area Manager (or nominee), in conjunction with the referee and both team's management will make any decision on the postponing or cancelling of any scheduled game.
- 3.2.2.** After the commencement of a competition match, a referee may suspend play if, in his/her view, continuation of play would place the safety of players, match officials and/or spectators at risk.
- 3.2.3.** If a game is to be delayed due to severe weather conditions, a decision will be made on the length of delay.

3.2.4. Where a game is in progress and is stopped due to an emergency, the following steps must be taken:

- As the emergency is a 'time out', a direction will be given by the referee regarding field position, possession, and the number of the tackle, at the time of cessation of play.
- If the game re-commences within a reasonable time, play will continue as with any 'time out' – with the same field position, possession, and the next tackle count.
- If the game cannot be continued, the circumstances shall be reported to the RLB Area Manager.

3.3. Competition matches may only be cancelled, suspended, postponed, or abandoned with the prior approval of the RLB Area Manager (or nominee).

3.4. If the referee suspends play and the match is cancelled or abandoned there shall be no replay.

3.5. If more than half of the match has been completed, the score at the time of the suspension of play in the match will be the result for determining the competition points table.

3.6. If less than half of the match has been completed, the match shall be declared drawn and two (2) competition points awarded to each of the teams. For Competition Points Table purposes, the score for the match will be recorded as nil all (0 – 0).

3.7. If any scheduled match cannot be played due to a '**wash out**' the match will not be replayed, then that match is declared drawn and two (2) points awarded to each of the teams. For Competition Points Table purposes, the score for the match will be recorded as nil all (0-0).

3.8. If any team is unable to play a scheduled match, due to extenuating prior circumstances and it cannot be replayed, and with prior approval from the RLB Area Manager (or nominee), then that match will be declared drawn and two (2) points awarded to each of the teams. For Competition Points Table purposes, the score for the match will be recorded as nil all (0-0).

3.9. If any scheduled match cannot be played due to the assigned match official failing to attend, the teams will be provided with an option to **1.** Replay the match at a venue, date and time as set by the RLB Area Manager (or nominee) or **2.** Have the match declared drawn and two (2) points awarded to each of the teams. For Competition Points Table purposes, the score for the match will be recorded as nil all (0-0).

3.10. In the event of the referee stopping a fixture match after the kick-off because a team has an insufficient number of players to continue the match, the match shall be deemed a **loss** by the team with insufficient number of players. Players in the Sin Bin are counted as players. Players dismissed from the field or who have retired from the game due to injury are not counted. Points scored, (for and against) at the time of the abandonment shall stand regardless of which team was leading.

3.11. Any preliminary matches which, due to serious injury or other delay, encroach on the next scheduled game may be abandoned after receiving authorisation from the RLB Area Manager (or nominee). The result of such match shall be determined by applying the procedures outlined in sections 4.5 and 4.6.

3.11.1. Where preliminary matches are played under the jurisdiction of a Local League or other governing body the abandonment and procedures of such abandonment will be the responsibility of the Local League or other relevant governing body.

4. CHILD PROTECTION – Risk Management Program / Blue Card Policy

Refer to: [Queensland Government Blue Card Services](#)

5. CODE OF CONDUCT - Refer to: NRL [National Code of Conduct](#)

Note: All breaches of the Codes of Conduct are subject to the RLB Disciplinary and/or Judiciary Tribunal action under [QRL Rules Part 5 Tribunals](#).

IMPORTANT NOTE: If RLB Disciplinary Tribunal following investigation determines a game has been terminated because of the conduct of a coach, team staff and/or spectators of a team, that team may be deemed to have forfeited the game irrespective of at what stage the match was at and the score at the time. This will be applied for all Premiership and Finals Series games. In the Finals Series matches, this would have an influence on the makeup of remaining Finals Series matches.

5.1. Social Media Code of Conduct – Refer QRL Social Media Policy [QRL Social Media Policy](#)

5.2. Contact with the Media - Refer [QRL Rule 4.4 \(e\) & \(f\)](#)

- 5.2.1. Club Executives should not, without the approval of the RLB Area Manager (or nominee), write a column for publication in any newspaper or publish statements through any media source. **Remember, you are an ambassador for the game.**

6. COIN TOSS AND TEAM RUN-ON

- 6.1. The captains of each team must make themselves available for the coin toss as directed to do so by the match referee. If the captain is unavailable to attend the toss, he must appoint and authorise another player from the team to attend in his/her place.
- 6.2. In all cases the visiting team will take the field first when directed by the match officials, followed by the home team also when directed by the match officials.

7. COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION

- 7.1. For RLB to meet its administration obligations a requirement exists for each club to lodge with the League specific information/forms by specific dates within a football year.
- 7.2. Failure to lodge specific forms by a 'Due Date' has significant impact on the League's ability to meet its obligations and therefore, any club that fails to meet a nominated due date may be fined.
- 7.3. RLB Board has the right to refuse an affiliation application if the club has failed to meet its financial commitments with RLB or the Region and/or the club is in breach of any QRL or sub-ordinate rule and has failed to remedy that breach within a reasonable time following receipt of written notice of that breach from the RLB Area Manager (or nominee).

In addition, any other grounds determined by the Region and/or RLB Board for rejection of an affiliation application from a club, should that club then not complete and lodge an affiliation application for the following year by the date specified in the application, RLB Board shall be entitled to reject such application.

- 7.4. **Ground Configuration Report – [RLB Form 01](#)** : At the beginning of each calendar year, each club is required to complete and submit a Ground Configuration Report detailing.

- 7.4.1.** The number and size of the playing fields available at the venue.
- 7.4.2.** The number of games playable at one time.
- 7.4.3.** Any exclusion dates i.e., date when the ground will not be available for fixture matches e.g. show days and school carnivals.
- 7.4.4.** Whether the field lighting has been certified to the minimum standard allowable for night training and/or night fixtures, certification ([RLB Form 10](#)) to be supplied to the RLB Office by Friday 14 February 2021.
- 7.4.5.** The facilities available at the ground, e.g., number of dressing sheds, and
- 7.4.6.** Whether the club wishes to be considered for hosting Finals Series Matches and/or Representative Team Selection Trials etc.
- 7.5. Competition Formats:** The Rugby League Brisbane Board has the authority to decide,
- 7.5.1.** The format and implementation of competitions, including the number of divisions, times, and dates of all playing fixture matches and final series matches.
- 7.5.2.** In 2021 RLB will offer fixtures **in RLB Junior age groups from under 6 to under 18 ages.**
- 7.6.** Competition points shall be allocated during the season in the following manner:
- A win shall be allocated three (3) points.
 - A draw shall be allocated two (2) points.
 - A loss shall be allocated one (1) point.
 - A bye shall be allocated three (3) points.
 - A team receiving a forfeit shall be allocated three (3) points.
 - The forfeiting team shall be allocated zero (0) points.
- 7.7.** In the event of a forfeit, the team forfeiting shall be allocated nil (0) points for and fifty (50) points against; the team receiving the forfeit shall be allocated fifty (50) points for and nil (0) points against.
- 7.8.** After the premiership rounds all teams shall be ranked in descending order according to the number of competition points accrued during the season.
- 7.9. Mini Football Under 6 to Under 9 - Refer to [Mini & Mod Laws of the Game](#)**

In 2021 RLB will adopt the NRL Player Development Framework rule: Under 6 to play tag (non-tackle rule) and under 7s to play 10 rounds of tag (non-tackle) and progress to Tackle for the final 4 rounds. A Tackle ready program will be delivered to each participant in the Under 7s.

- 7.9.1.** The coach of an Under 6 team is permitted to be on the field of play during the entire season.
- 7.9.2.** The coach of an under 7 team is permitted on the field of play to 'coach' the team up to and including round 6, coaches are then required to remain off the field of play for the remainder of the season.
- 7.9.3.** Under 6 to 11: No match scores are to be recorded/published in this age group.
- 7.10. Mod-League (Under 11 & Under 12)**
- 7.11. Under 12: Scores must be recorded (but not for publication) and lodged with the RLB Office to assist in the grading process.**
- 7.11.1.** No Premiership Points will be allocated to Under 6 – Under 12 competitions (Under 12 – NRL Player Development Framework Trial Rule).
- 7.11.2.** Teams in these age groups should be **'talent' equalised** across competitions within the age group to avoid mismatches.

7.11.3. Note: The official modified rules state that a player's minimum time on the field must be unbroken but coaches should use a common-sense approach where factors such as heat, and fatigue are concerned; players may be rotated in these instances the coach must ensure that each player is given the required total minimum (20 minutes) game time.

7.12. International (under 13 – 18's) - Refer to the [NRL International Laws of the Game](#)

7.12.1. Should a team begin a match with less than 13 players it may fill the vacant places at any time during the game, provided late players are listed on the official match report.

7.12.2. The minimum number of players per team allowed on the field in a match is nine (9). Should less than nine (9) players – currently participating in a match then, for safety reasons, the match shall be terminated. Current participants are players on the field and players who have been suspended (sin bin). If this occurs the game shall cease and the score at the time will be recorded on the Match Report form. The RLB Area Manager (or nominee) will determine the result. **Refer Rule 3.10, page 7.**

7.12.3. Players in the Under 13 – Under 18 age groups are to be graded to a club team according to skills and ability with the most skilled players in the higher graded team.

7.12.4. Specific rules are defined in this operation manual relating to player movement between teams within these graded competitions. Clubs, Coaches and Team Managers should familiarise themselves with these rules.

7.12.5. There is no requirement for coaches to give players a minimum time on the field. However, all coaches have an obligation under the [NRL Code of Conduct](#) – Coaches, which states in part: ***“coaches shall seek to maximise the participation and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability; avoid the tendency to over-use a talented player; treat all players as equals regardless of talent.”***

7.12.6. Premiership points will be allocated to graded competitions within these age groups.

7.12.7. All games must start on time; however, the referee can delay the start of play by up to a maximum of ten (10) minutes if a team has failed to appear. If after this time has elapsed a team cannot take the playing field; a forfeit will be declared in favour of the conforming team. Starting times for games shall be as allocated by RLB, with the referee having the authority on the day to start (no earlier than the published kick-off time)

or end games away from the allocated times to conform to the following rules of precedence,

7.12.7..1. Mod-league games to take precedence over Mini-league games,

7.12.7..2. International rule games to take precedence over Mod-league games, and

7.12.7..3. Senior Club games to take precedence over Junior Club games.

7.12.8. Night games must commence no later than 8.30pm unless approval has been granted by the RLB Area Manager.

7.12.9. Requests for changes to the time, date, and venue of any competition fixture match, i.e. Under 12 to open aged, will not be considered except under extenuating circumstances. These circumstances include:

7.12.9..1. Safety – When the condition of the ground where the match originally scheduled, is such that the ground would be unsafe to play on.

7.12.9..2. Unavailability – When the ground where the match was originally scheduled, is unavailable to play on.

7.12.9..3. Representative Duties – When a club has three or more players from the game scheduled, involved in an **NRL, QRL – RLB representative team** and these representative duties clash with that scheduled fixture, a written request from the club concerned will be considered by the RLB Area Manager (or nominee).

7.12.10. Requests for game changes must outline the extenuating circumstances and be submitted a **minimum of fourteen (14) days** prior to the initial scheduled match.

7.12.11. Under no circumstances can individual clubs change any game without prior consent from the RLB Area Manager (or nominee).

7.12.12. Players in all teams must appear in the registered club uniform of their club, which shall include jersey, shorts, and socks except for the Under 6 age group, which may wear a club shirt as their jersey. Clubs with teams failing to have all players in the registered club uniform may attract a fine. Football boots are to be worn by all players in the Under 6 to 18 aged teams.

7.12.13. A player's name and NRL ID number appearing on a Match Report form means that player is deemed to have played in that fixture on that date (Under 13 – 18's).

7.12.14. A player's name and NRL ID number is to be entered on the QRL Match Report form prior to the commencement of the game and then the player can participate in that game at any time.

7.13. Mercy Rule

7.13.1. All matches in the Under 13 to 18's competitions will have the option for the game to cease at the discretion of the coach of the losing team when there is a gap of fifty (50) points or more. Whenever the 'Mercy Rule' results in a game finishing before the designated time this be recorded on the match report.

Not other changes to the International Laws of the game should be made.

Score entered MySideline should reflect a fifty (50) point margin and be adjusted, as necessary.

Recommended suggestions for the coach of the dominant team to employ to avoid an early end to the match:

- Reduce the number of the dominant team's players on the field.
- Return possession of the football to the opposition.
- Try players in different playing positions.

7.14. Forfeits

7.14.1. If a club forfeits a match, the club must forfeit the lower division/grade team first. This rule is subject to special consideration with junior teams.

7.14.2. Clubs having to forfeit games before match day **must immediately notify the opposition club** and the RLB office **by 7.00pm on the Thursday evening prior to the weekend game.**

7.14.3. **RLB Form 07** must then be completed and emailed to the League office by the Secretary of the Club forfeiting the match no later than **8.00am** on the Friday morning prior to the weekend of the game.

7.14.4. Failure to advise the League of a forfeit by the cut-off time may attract a \$200.00 fine. Failure to notify the opposition club of the forfeit may attract an additional fine of up to \$500.00.

7.14.5. RLB Juniors: If a match is forfeited on game day, the forfeiting club shall pay a

fine up to a maximum of \$1500 to the League. Half of the fine (\$750) will be retained by the League and the remaining half (\$750) will be available to be paid to the host club by the League to cover all unavoidable costs incurred for the forfeited game on the day (e.g., food and drink purchased). If the host club forfeits, they will not receive the \$750.

7.14.6. In those instances where a team forfeits to avoid travelling to North Stradbroke Island or Russell Island, the forfeiting club may incur an additional fine of \$750.00.

7.14.7. Any team or members of a team who leave the field of play whilst a match is in progress, other than through injury, without the permission of the Referee must be reported in writing to RLB by the Referee and Host Club Secretary. The Club to which the team/players belong will be subject to disciplinary action and a fine/suspension may be imposed.

7.14.8. The League has the discretion to choose not to apply the rules of forfeiture in the interests of developing participation in the game of rugby league.

8. DISMISSED PLAYERS – Temporary / Permanent Suspensions

- 8.1.** The match referee has the discretion to suspend for ten (10) minutes or to dismiss a player for 'on field' misconduct.
- 8.2.** A player receiving a period of temporary suspension by the referee shall immediately leave the field of play and shall be met at the sideline by an official from the host club and escorted to the designated 'sin bin' area. The player shall remain in that area until the end of the temporary suspension period.
- 8.3.** The time of temporary suspension shall be ten (10) minutes and is for playing time only and shall commence after the referee signals time-on and/or when play recommences.
- 8.4.** Suspended time does not include the half-time break and shall cease at the end of the first period and resume upon the commencement of the second period.
- 8.5.** If more than one player receives temporary suspension from the one incident, the players' temporary suspension shall be equal and shall be entitled to return to the field of play together after the completion of their suspension.
- 8.6.** Clubs should aim to have two (2) separate sin bin areas to avoid any further issues in the event players from opposition teams are sent to the sin bin at the same time.
- 8.7.** Players re-entering the field of play from the sin bin shall do so from an onside position after reporting to the Touch Judge.
- 8.8.** Any player permanently dismissed from the field (i.e., sent-off), must immediately return to his/her team's dressing room until he has changed out of his/her playing uniform.
- 8.9.** Under no circumstances can a dismissed player return to the players' bench unless it is outside the area bounded by the fence surrounding the playing area.
- 8.10.** The referee shall complete a Referees/On Field Incident Report immediately after the completion of the match and shall lodge the form with a nominated representative of the club of the dismissed player, BRLRA secretary and the RLB Area Manager (or nominee).
- 8.11.** Any Player who is suspended or disqualified from playing rugby league by the RLB Match Review Panel, RLB Judiciary Committee or any other disciplinary body with usual authority to make such determinations, shall not participate in any form, in any match until that suspension has been

served or that disqualification has expired and must not enter the playing field or area inside the fence prior to, during or after a match. Please refer to: [QRL Rules Part 5 Tribunals](#)

8.12. Any registered player participating in any competition under the jurisdiction of the QRL (including game sanctioned by the QRL) who is suspended by a Match Review Committee or Judiciary Tribunal must serve out the number of fixture games imposed upon that player in accordance with the Base Penalty Schedule. Please refer to: [QRL Rules Part 5 Tribunals](#)

9. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS – Age – Refer [QRL Rules 4.1.3 Age Eligibility](#)

Table One:

* Age as of 1 January	Eligible Age Groups	MUST NOT PLAY
4*	U6	U7 or above
5**	U6, U7	U8 or above
6	U7, U8	U9 or above
7	U8, U9	U10 or above
8	U9, U10	U11 or above
9	U10, U11	U12 or above
10	U11, U12	U13 or above
11	U12, U13	U14 or above
12	U13, U14	U15 or above
13	U14, U15	U16 or above
14	U15, U16	U17

*A Junior player who will turning the age of five (5) in the calendar year, in the current year of competition, player may with the written consent from his or her Parent or Primary Care Provider, register in any under six (6) age group competition.

**To play U7, a player must turn the age of six (6) in that year.

Table Two: (Refer QRL Rule 4.1.3)

*Age as of 1 January	Eligible Age Groups	MUST NOT PLAY
15	U16 & U17	U19 or above
16	U17, U18	
17 (see note below)	Any senior grade only if no under 18 competitions available in the Local League	

Where a junior player has attained the age of seventeen (17) years prior to one (1) July, that player may with the consent of the club and his/her or her parent or primary care provider, register and play in any Senior Grade competition in that year but **only if there is no under eighteen (18) competition offered in that league.**

9.1. Rules Relating to Player Eligibility: All players correctly registered as per the Rules of RLB and having an official photograph (**Under 6s and above**) and proof of age/identity e.g., Birth Certificate, uploaded to the NRL database are eligible to participate in the RLB competition.

- 9.2. Any club playing an unregistered player may be fined for the match (or matches) in which the player took part. Loss of competition points may also be applied at the discretion of the RLB Area Manager (or nominee).
- 9.3. **Mini and Mod League:** Eligibility of players participating in the Mini Footy (5 to 9 years) and Mod League (10 to 12 years) matches is as defined in Section 7.8 and 7.9 page 8 – 9.
- 9.4. Mini-Footy players (under 9 only) may be granted permission to play Mod League provided only that:
- 9.4.1. Application has been made on club letterhead by the club secretary to RLB and approved, **prior** to the player taking part in the RLB competition.
- 9.4.2. There is no team of their age group registered that season within the club.
- 9.4.3. The player must have completed at least one full season as an Under 8 player in Mini-Footy before permission will be granted to play Mod League.
- 9.5. A new under 9 player who has not previously played any junior rugby league will not be allowed to play Mod-League and no new Under 12 player who has not previously played any junior international rugby league will not be allowed to play International rules rugby league (subject to approval of the RLB Area Manager or nominee).
- 9.6. Girls who have not attained the age of twelve (12) years are eligible to participate in the playing of Mini-Footy and Mod-League. Girls who attain the age of twelve years during a football year can continue playing until the end of that season.
- 9.7. A 12-year-old girl turning thirteen (13) in the year can only participate in female teams against female opposition. **Refer to the [NRL Mixed Gender Policy](#)**
- 9.8. Girls Competitions will be offered in the under 12, under 14, under 16 and 18 age groups in 2021. Note: 11- & 12-year-old girls are eligible to play in the under 12 competitions (under 12s will be subject to the NRL Player Development Framework Trial rules); 13 & 14-year-old girls are eligible to play in the under 14 competitions; 15 & 16-year-old girls are eligible to play in the Under 16 competitions; 17 & 18-year-old girls are eligible to play in the under 18 competitions.
- 9.9. **Classification of Players:** Every player within each team in the Under 13 to 18's competitions will be classified as either a 'core player' or 'non-core player' and are subject to the rules relating to the movement of players.
- 9.10. Junior clubs with multiple teams in the same age group (under 13 to 18's) are required to grade their players into teams based on skill level. The best and most skilled players must be allocated to the highest graded team and the least skilled players to the lowest graded team within the same age group.
- 9.11. Following the completion of the premierships round immediately prior to Thursday 6th of May 2021 clubs must submit, by the nominated due date, a Player Grading Register [RLB Form 05](#) for each of its teams competing in the Under 13 to 18's competitions listing the team's core and non-core players. **Player's names must only appear on only one team list.**
- 9.12. The RLB Area Manager (or nominee) may determine a player's core/non-core status and his/her grading in the absence of Player Grading Register.
- 9.13. Clubs are to submit a Player Grading Register for **every team** within the under 13 to 18's.
- 9.14. The **ten (10) best and most skilled players** within each team must be classified as 'core players' for that team. RLB reserves the right, in consultation with the club, to direct a player (or players) to be included in the list of core players.

- 9.15.** Deliberate attempts to exclude players from the core player list to gain advantage for lower divisions/grades is considered a serious breach of these rules and a maximum fine of \$500.00 per player may apply.
- 9.16.** Should it be desirable to replace a player classified as a core player, a written submission must be presented to the RLB Area Manager (or nominee) for determination.
- 9.17.** Players registering after player grading registers are submitted to the League will be regarded as non-core players in the highest graded team in his/her age group/division until revised player grading registers are submitted and accepted by the RLB Area Manager (or nominee).
- 9.18. Junior Players Moving Between Age Groups:** On those occasions where there are insufficient players available, lower age group players may be used in the premiership fixtures and finals, but they must not play in a higher age group graded competition that is,
- 9.18.1.** For core players, more than one division lower than the player's normal graded division in his own age group. Example, a player playing in the under 13 Division 1 may play for his club in the Under 14 Division 1 and 2 grades but not under 14 Division 3 or below.
- 9.18.2.** For non-core players, more than two grades lower than the player's normal graded division in his own age group. Example, a non-core player playing in the under 13 Division 1 may play for his club in the under 14 Division 1, 2 and 3 teams but not under 14 Division 4 or below.
- 9.18.3.** Under 16 core players may play up in the U17 age group in a grade no more than two grades below his normal grade in his own age group. Under 16 non-core players can play up in any under 17 age group competition.
- 9.18.4.** Where lower division or lower age group players are being used as temporary reserves during fixtures and/or finals, RLB requires that permanent members of the team take the field first and be used prior to the lower grade or age group player entering the game.
- 9.18.5. When a lower age group player plays in a higher age group game, their registered age group must be entered alongside their name on that game's Match Report form. This rule also applies to Dual Registered players i.e., the initials 'DR' is to be notated on the Match Report if the player is Dual Registered with another club. The notation '18M' should be placed on the match report for any player registered under the eighteen (18) month registration window rule. If a club fails to abide by this rule, a fine and/or penalty may apply.**

9.19. Team Numbers

Number of players per team are as follows,

AGE GROUP	NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON FIELD PER TEAM	MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON FIELD PER TEAM	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER TEAM
U6 -U7	6	4	10 (recommended)
U8 – U9	8	6	12 (recommended)
U10 - U11	11	8	15 (recommended)
U12	13	11	17
U13 – U18 Division 1	13	9	17
U13 – U18 Division 2,3 & 4	13	9	19

- 9.20. Players moving between grades in the same age group:** Core players are **not** permitted to play in any lower graded team.
- 9.21.** 'Non-Core' players listed on a higher graded team's Player Grading Register are only permitted to play down in the next lowest graded team within the same age group in their club.
- 9.22.** Non-Core players are permitted to play unlimited games up in a higher grade at any time during the fixture rounds.
- 9.23.** Under no circumstances are lower graded players to be forced to play in a higher graded team within the same age group. The player and player's parent/primary care provider's consent must be obtained before using a lower graded player in a higher graded team.
- 9.24. Rules Specific to Under 17 Competitions:** The Nev Blair Shield is a Premier grade competition for the Under 17 age group.
- 9.25.** The RLB Area Manager (or nominee) will determine the format for the Nev Blair Shield competition prior to the commencement of each season.
- 9.26.** Eligibility rules for players participating in a Nev Blair Shield team are as defined in Rules on pages 13 - 16 with the following additional clauses.
- 9.26.1.** A dual registered junior player who is called up and participates in an NRL competition is not eligible to return to a junior competition.
- 9.26.2.** Any junior player called up to play in a senior grade (e.g., State-wide under 21s) from the junior club he is registered with, during the competition season, will be entitled to return to his junior club and will be regarded as a core player in the highest graded team in that age group of that junior club. A revised Player Grading Register must be submitted if required.
- 9.26.3.** A player, who in the previous football year played most matches in the under 16 Division 1 competitions, cannot play in an Under 17 Division 2 competition or below subject to the RLB Area Manager's (or nominee) review and approval.
- 9.26.4.** Any club withdrawing a team from the Nev Blair Shield competition after the first premiership fixture will not be refunded the team nomination fee.

10. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – Finals Series

- 10.1.** To play in any Finals Series match, a player must have played **three (3) or more Premiership fixture matches** in the current season for their club prior to the completion of the final round of fixtures as well as satisfying other applicable qualification rules. For the purposes of determining the number of games played during the season, only one (1) match in any fixture weekend will count; multiple matches in different grades on the same weekend will only count as one match. In this case the lower grade match shall count in determining qualification.
- 10.2.** Players who registered late and do not participate in three (3) fixture matches for their club prior to the finals are not eligible to play in the finals.
- 10.3.** All players who have met the minimum match requirement will qualify to play in the Finals Series in the division and/or graded competition where they have **played most of their matches**. Note: Clubs are responsible for recording from completed match reports the divisions and/or age group/s a player participates in during the premiership fixtures to establish what divisions/age group finals a player qualifies to participate in, and such information **must** be relayed to the coach of the player/team involved.

- 10.4.** A player who has qualified for a lower-level competition finals series shall still be eligible to participate in the final series of a higher-level competition.
- 10.5.** A player will not be eligible to play in two levels of a Final Series scheduled on the same weekend except where the lower-level team has played earlier than the higher-level team on that weekend.
- 10.6.** If a player has participated in an equal amount of premiership competition matches in multiple levels of competitions, the player shall be deemed eligible for the lower level **subject to the discretion of the League** to decide on final's eligibility.
- 10.7.** In those instances, where a team was regraded, the matches played prior to regrading will count as matches in the team's new competition grade. For example, if a team is regraded from Division One to Division Two, the matches played in the Division One competition prior to the regrade will count as Division Two matches in terms of player eligibility.
- 10.8.** Each Club with a team engaged in any Final Series shall lodge a list of players whom they consider to be eligible to play in each level for the Finals Series. This list must be submitted to RLB Office for confirmation two (2) weeks prior to the first finals match. There is no limit to the number of players listed.
- 10.9.** Eligibility shall commence at the start of each premiership competition and cease upon the completion of each competition's premiership rounds.
- 10.10.** In the event of forfeited or cancelled matches, clubs must submit a Team List (to be lodged with RLB Office by 5pm Sunday, listing the players who would have played if these matches to be counted for eligibility. Teams forfeiting the match cannot have matches counted for finals eligibility.
- 10.11.** The League will always exercise discretion in determining finals eligibility.

11. EQUIPMENT – Player's equipment

- 11.1.** Jerseys must be manufactured in accordance with the QRL Brand Guidelines relevant to the year of competition and submitted to RLB office for approval prior to production.
- 11.2.** A player must not wear any item that might prove dangerous to other players. If in doubt a player is required to have any such item approved by the match officials prior to the commencement of the match.
- 11.3.** A player's normal gear shall consist of a numbered jersey of distinctive colour and/or pattern, a pair of shorts, long socks of distinctive colour and/or pattern and studded boots or shoes.
- 11.4.** A player may wear compression garments but may only do so as follows,
- The length of the garment must not extend below the elbow or knee of the player, outside the neck/collar of the jersey, or the length of the playing sock.
 - The colour of the garment may only be black or an approved colour which shall be the colour of the playing shorts. Branding and or logos, other than the manufacturers' logo is not permitted.
 - The wearing of full-length compression garments is not permitted unless approved by the RLB Area Manager.
- 11.5.** Protective equipment may be worn provided it contains nothing of a rigid nature. Protective equipment refers to shoulder pads, arm bands, rib covering, head gear and hip pads. The match officials will make a final decision in areas of doubt relating to what is considered as rigid.

- 11.6. Studs on boots or shoes must be no less than 8mm diameter at the apex and, if made of metal, must have rounded edges.
- 11.7. Jerseys must be manufactured in accordance with the QRL Brand Guidelines. All players must wear the complete uniform – jersey, shorts, and socks – as registered by the club and submitted to the RLB Office for approval. All clubs must submit their playing strip design to the League for approval each season.
- 11.8. Dangerous and Prohibited Equipment: The use of gloves or mittens is prohibited.
- 11.9. All visible body jewellery shall be removed, and non-visible jewellery must be taped prior to the commencement of the match.
- 11.10. Players with beads in their hair must remove them or must wear head gear which covers them.
- 11.11. Players are permitted to wear power bands/wristbands on the field during matches; however, they must be covered by tape so that no part of the band is visible.
- 11.12. The practice of 'knotting' (pulling together and tying a knot in the jersey) or 'bundling' (pulling together in a bundle or tail and taping) as a method for tightening the fit of a Rugby League jersey is prohibited.
- 11.13. Any items of non-standard or modified equipment must first be approved for use by the RLB Area Manager or nominee before that item may be used by a player in a match.
- 11.14. The referee may order a player to remove any item or any part of his/her equipment which might be considered dangerous and shall not allow the player to take any further part in the match until the item or equipment is removed.
- 11.15. Such a player must retire from the playing field to remove the offending item if the start or re-start of the match would otherwise be delayed.
- 11.16. The match officials should check all equipment prior to the commencement of each match.
- 11.17. Field Equipment: Corner posts shall be placed at the intersection of each touch line and goal line. The posts shall be of non-rigid material and shall be not less than 1.25m high.
- **For the avoidance of doubt spring loaded corner posts and/or those with metal spikes are not permitted for use.**
- 11.18. Corner post pads may be no wider than the width of the touch line and shall comply with the Brand guidelines.
- 11.19. Goal post pads shall be a maximum width and depth of 50cm and shall comply with the Brand guidelines. Goal post pads in good condition must be in place on goal posts whenever the field is in use, match days and training, no exceptions.
- 11.20. A kicking tee may be used provided it is a product that is licenced and displays the logo of the QRL, NSWRL or NRL. Such tees may be used for kicks at goal and starts or restarts of play from the 50m line.

12. FACILITIES - Venues

- 12.1. The League will review all club playing venues on an annual basis to confirm compliance with these rules, particularly regarding player facilities.
- 12.2. The club shall ensure that the venue nominated to host a competition match is presented in an appropriate manner and has adequate security engaged in the interest of the comfort of the public and the welfare of match officials.

- 12.3.** Each venue **should aim** to provide as a minimum standard the following amenities and services,
- 12.3.1.** Appropriate and safe grandstand or spectator viewing facility.
 - 12.3.2.** Lockable separate home and away team dressing rooms. These dressing rooms shall have toilet and shower facilities that meet Australian Health Standards which shall be made available for access approximately 40 minutes prior to the kick-off.
 - 12.3.3.** Lockable Match Officials' Dressing Room with access to ice and water. These dressing rooms shall have toilet and shower facilities that meet acceptable Australian Health Standards.
 - 12.3.4.** Medical Officers Room.
 - 12.3.5.** A clearly defined SIN BIN area/s which must be clearly signed. It must be situated in a position away from the defined alcohol consumption areas and areas where the safety of any sin-binned player would be in question. It is further recommended that two (2) sin bin areas be made available in the event of players from opposing teams being dismissed during the same period; A duty official must be present at the sin bin while any player is serving time in the sin bin
 - 12.3.6.** Drug Testing Room,
 - 12.3.6..1.** Clubs and Leagues shall comply with [QRL Rule 4.5 regarding Drug Testing](#).
 - 12.3.7.** Designated Media area.
 - 12.3.8.** Provision of an elevated area located on or near the halfway line for videography of matches if required.
 - 12.3.9.** Men's, Women's, and Disabled amenities available for public use.
 - 12.3.10.** Separate canteen.
 - 12.3.11.** Public address system.
 - 12.3.12.** Scoreboard.
 - 12.3.13.** Ambulance access to the area immediately adjacent to the playing field.
 - 12.3.14.** The host club shall provide reasonable quantities of ice, water, and lockable storage.
 - 12.3.15.** Alcohol: A designated licensed area for the purchase and consumption of alcohol; (RLB Management encourages clubs to totally restrict the sale and consumption of alcohol within the confines of the ground where junior games are being conducted).
 - 12.3.15..1.** The sale of alcohol shall comply with the Liquor Act 1992 (Qld) and Guidelines for Liquor Licensees as administered by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation. Designated licenced areas shall be clearly marked, clearly identified with appropriate signage, be fully enclosed or roped off and must not be within ten (10) metres of the playing enclosure. There must be a clear passage between the defined area and the playing field area.
 - 12.3.15..2.** **Clubs shall have regard to the QRL Memo of 18 August 2009 recommending the sale of low or mid strength alcohol only at matches.**
 - 12.3.15..3.** **Clubs will comply with the QRL and Lion (XXXX) partnership requirements as set out in [Circular 358](#) QRL Sponsorships. Failure to adhere to this request could result in fines, loss of competition points or loss of club hosting rights for matches.**
 - 12.3.15..4.** The bringing of alcohol into any ground is not permitted and the sale or consumption of alcohol in glass containers is prohibited at all grounds and in the

dressing rooms. A one thousand-dollar (\$1000) fine may be applied for breaches of this rule.

12.3.15..5. Alcohol must not be taken into or consumed in dressing rooms.

12.3.16. A designated smoking area in accordance with tobacco laws in Queensland.

12.3.17. Digital time piece with match time displays and functioning siren.

12.4. The host club shall provide reasonable quantities of ice, water, and lockable storage.

12.5. The host club must have a designated area where the score is recorded and give the visiting team the opportunity to verify the score and time (when it is not being kept by the referee) throughout the match.

12.6. Responsibility for Spectators: Clubs are deemed to be responsible for the behaviour of their spectators and team members and are expected to follow the [NRL Code of Conduct](#).

12.7. A responsible club official must accompany all visiting teams. This official must make him/herself known to the duty officials and club official of the host team prior to the match. The club official from each team will be deemed to be responsible for the behaviour of their spectators at each match.

12.8. Duty Officials – See pages 41 – 42 for the Role of Duty Officials: The referees have been advised not to commence a match unless two (2) duty officials are in attendance. Where a match is not played for this reason it will be regarded as a forfeit by the home team,

12.8.1..1. Breaches of this rule should be reported in writing to the RLB Area Manager.

12.8.1..2. If a club is found guilty of a breach of this rule it is liable to the loss of its next three (3) home matches. Further breaches may result in the loss of all further home matches for the season.

12.9. Lighting Standards: The following lighting standards shall be required for training and competition matches.

- Ball and physical training 50 Lux
- Club competitions and match practice 100 Lux

The above information has been extracted from Australian Standard AS 2560 Part 2.3.

12.10. Medical Facilities: Each team dressing room shall.

12.10.1. Contain a table for observing, assessing, and treating players with injuries such as minor head injuries, concussion, fractures, lacerations etc.

12.10.2. Provide facilities for adequate disposal of used materials such as syringes, needles, contaminated waste disposal kit etc.

12.10.3. Have unobstructed access for any player taken by stretcher from the field.

12.11. Coaches Facilities: During a game coaches are permitted to view the game from their teams' bench or if applicable, in a coach's box. Coach/s must always stay an adequate distance from the field of play.

13. FINALS SERIES – Format

13.1. After the completion of competition fixtures the team leading on the points table shall be number one (1) and the next team number two (2) and so on.

13.2. The team at the top of the premiership table will be declared minor premiers.

13.3. The following format for a Top Two (2) Finals Series will apply,

Week	Game	Match Name	Team	Team
1	1	Grand Final	Team finishing 1 st on ladder	Team finishing 2 nd on ladder

13.4. The following format for a Top Five (5) Finals Series will apply,

Week	Match	Match Name	Team	Team
1	A	Elimination Final	Team 4	Team 5
	B	Qualifying Final	Team 2	Team 3
2	C	1 st Semi Final	Loser B	Winner A
	D	2 nd Semi Final	Team 1	Winner B
3	E	Preliminary Final	Loser D	Winner C
4	F	Grand Final	Winner D	Winner E

13.5. RLB retains the option to alter the format of Semi Finals increasing or reducing the numbers of teams eligible to contest Semi Finals.

13.6. All dates, times and venues for all Finals Series Matches will be determined prior and adequate notification provided.

13.7. After the premierships rounds if two (2) or more teams are equal in competition points, the final series rankings will be determined according to the following criteria.

13.7.1. The greater positive difference between points scored for and against, then if equal,

13.7.2. The greater percentage of points scored for and against, being determined by,

Points scored for x 100

Points scored against x 1

then if equal,

13.7.3. The most tries scored, then if equal,

13.7.4. The most goals kicked, then if equal

13.7.5. The most drop goals kicked, then if equal,

13.7.6. The most drop goals kicked, then if equal,

13.7.7. By the toss of a coin.

13.8. There will be no 'play off' matches to determine positions in the semi-final's series.

13.9. The above rules will also apply to determine the teams to contest for the Ted Beaumont Trophy matches.

13.10. **Extra Time Golden Point:** If scores are equal after normal time in any Finals Series match, then in such matches a period of extra time – Golden Point, shall follow.

13.11. The commencement of the period of extra time shall be determined by the toss of a coin as described under the Laws of the Game.

13.12. If no point or points have been scored after the 1st period of five (5) minutes, the referee shall cease play and teams shall immediately change ends. The team that did not kick-off to commence the initial period of extra time, will kick-off to recommence the second period.

13.13. Play shall then continue for an unlimited time basis until the first point or points have been scored to determine the winner of the match.

- 13.14. In such extra time, the first scorer of any point or points (e.g., field goal, penalty goal or try) will immediately be declared the winner.
- 13.15. If a try is scored in extra time the conversion kick will not be permitted.
- 13.16. In the case of any 'Extra Time' (finals) matches being played, any unused interchanges remaining from the total maximum number allowed will be cancelled after the normal period of play (fulltime). For the 'Extra Time' period, each team will be allowed a maximum of two (2) interchanges, with these two numbered cards to be returned to each team by the interchange official.
- 13.17. Special Rules, to be determined, may apply to finals played at Suncorp Stadium or other major venues e.g., due to time constraints.

14. GRADING AND REGRADING OF TEAMS

- 14.1. RLB will grade all teams in all competitions.
- 14.2. If applying for a re-grading the club secretary must,
 - 14.2.1. List all players transferring into the club in that division.
 - 14.2.2. List all players transferring out of the club in that division and to which club/s they are transferring.
 - 14.2.3. List all players who have left the club in that division and their reason for leaving.
 - 14.2.4. Provide all the above information to RLB prior to the nominated closing day for season grading.
- 14.3. A Grading Committee will convene,
 - 14.3.1. At the completion of each season to review, the results of all graded competitions and to make a preliminary assessment of where teams should be graded in the following season based on the assumption that all players/teams will be returning. This pre-assessment will allow the committee to make informed decisions when reviewing each club's list of team nominations for the new season.
 - 14.3.2. Immediately following the cut-off date for team nominations and prior to the commencement of the premiership rounds to finalise initial teams grading and,
- 14.4. **All clubs must carefully consider the grade for which they nominate each team as requests for regrades after Round 3 will not be considered.**
- 14.5. Any regrading that may be required will only be undertaken with the express approval of the RLB Area Manager (or nominee).
- 14.6. The following rules **may** apply to teams regraded into another competition,
 - 14.6.1. A team promoted to a higher graded competition will take their premiership points only and not 'For' and 'Against' points.
 - 14.6.2. Teams requesting to be dropped down a Division after Round 3 will be ineligible to play finals in that lower Division should that request be approved. If the regrading is approved, all opposing teams in that Division will automatically receive three (3) points.
- 14.7. In those instances, where a team is withdrawn from a competition before the end of a complete competition round, all premiership and 'For' and 'Against' points associated with the matches played by the team withdrawn will be nullified.
- 14.8. Once commenced, teams will only be added or withdrawn from a competition in extenuating circumstances and subject to the following conditions,
 - 14.8.1. For teams being added to the competition,

- A 'bye' must exist in the relevant competition.
- The team nomination fee must be paid before the team will be added to the competition.
- Team insurance must be paid before the team is added to the competition.
- New teams added to the U13 – U18 age group competitions will start with zero points.
- Existing teams will be awarded three (3) premiership points for each bye they had prior to the addition of the new team.

14.8.2. For teams (juniors only) being withdrawn from the competition,

- A team withdrawal fee of \$200.00 will be payable for each team withdrawn.
- Those clubs with multiple teams in a division seeking to withdraw a team will be required to withdraw the lowest graded team.
- Requests for regrading will be subject to the approval of the RLB Area Manager (or nominee).

15. GROUND MARKINGS AND DIMENSIONS

15.1. These provisions set out the official markings and dimensions of the playing surface for all competition matches.

15.2. The host club is responsible for having its field lines marked in strict accordance with this manual.

15.3. Each venue's playing surface shall include the following grid line markings,

- 10m,
- 20m,
- 30m,
- 40m (Red Line),
- 50m,
- Goal Line,
- Dead ball line, and
- Touch line

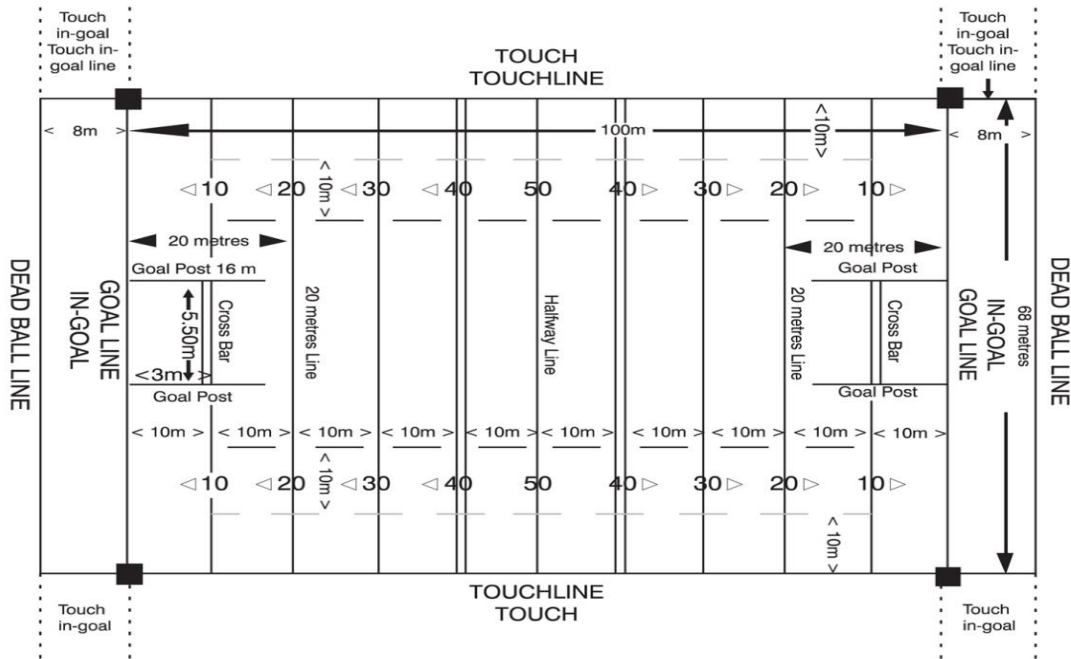
15.4. The grid line marking shall be unbroken lines, white in colour and 10cm in width except 40m line.

15.5. Each venue's playing surface may include distance markings. Where the home team elects to include distance markers they shall be placed at the following lines, are to be white in colour and 2.0m in height,

- 10m,
- 20m,
- 30m,
- 40m, and
- 50m

15.6. Each venue's playing surface shall include 10m and 20m lines. Such lines will be marked both 10m and 20m in from the touchline, are to be 10cm in width, white in colour and to a length of five (5) metres (2.5m either side of the cross line for free kicks and 5m between the cross lines for scrum marks).

- 15.7. The broken lines in the diagram shall consist of marks or dots on the ground not more than 2 metres apart.
- 15.8. All transverse lines must be marked across the full width of the field.
- 15.9. Two unbroken red lines, 10cms in width, across the field to mark the 40m lines are to be used.
- 15.10. Where possible, a 'box' area be marked by an unbroken red line three (3) metres from the touchline closest to where the team benches are located. All coaches and team staff must remain within this 'box' area.
- 15.11. Sponsors logos for grass signage shall be positioned in accordance with the brand guidelines.



16. HEAT POLICY

- 16.1. For any match during the competition if the prevailing weather conditions necessitate some relief from the normal playing conditions, the following concessions may apply for that match,
 - 16.1.1. All matches shall have a compulsory drink break,
 - 16.1.2. Referees will call 1-minute "time-out" period approximately halfway into each half to allow players to take a fluid break. Players will remain on the field and may only be tended to by the three (3) trainers listed. No coaching staff shall be permitted on the field,
 - 16.1.3. The Sports Trainers/Trainers National Accreditation Scheme [NRL On Field Policy](#) will be relaxed so that all three (3) trainers may carry water
 - 16.1.4. The half-time interval may be extended and shall be done so after consultation of both the match and team officials.
- 16.2. If in the event of severe heat conditions, the commencement of a match may be delayed.

17. HOSTING FINALS SERIES MATCHES

- 17.1. Clubs hosting finals games conduct these games for and on behalf of RLB.
- 17.2. The RLB Board sets an admission fee for these finals, which the host Club collects from all persons that enter the grounds, excepting persons nominated by RLB.
 - 17.2.1. The total gate receipts for the day are to be paid to RLB and/or any agreed hosting fee if set by RLB.

- 17.3.** Host Clubs as a minimum are to supply the following,
- 17.3.1.** At least five (5) Duty Officials,
 - 17.3.2.** A public-address system and announcer,
 - 17.3.3.** Gate staff,
 - 17.3.4.** A qualified Level 2 Sports Trainer,
 - 17.3.5.** Persons to carry out the duties of ball and kicking tee delivery and return,
 - 17.3.6.** Suitable timekeeping equipment and timekeeper who shall act as the recorder in the event of a drawn match.
- 17.4. Team Lists for Finals Series Matches – Refer [RLB Form 13](#)**
- 17.4.1.** A program will be produced for each ground which will include a list of players and team staff for each team participating. These programs will be available for downloading directly from the RLB website.
 - 17.4.2.** To have enough time to produce these programs the teams in contention on the ladder prior to the final game of the Premiership are to submit their team list (with core players annotated), in the format prescribed by RLB with players listed in jersey number order by the date and time nominated by the RLB Area Manager (or nominee).
 - 17.4.3.** For Juniors, those clubs that have more than one team in the same age group, the names on the list submitted should match those listed on the Player Grading Register.
 - 17.4.4. Only those players listed on the team list are eligible to take part.**
 - 17.4.5.** Cut-off for semi-finals is 12.00pm on the Tuesday preceding the semi-finals matches.
 - 17.4.6.** Cut-off for Preliminary finals is 12.00pm on the Tuesday preceding the preliminary finals matches.
 - 17.4.7.** Cut-off for Grand Finals is 9.00 am on the Monday preceding the scheduled matches.
 - 17.4.8.** Changes to team lists may be made up to 12.00pm of the Thursday preceding the match however, these changes may not be reflected in the match day program.
 - 17.4.9.** Only those players listed on the team list may participate in the match. No exceptions.
 - 17.4.10.** Only those players who qualify to take part in finals are eligible. Breaches of the rules relating to player eligibility for finals as defined in the Rules and any deliberate playing of ineligible player/s in lower grades may result in the loss of the match and a maximum fine of \$500.00 per player being issued against the offending club.
- 17.5. Gate Entry Fee**
- 17.5.1.** Gate Entry fee (**see Admission Prices - Page 5**).
 - 17.5.2.** All gate takings are to be transferred into RLB's bank account by close of business on the Wednesday following the scheduled match.
 - 17.5.3.** Entry points are to be well sign-posted and controlled.
 - 17.5.4.** Each club secretary is to take all reasonable action to ensure all club members are aware that a gate entry fee is payable for all Finals Matches. Abuse of gate officials by host or visiting club members and their spectators will not be tolerated. The parent club of a guilty offender could also be subject to a fine/disciplinary tribunal action.
- 17.6. Entry for Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, Sports Trainer and Leaguesafe Officer**
- 17.6.1.** Entry to the grounds for **team staff of six (6)** will be allowed free of charge. Each team staff member's name must be on a list held at the gate. It will be the responsibility of the team staff

member to identify himself/herself to the host club's gate official to gain free entry. Details of team staff will be as per 'team list' forwarded by the club to RLB Office prior to the game.

17.7. Visiting Team Duty Official

17.7.1. Each team participating in a Final Series matches will be required to supply a duty official to assist in the management of spectators.

17.8. First Aid

17.8.1. Accredited sports trainers are to be provided by each host club.

17.8.2. A dedicated covered/sheltered area away from spectators is to be provided for the provision of first aid for those players that have an injury that requires treatment off the field.

17.8.3. Clear access for an ambulance is to be maintained always.

17.8.4. The safety and welfare of an injured player comes above all else.

17.9. Duty Officials

17.9.1. Host clubs must provide a minimum of five (5) duty officials to meet all game requirements, including,

- Maintaining a minimum two duty officials inside of the playing field perimeter in front of where spectators are gathered during a match (if possible, use four duty officials, two on either side).
- Conducting the player ID and jersey number check,
- Official timekeeper.
- Referee escorts.
- Ground controller.

17.9.2. All persons acting in the role of a duty official must wear the approved RLB Duty Official bib.

17.9.3. A 'briefing' for duty officials explaining their responsibilities and role/s during the day is to be conducted by a member of the club's executive committee or ground controller prior to the commencement of the first match of the day and prior to any change of those persons undertaking the role and who did not attend the initial briefing.

17.10. Referees and Touch Judges

17.10.1. Referees and touch judges will be allocated by the RLB Referee's Appointment Officer and/or the QRL.

17.10.2. Depending on the number of match officials available host clubs may be asked to provide a touch judge; the RLB Appointment officer will notify the host club if this is the case.

17.10.3. In the event touch judges need to be supplied by the host club, a person qualified and registered as a referee will have precedence over a qualified touch judge and a qualified touch judge will have precedence over any unqualified person. The use of unqualified touch judges is to be avoided.

17.10.4. Referees and touch judges are to be escorted on and off the field of play by the duty officials.

17.11. Match Balls

17.11.1. Host clubs are to provide a minimum of three (3) QRL official match balls in good condition per game.

17.12. Ball Boys/Girls

17.12.1. Host clubs are to provide a minimum of two ball persons for each game dressed in the neutral colours to be readily distinguishable from players, touch judges, sports trainer or Leaguesafe.

17.13. Player ID Checks

17.13.1. Player ID checks must be undertaken for each team prior to each match by a host club duty official and/or RLB Official.

17.13.2. No photo on the NRL database – NO PLAY – NO EXCUSES – NO EXCEPTIONS

17.13.3. The player's name must be listed on the team list supplied by RLB.

17.14. Ground Announcements

17.14.1. If available excerpts from the [NRL Code of Conduct](#) Ground Announcement are to be broadcast across the PA system at regular intervals.

17.14.2. No public announcements are permitted whilst a player is preparing, or in the process of, kicking for goal.

17.14.3. No public announcements are permitted in relation to decisions or the performance of the match officials.

17.14.4. No public announcements are permitted which may be considered derogatory to any club, player, official, spectator and/or to the game.

17.14.5. Major sponsor's name, if applicable, is also to be mentioned at every opportunity for example,

- "Welcome to the 2021 RLB Junior Grand Final match between..."
- "The progressive score in the RLB Under 15 Division 2 North match is..."
- "That's half time in the RLB Junior Semi Final match, the score is..."
- "The fulltime score in the RLB Junior South Side Division 2 Preliminary Final is..."

17.15. Official Photographers (refer [NRL Member Protection Policy](#))

- Hold their own public liability insurance,
- Hold a valid "Positive Notice Blue Card" issued by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian.

18. INSURANCE (Refer [QRL Rule 7.1](#))

18.1. The club shall hold at least the minimum cover of insurance for each team that participates in the competitions as outlined in the QRL Insurance Handbook.

18.2. The club shall hold a valid certificate of currency for public liability insurance to the value of not less than \$20 million.

18.3. Any players or officials injured and making an insurance claim, must make claims on the prescribed form available for download from the Arthur J. Gallagher website; www.ajg.com.au

18.4. Non-profit organisations can apply for an exemption that excludes the payment of Queensland Government Stamp Duty on insurance premiums.

18.5. Team insurance premiums must be paid for prior to 28th February each year or before the team plays a game, either by lump sum or by a funding agreement with the insurer.

19. MATCH FOOTBALLS

- 19.1. Only official QRL footballs are to be used during RLB fixtures. Match balls must be clean with logos visible.
- 19.2. Host Clubs are to ensure they have ready access to footballs on match day.
- 19.3. At the end of each half and each match, match officials will return footballs to the match official's room and ball persons will collect the footballs prior to the commencement of the second half or the next match.
- 19.4. The match officials may check the condition of the match balls prior to the commencement of the match.

20. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 20.1. The match officials (Under 12 – 18's) for the competition will be appointed by the Rugby League Brisbane Referee's Appointments officer. The Brisbane Rugby League Referees Association will be responsible for the payment of match officials for Under 12 to 18's. Host clubs will be responsible for the appointment and payment for Under 6 to Under 11 match officials.
- 20.2. Touch judges must be,
 - 20.2.1. for juniors, at least 16 years of age if not accredited or at least fourteen (14) years of age if accredited as a touch judge or junior referee.
- 20.3. All teams are expected to supply accredited touch judges and accredited touch judges will always take precedence, even if this means both touch judges are supplied by the same club or the away side supplies an accredited touch judge if the home side cannot supply one.
- 20.4. Touch judges must wear appropriate enclosed footwear.
- 20.5. The home team shall be responsible for providing adequate security for the match official's dressing room, their entry to and exit from the playing field and venue.
- 20.6. **Under no circumstances are match officials to be approached, questioned, or harassed in any way by club officials, players, or spectators either during, or after a match.**
- 20.7. All complaints regarding the performance of the match officials shall be lodged in writing through the complainant's club in the first instance. The club executive will then decide whether to forward the complaint onto the RLB Area Manager (or nominee). All written complaints must be lodged in the RLB Office by close of business **no more than two (2) days following the relevant match.**
- 20.8. Under no circumstances are written complaints to be sent to the RLBRA directly nor should any referee or RLBRA Official be approached regarding the performance of any match official.

21. MATCH REPORTS - Refer [RLB Game Day Process](#)

- 21.1. The home team shall be responsible for the supply of the match report.
- 21.2. Teams that fail to submit their team list by the specified cut off times as per the [RLB Game Day Process](#) **could face sanctions that may include but not limited to, forfeiture of match, a fine or loss of competition points.**
- 21.3. If both teams fail to submit their team list by the specified cut off times as per the [RLB Game Day Process](#) the match could be declared a no result with no points allocated to each team. Both teams could face further sanctions that may include but not limited to, a fine or loss of competition points.

22. MATCH TIMES

- 22.1. Match days and times will be as determined and published by the League office.
- 22.2. Once set, requests for changes to match days or time may be made up to fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled match,
 - 22.2.1. Any match alterations inside of fourteen (14) days shall require the approval of the opposition club and RLB.
 - 22.2.2. Any additional cost incurred due to granting an alteration shall be the responsibility of the home team

23. GAME DURATION

- 23.1. Junior International Under 13 to Under 18 – 2 X 30-minute halves, with a 10-minute half time break
- 23.2. Time off, as indicated by the match official, during those periods shall be permitted for **final series games only.**
- 23.3. Modified Under 10 to Under 12 – 2 X 20-minute halves. With a 5-minute half time break.
- 23.4. Mini Under 6 to Under 9 – 4 X 8-minute quarters, with 1-minute breaks between quarters.
- 23.5. Clubs shall ensure that all games they host start on time. The League may, in their discretion, impose a fine for any games that start late.

24. ON FIELD TEAM STAFF - Sports Trainer / League First Aid / Leaguesafe - Refer [Sports Trainer Documents](#)

- 24.1. All official personnel who enter the field of play must possess an NRL Leaguesafe Certificate of Attendance (must be over the age of 14 years) or an Accredited League First Aid and/or Sports Trainers'/Trainers' Statement of Attainment, an NRL ID Number be over the age of 18 years and be registered for the current season.
- 24.2. No person other than the abovementioned personnel, or those with NRL acceptance, shall administer first aid or offer advice to an injured/ill player. Personnel with other qualifications must be ratified by the National Safety Education Manager and equate with the NRL SPORTS TRAINER/TRAINER SCHEME, to receive a Statement of Attainment and an NRL ID Number.
- 24.3. **All injuries/illnesses and assessments must be recorded in the NRL Injury Report Booklet.**
- 24.4. **Each player shall complete the NRL Medical Advice Card** before training or playing. This will be the responsibility of the designated Accredited Sports Trainer to ensure all cards are completed and kept up to date. This process must be supported by club officials. All Privacy Laws must be adhered to.
- 24.5. The Accredited NRL Sports Trainer/League First Aid shall always, whilst a game is in progress, be able to respond quickly should an injury/illness occur.
- 24.6. The Accredited NRL Sports Trainer/League First Aid shall have the final say on whether a player should continue in the game and when to resume playing in the game. If a doctor attends the game venue, he/she shall make this decision. Serious injuries requiring a Medical Clearance prior to training/playing must be presented to the NRL club SPORTS TRAINER.
- 24.7. An Accredited NRL Sports Trainer (minimum Level 1) shall be attached to each Junior team (U16 and above) and League First Aid (U6 to U15). It is preferred that at least (2) two be available.

- 24.8. If the above personnel are not in attendance, the game/s shall not commence under any circumstances until such persons are available.**
- 24.9.** The most important issue is that no on-field personnel will be allowed on the field of play, at training and or a game, nor manage an injured/ill player, nor provide advice unless trained by the NRL at one of the above levels of accreditation.
- 24.10.** In the event of a clash of coloured shirts with team jerseys, on-field personnel may wear another colour (only if there is a significant clash), however the coloured shirt must not equate to a level above what the person is accredited for. Liaison with the match referee will determine the issue if there is a significant colour clash.
- 24.11.** In the event of an altercation on and/or off the field of play, **accredited NRL LEAGUESAFE/LEAGUE FIRST AID/SPORTS TRAINER/HEAD TRAINER must not interfere in any way.** They must move clear and totally distance themselves from the incident. The control of on/off field behaviour is the duty of the match referees. The only exception would be when an injured/ill player needs shielding from possible further harm.
- 24.12.** On-field personnel must not at any time enter the line of sight of a player when they are attempting a kick for goal or do anything which may in any way interfere with or distract an opposition player whilst they are participating in the match or constitute some disadvantage to the opposing team.
- 24.13.** If any on-field personnel abuse their roles or behave in a manner contrary to the NRL On Field Policy or bring the game of Rugby League into disrepute and/or their team/club into disrepute, they may be subject to sanctions, up to and including suspension of participating in the game.
- 24.14. On Field Identification:** Each team may engage and use a maximum of four (4) On Field personnel during a game (one of which must hold a minimum qualification of Level One Sports Trainer for U16 and above; League First Aid for U6 to U15).
- 24.15.** The four (4) On Field personnel referred to in clause 24.20 shall be the only On Field personnel permitted inside the playing area.
- 24.16.** In all cases when Accredited NRL Leaguesafe/League First Aid/Sports Trainer/Trainers enter the field of play to attend an injured/ill player, administer water, or deliver messages, they must immediately leave the field (i.e., running) once their assigned task has been completed and return to the player's bench. Linger on the field of play will not be tolerated by match referees.
- 24.17.** Great care and diligence must be exhibited when assessing an injured/ill player and removing an injured/ill player from the field of play.
- 24.18.** Liaison with the match referee in a respectful manner will be of great assistance in such cases.
- 24.19.** All on-field personnel must carry with them proof of their level of accreditation and be identified with the following shirt/vest.
- 24.19.1.** Leaguesafe – yellow shirt/vest - LEAGUESAFE must be printed on the back of the shirt/vest.
- 24.19.2.** League First Aid – green shirt/vest – LEAGUE FIRST AID must be printed on the back of the shirt/vest.
- 24.19.3.** Sports Trainer – blue shirt/vest – SPORTS TRAINER must be printed on the back of the shirt/vest.

- 24.19.4.** Head Trainer – orange shirt/vest – HEAD TRAINER must be printed on the back of the shirt/vest.
- 24.20. On Field Personnel Roles – (refer [NRL On Field Policy](#))**
- Leaguesafe:** Leaguesafe have access as per the following conditions,
- 24.20.1.** When a try has been scored (not during a penalty goal attempt),
- 24.20.2.** During a time out called by the referee for an injury,
- 24.20.3.** During technical stoppages in play (except scrums). On-Field personnel are not allowed on the field of play after the referee has ordered a scrum,
- 24.20.4.** When the referee calls an agreed 'drinks break' option (to be agreed by both coaches and referee prior to kick off).
- 24.21.** Leaguesafe officers are not to engage in any communication with match officials unless about an injured player.
- 24.22.** Leaguesafe officers are not to engage in any communication with any member (players and staff) of the opposition team.
- 24.23.** Leaguesafe officers may walk the interchange players along the sideline to affect the desired interchange, they must not enter the field of play during this process and must return to the dugout area immediately after the interchange has been made.
- 24.24.** Leaguesafe officers must remain in the dugout area at all other times.
- 24.25.** Leaguesafe officers must enter and leave the field of play from an on-side position (i.e., behind their team).
- 24.26.** Duties of the Leaguesafe officer are,
- 24.26.1.** To administer water.
- 24.26.2.** To assist in the interchange process.
- 24.26.3.** To convey messages. Messages must not be given to the team whilst play is in progress.
- 24.27.** If an Accredited NRL Sports Trainer/Trainer is busy attending a player, the Leaguesafe may assist an injured/ill player under the Guidelines of Leaguesafe training until a person of higher training arrives. The Leaguesafe person must report all incidents to the accredited NRL Sports Trainer/ Trainer.
- 24.28.** Sports Trainer/League first Aid: A Sports Trainer must be at least a qualified Level 1 NRL Trainer (U16 and above); League First Aid must be qualified (U6 to U15).
- 24.29.** Sports Trainers/League First Aid have unlimited access to attend an injured/ill player and to administer water. They are permitted to carry, convey, or deliver messages.
- 24.30.** Duties of a Sports Trainer/League First Aid are,
- 24.30.1.** To assist by observing and monitoring players who have been removed from the field of play through injury/illness.
- 24.30.2.** To assist an injured/ill player on and off the field of play at training and/or a game.
- 24.31. Head Trainer:** A Head Trainer must be a qualified Level 2 NRL Trainer
- 24.32.** The Head Trainer shall be the most senior person within the NRL Sports Trainer's team.
- 24.33.** The Accredited NRL Head Trainer will make the final decision on a player's welfare in the absence of a medical professional.
- 24.34.** Coaches/administrators/players must comply with the decision of the NRL Head Trainer always.
- 24.35.** A Head Trainer has unlimited access to attend to an injured/ill player.

25. POACHING OF PLAYERS – RLB JUNIOR LEAGUE ONLY

- 25.1. Definition of “Poaching”:** For this rule, poaching is defined as a direct approach to a player or an indirect approach through an agent to a player, by a coach or any official or anyone associated with a club, to entice that player to move from the club he/she is registered with to play for any other club in Queensland.
- 25.2. Definition of “Enticement”:** Enticement is anything offered to a player as an incentive to change clubs and that may include but is not limited to a promise of better playing conditions, free apparel, payment or promise of payment. Notwithstanding this definition, it is the actual approach to the player that constitutes a breach of the Rule.
- 25.3. Rule:** No coach, manager, official nor anyone associated with a junior rugby league football club or team, shall poach a player registered with any other rugby league club in Queensland. This means a player currently registered or registered in the immediate past season.
- 25.4. Penalty:** A coach found guilty of poaching a player will face a penalty, which may include suspension from participating in the game in any form. Any Club Official found guilty of poaching a player faces a maximum penalty of exclusion from holding any position in rugby league in Queensland.
- 25.5. Complaint Process:** All complaints regarding ‘poaching’ are to be in writing and lodged with the RLB Area Manager for investigation.

26. REGISTRATION/RE-REGISTRATION – Refer [QRL Rules Part 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.1.6 & 4.1.7](#)

- 26.1.** All players participating in rugby league matches administered by RLB must be registered with a club affiliated with the QRL before participating in **training**, trial matches and/or RLB premiership fixtures.
- 26.2.** Re - registration of a club’s existing players and the registration of new players to the club will be completed online for season 2021.
- 26.3.** For RLB Juniors, an approved ‘Proof of Age’ document must be sighted (and uploaded to the NRL database) and the date of birth that is recorded on the registration form matches that on the Proof of Age document.
- 26.4.** When a junior player is first registering to play rugby league or is registering with another club, one of the following forms of identification must be produced when necessary.
- 26.4.1.** An original Birth Certificate.
 - 26.4.2.** An extract of a Birth Certificate.
 - 26.4.3.** Driver’s Licence/18+ card.
 - 26.4.4.** Current Passport
- 26.5.** A copy of the document used to establish proof of age must be uploaded to the player’s data card and the full Birth Certificate Registration number must be entered on the player’s Data Card.
- 26.6.** New players to a club are not covered by insurance and must not be allowed to participate in training, trial matches and RLB Premiership fixtures until registered with the club.
- 26.7.** Strict controls measures must ensure that the information contained in the National Rugby League online registration process are not accessible to persons other than the club president, secretary and/or club registrar and the RLB Area Manager (or nominee). Any other use must be authorised by the RLB Area Manager.

- 26.8.** A player is deemed to be registered/re-registered with a club and may train and participate in training, trial matches and RLB premiership fixtures only after,
- 26.8.1.** The relevant player online reregistration has been duly completed (no missing information), the player and/or the parent/primary care provider has read and understands the statements and information pertaining to the registration/re-registration of a junior player.
- 26.8.2. A current photograph and proof of age document of the player has been uploaded to the NRL Database.**
- 26.9.** No player can be registered after 30 June of the football year unless approved by the QRL Board or, if delegated, by the QRL South East Region Manager.
- 26.10.** Transfers and Clearances: Junior players may transfer to an accepting RLB Club from,
- 26.10.1.** Another RLB Club (Note: QRL Rule 4.1.6 and RLB Junior Player Points System).
- 26.10.2.** Another SEQ Region Local League Club; Ipswich or Gold Coast (Note: QRL Rule 4.1.6).
- 26.10.3.** A QRL Northern or Central Region Club.
- 26.10.4.** An Interstate Club.
- 26.10.5.** A New Zealand Club.
- 26.10.6.** Alternatively, in the same season (commonly known as a mid-season transfer) between Queensland Clubs.
- 26.11.** Junior players (U13 – U18) who were previously registered at an overseas club (other than New Zealand), wishing to register with RLB must complete and submit a National Rugby League Clearance Certificate.
- 26.12.** Requests to change clubs will be granted by the releasing club provided that,
- 26.12.1.** The player has no outstanding financial obligation to the current club, (a financial obligation is defined as the player/player's parent/primary carer being financially encumbered to the club or has not returned property owned by the club.
- 26.12.2. Clubs are responsible for collecting registration fees from junior players / primary care giver by June 30 of the football year** and paying the required contribution to the League. Clubs shall not play any player who has not paid their registration fee for the football year. Any club which permits a junior player to play in matches when that junior player has not paid their registration fees will be deemed to have paid those fees on the player's behalf and shall carry the financial burden of the unpaid fees.
- 26.12.3.** The player is not a 'representative player' who participated in a RLB/ISC representative team selected from the best available players in their age group, Regional, State or National representative team in the current Football Year (subject to RLB Junior Player Points System).
- 26.12.4.** The player is not currently under suspension by the club or RLB.
- 26.13.** RLB may overturn any decision of a club in not approving a request to change clubs if, in the opinion of the RLB Area Manager (or nominee), the denial was not for a reason as defined above.
- 26.14.** Where it is identified that registering a player would constitute a breach of QRL Rule 4.1.6 and/or the RLB Junior Player Points System, the purported registration will be invalid unless and until approved by the South-East Queensland Region Manager.
- 26.15. Except for extenuating circumstances, no junior player shall play for more than one club in RLB in the one season. Once a player's name appears on a RLB online competition game sheet the player**

is deemed to have played for that junior club and must remain with that club for the balance of that season.

26.16. Where a team becomes defunct, any players from that team and if the club does not have more than one team in that age group may, upon making application, be granted a transfer permit without being subjected to the QRL Rule 4.1.6 and the RLB Junior Player Points System. A club with more than one team in the age group however must withdraw the lower/lowest graded team.

26.17. Where an application to change clubs is unreasonably delayed or refused, the transferor club's approval may be dispensed with and approval provided by RLB.

26.18. QRL Rule 4.1.6 (juniors transferring to another Junior club or from a junior club to Senior club)

26.18.1. Please refer to [QRL Rule 4.1.6](#)

26.18.2. Any player who participates in any underage competition in NSW shall be deemed ineligible to be selected in any Qld regional or state-based side for the current season. They can return to local competitions but is ineligible for final series. Exemptions at the discretion of the relevant Regions based on Special Circumstances.

26.18.3. For players aged 16-18, a Junior Representative player as defined in these rules is a player who has participated in a QRL performance academy program delivered by an ISC Club or equivalent. These players shall not be eligible to apply for a transfer of registration in the Football season following the participation as a Junior Representative player.

26.18.4. A player may seek an exemption from this Rule 4.1.6 from the relevant Division by way of a written submission where it is considered that there are Special Circumstances. Specific details of the special circumstances should be presented to the Region Manager through the RLB office, together with an administration fee in the amount of \$200.00 (GST Inclusive) to cover any submission by a player seeking a clearance under QRL Rule 4.1.6 as a "Special Circumstances" case. Part of this fee in the amount of \$100.00 (GST Inclusive) will be refunded if the player chooses to take the option presented by the Region Manager.

26.18.5. A junior player registered with an affiliated club of RLB in the previous season, may not become a registered junior player with a newly affiliated club of the RLB, in that new club's first two seasons, except with permission of the RLB Area Manager (or nominee).

26.19. RLB Junior Player Points System. (Under 13 – 18 years)

26.19.1. Clubs will have a limit of 14 Points per age group for the intake of players previously registered with another junior RLB club.

26.19.2. All current registered junior RLB players are rated based on their previous season only of Rugby League on the following Player Points System,

- Ten (10) Points: Representative Player (ISC CC/MM).
- Five (5) Points: Division One Player.
- Three (3) Points: Division Two Player.
- One (1) Point: Division Three Player.
- Zero (0) Points: Division Four and below.

26.20. Player Photographic Identification

26.20.1. All clubs must upload a recent photograph of every registered player to the NRL Database. Once a photograph is uploaded to the NRL Database, this photograph must not be altered in anyway (severe penalties may apply)

26.20.2. Player Photo ID Checks will be conducted as per [RLB Game Day Process](#). These checks will be conducted via direct access to the NRL Database.

26.20.3. ID Photographs on the NRL Database are to be reviewed and updated (as necessary) to ensure a true likeness of each participant is maintained.

26.20.4. A player who does not have his/her photograph uploaded on the NRL Database will not be eligible to play in any RLB premiership fixture, or Finals Series match.

26.20.5. Any person including without limitation coaches, team managers, parents and club officials found to be complicit in the falsifying of information, including player photographs, on the NRL Database may face penalties of a suspension of up to five years (5) from participating in the game of rugby league. Loss of premiership points and expulsion of the team may also be imposed.

26.21. Permit Registration: Permit Registration of players will be allowable between clubs/teams that have approval from RLB Area Manager.

26.22. Permit registration is not allowable between clubs / teams playing in the same division / grade.

26.23. A provision will be in place for individual consideration by the RLB Management for permit registration of any player, such consideration is to be made in writing and be lodged with the RLB Area Manager.

26.24. Player eligibility will apply for Finals Series matches.

26.25. Coach/Assistant Coach Registration: The club is required to register all coaches and assistant coaches on the NRL Database online prior to the commencement of training and the competition. All clubs must upload recent photograph of every registered coach to the NRL database.

26.26. All coaches are required to be correctly accredited in accordance with the NRL Coach Accreditation Pyramid. Failure by a coach to hold the appropriate current Accreditation could affect the team's involvement in Competition and Finals Series Matches.

26.27. All coaches and club coaching directors/coordinators **must have a current Blue Card** issued by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian before they can be permitted to run a coaching session.

27. REPLACEMENTS/INTERCHANGES

27.1. RLB will conduct the **limited** player interchange. This will be conducted in Division 1 Grades only (U13 to U18).

27.2. RLB Junior Division 1 Grade - A maximum of 17 players are to be included on the official match card (four interchange players). A maximum of eight (8) interchanges only may be made by each team during a match.

27.3. RLB junior division 2 Grade and below - A maximum of 19 players are to be included on the official match card (six interchange players). the nineteen (19) players listed on the official match report form may be **interchanged unlimited** throughout the duration of the game.

27.4. Procedures

27.4.1. Juniors - Each team will be responsible to appoint an appropriate person to act as an interchange official for the opposing team for each match.

27.4.2. RLB can supply Junior clubs with interchange official bibs at a cost and which will be a different colour to the normal duty official bibs.

- 27.4.3.** Juniors - This interchange official will record the approved interchanges made by the opposition team.
- 27.4.4.** Each team will be allocated a set of Interchange cards (to be supplied to clubs by the RLB if required) at a cost of ten (10) dollars per set. These cards will be numbered accordingly to reflect the participant grade (e.g., 1-8 for Division One).
- 27.4.5.** It is the host club's responsibility to ensure that a set of interchange cards (numbered accordingly for that specific grade) is allocated to each team on game day.
- 27.4.6.** A player interchange sheet will be duly filled out during the match and at the completion of the first half and the commencement of the second half of play.
- 27.4.7.** At the completion of the match, the completed player interchange sheets must be retained by the host club and produced upon request by RLB office as per the [RLB Game Day Process](#).
- 27.4.8.** The interchange official will remain near the team dugout for the entire match to ensure clear communication with the team coach for interchange purposes.
- 27.4.9.** A laminated procedures card will be supplied to all teams to assist the interchange official in carrying out their duties.

27.5. Rules

- 27.5.1.** An interchange player cannot enter the field of play until he has reported to the appointed interchange official and handed the official the correct numbered interchange card.
- 27.5.2.** The interchange player is not to enter the field of play until the player he is replacing has left the field of play and the interchange official has accepted the interchange card.
- 27.5.3.** All interchange players must enter the field of play from an 'on side' position. If touch judges are appointed to control any match, normal rules will apply, and players must report to the touch judge before entering the field.
- 27.5.4.** If the referee requests a player to leave the field due to bleeding and a replacement is made this will constitute an interchange. However, if the player retires to the sideline and has the blood removed and then re-enters play then no interchange is deemed to have occurred.
- 27.5.5.** If a player's jersey is damaged or blood stained and requires a replacement jersey, the coach must notify the interchange official of the jersey change and the new number of the replacement jersey.
- 27.5.6.** When a team has used all their allotted replacements, the interchange official shall inform the coach that there are to be no further replacements to be made for the remainder of the match.
- 27.5.7.** In the case of any 'Extra Time' (finals) matches being played, any unused interchanges remaining from the total maximum number allowed will be cancelled after the normal period of play (fulltime). For the 'Extra Time' period, each team will be allowed a maximum of two (2) interchanges, with these two numbered cards to be returned to each team by the interchange official.

27.6. "Free" Interchanges

- 27.6.1.** If a player is to be replaced due to an injury incurred because of 'Foul Play' and the referee deems the foul play as serious enough to warrant a free interchange, the referee will point to the player involved (i.e., the injured player) and then signal to the interchange official and the replacement will not be counted as an interchange.

- 27.6.2.** The referee's signal for this replacement will be arms crossed in front of chest with hands on shoulders. The interchange official is to acknowledge the referee so that he/she knows that they have seen the signal.
- 27.6.3.** There will be no signal if a player is sent off (permanent or temporary) following a tackle/incident - a free change will automatically follow all send offs (permanent or temporary) providing of course that the interchanged player was injured because of the incident.
- 27.6.4.** The interchange official will be required to record FREE interchanges on the player interchange sheet.
- 27.7. Penalties for Breach of the Interchange Rules** – Refer schedule of fines Page 47.
- 27.8.** Each club will be responsible for ensuring compliance with these interchange provisions.
- 27.9.** A maximum of two (2) interchange/replacement players can report to the interchange official at any one time. Other players must remain on the bench until the two interchanges being managed by the interchange official have been affected.
- 27.10.** Except for scrums (which are dealt with in 27.11 below), Interchanges may occur during general play (i.e., whilst the ball is in motion), after any scoring has been completed or if play has been suspended by the referee (e.g., injury or caution).
- 27.11. In the case of scrums,**
- 27.11.1.** Interchanges will only be permitted at scrums resulting from a touch line stoppage (i.e., a kick finds touch, or a player is tackled into touch), provided that the interchange player is already with the interchange official waiting to go on when the ball or the player crosses the touch line. Trainers will still be responsible for getting the player being replaced off the field before the interchange player can go on. The referee will not call a time-out or delay the recommencement to allow the interchange to take place.
- 27.11.2.** Otherwise, interchanges must not be made after the referee has ordered a scrum until after the scrum has been completed. This applies regardless of whether the referee calls time out for an injury or not. The player leaving the field may do so at any time, but a player cannot enter the field until the ball emerges from the scrum.
- 27.12. Sideline Area and Bench Locations:** Where team benches are located within the playing area. (i.e., Inside the fence) the following provisions must be adhered to.
- 27.12.1.** Adequate seating shall be provided for each team and placed parallel to the touch line. This seating should be of a resilient nature and located as near to the 50m line as possible.
- 27.12.2.** Personnel on the bench may comprise only those people directly related to the conduct of the match itself (i.e., coaches, interchange players, trainers, team manager, medical officers etc). There can be **no more than twelve (12) persons on the bench from each team.**
- 27.12.3.** Under no circumstances "barracking" or "abuse" from the bench will be permitted. This not only refers to abuse, but also to what might be described as offering advice or assistance to the match officials in relation to their performance or how they should be carrying out their duties.
- 27.12.4.** The match officials may request any person on the bench to leave the bench area and may name that person in his/her match report.

- 27.12.5.** Players and officials on the bench must always remain at the bench allocated to their team (except for player warm-ups). Any player(s) warming up must remain at least 1m from the field of play.
- 27.12.6.** Whilst officials are not expected to sit during the entire match, they must not leave this immediate area or approach the field of play under any circumstances.
- 27.12.7.** No player or players may temporarily leave the field of play and subsequently re-enter the field of play without the permission of the referee or a touch judge.
- 27.12.8.** Under no circumstances, is a suspended player permitted on the sideline or bench area.
- 27.12.9.** No members of the public or any other unauthorised persons are permitted within the playing area (i.e., inside the fence surrounding the field of play).
- 27.12.10. Representative Selection - Refer [QRL Rule 4.1.6](#)**

If any player, after being selected or called up to train or play with any Australian, Queensland, Division, Local League Representative or Trial Football Team, refuses without just cause acceptable to the QRL or the Administration Unit as defined by the Rules, he/she will be suspended immediately for two (2) competition matches for his/her club and he/she may be further suspended, fined, disqualified, or dealt with by the QRL or the Administration Unit.

[QRL Rule 4.1.16](#) applies to any player selected for a representative team. However, the League may, in their discretion, allow players over twenty-eight (28) years of age who have a reasonable excuse to be relieved from playing. The League may, in their discretion, allow players under twenty-eight (28) years of age to be excused from playing under special circumstances. Any decision to excuse a player under special circumstances does not create a precedent for other players.

28. TEAM NOMINATION PROCESS

- 28.1.** Each year affiliated clubs are required to nominate the number of teams in each division / age group and proposed competition grade in which it will field teams using the approved RLB format – Team Nomination [RLB Form 04](#).
- 28.2.** Clubs will be individually invoiced for their team nomination fees.
- 28.3.** As a minimum, each team nominated in the RLB competition must have the following team officials,
 - 28.3.1.** An accredited and registered coach.
 - 28.3.2.** An accredited and registered Leaguesafe,
 - 28.3.3.** An accredited and registered League First Aid (U6 – U15) Blue shirt.
 - 28.3.4.** An accredited and registered Level 1 sports trainer (U16 and above).
 - 28.3.5.** A qualified registered touch judge and,
 - 28.3.6.** A team manager may also fulfil one of the roles listed above.
- 28.4.** Nominated team officials (First Aid officers and League safes) must nominate for and successfully complete the relevant course prior their teams first fixture (including trials).
 - 28.4.1.** Nominated team officials (Coach or Assistant coaches) must nominate for and complete the relevant online modules prior to their first fixture (including trials). Face to face component of these courses must be completed before June 30 of that year.

29. TIMEKEEPING - Official Match Time

- 29.1. It should be noted that the match clock on display at the venue does not necessarily accurately represent the official match time.
- 29.2. The home team, in conjunction with the visiting team if they so wish shall be responsible for the keeping of match time. If a visiting team does not nominate anyone for this purpose, they must accept the timing of the home team.
- 29.3. All decisions of the official timekeeper(s) shall be final and not open to review or appeal unless the RLB Area Manager (or nominee), at his/her absolute discretion, so determines.
- 29.4. **Match Clocks:** Match clocks should be in good working order and showing second hand if analogue or indicating seconds if digital.
- 29.5. A back up system should also be available at all venues.
- 29.6. **Sin Bin Officials:** Visiting clubs must nominate their personnel for timing of "temporary suspensions" and make themselves known to the home club nominee prior to the start of the match.
- 29.7. If a visiting club does not nominate anyone for this purpose, they must accept the timing of the home team sin bin operator.
- 29.8. Operators must be provided with time pieces displaying minutes and seconds by their clubs.
- 29.9. **Timekeeping in Relation to Referees:** When a referee starts play, he/she will blow the whistle and indicate with one arm above their head and order the ball to be kicked off.
- 29.10. If, for any reason (e.g., an injury or caution), the referee orders time off by indicating with both arms above their head, vertical to their body, timekeepers must immediately stop their watches and time clocks. **(Final Series Matches Only)**
- 29.11. When play is to recommence, the referee will indicate by waving one arm over his/her head. Timekeepers must recommence match clocks immediately. This procedure is to be carried out throughout the match. **(Final Series Matches Only)**
- 29.12. Timekeepers shall have at least one additional time piece when keeping time for use in the event of the match clock malfunctioning.
- 29.13. **Sirens:** At the completion of each half, the timekeeper must continue to sound the siren until the match referee signals that he has heard it by raising his/her arm above their head. The referee will indicate a cessation (after the hooter is blown) by blowing the whistle and waving both arms across their body.
- 29.14. In the event of the venue siren failing to operate, the timekeeper shall have a least one standby air horn available as a backup. If for any reason the referee cannot hear the siren, the timekeeper must immediately alert the home team who shall advise the match officials.
- 29.15. **End of Play:** In all cases the referee will be the sole judge of when play shall cease after the half or full-time siren has sounded.
- 29.16. The referee may extend the match to award a penalty or to complete the play currently underway at his/her discretion.

30. TRIAL AND TRAIN ONLY FORMS – Refer [RLB Form 19](#)

- 30.1. Trial and Train Only Forms are available to temporarily register a new player to the game and/or a player new to the geographical area of the club, who wishes to train with a club prior to deciding whether to commit to registering with the club. They are not to be used as part of any

recruitment process. A previously registered player from another club must be **fully registered by 28 February 2021 prior to training and playing.**

- 30.2.** Provided the insurance premium has been paid for the team, the form covers a player with normal QRL Insurance whilst training or playing in trial matches up until 28 February 2021. It does not cover players for fixture matches. A player must be fully registered to take the field in any RLB Premiership fixture.
- 30.3.** Trial & Train Only Forms must be signed by the player/parent/primary carer and submitted to the RLB Office. Trial and train forms not signed and/or not lodged within three (3) days with the RLB Office will be invalid.

31. TRIALS

- 31.1.** For preseason and post season trials, other than intra club trials which may be approved upon application to the RLB Area Manager (or nominee), clubs shall refrain from playing games from the 3rd weekend of October to the 2nd weekend in January, inclusive (QRL abeyance period).
- 31.2.** Clubs wishing to host a pre-season or post-season trial match against another club within the QRL SEQ Region must submit a duly completed 'Application to Participate in a trial match' [RLB Form 14](#) a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the proposed match.
- 31.3.** Any club wishing to host a trial match against a club from another QRL Division or Interstate league or alternatively tour to a club within another QRL Division or Interstate League must lodge a duly completed QRL [Application by a Queensland Club to tour or host](#) a minimum of eight (8) weeks prior to the proposed match date.
- 31.4.** Any club wishing to host an overseas club or tour to an overseas club must submit a duly completed QRL 'Application by a Queensland club to Tour or Host' form a minimum of six (6) months prior to the proposed match.
- 31.5.** All trial matches shall require the completion and subsequent lodgement of a match report.

32. TRIBUNALS – MATCH REVIEW/JUDICIARY (On Field Issues) - Refer to [QRL Rules Part 5 Tribunals](#)

- 32.1.** Judiciary hearings will generally be convened on the Thursday evening after each weekend round of fixtures commencing from 6.30pm at a venue nominated by RLB.
- 32.2.** On Field Incident Report including Racial, Religious & Sexual Vilification refer to [QRL Rule 4.4 \(i\)](#)
- 32.3.** When a referee is approached by a player with a complaint regarding an on-field incident, the referee should:
- 32.3.1.** Establish the nature of the complaint,
 - 32.3.2.** Establish the identity of the alleged offender,
 - 32.3.3.** Call out the alleged offender, both captains and a touch judge, and advise that a complaint has been made and that the complainant is required to assist the referee and complete an 'On Field Incident Report' directly after the match.
- 32.4.** The referee shall complete the report only if the complainant or club official arrives to complete the complaint within 15 minutes of the completion of the game.
- 32.5.** If the complainant goes ahead, the referee completes the form and gives a copy to the complainant advising him that he is also required at the judiciary, and a copy to the duty official to be given to the alleged offender.

- 32.6.** The referee then lodges the 'On Field Incident Report' or 'Card' as per the normal send-off card, and the judiciary procedure is as for a normal send-off charge.
- 32.7.** The referee's part in the hearing is to identify the two players involved and relate any evidence of a visual or audible nature to the judiciary panel. Once this is completed and the panel has no further questions of the referee, then the referee can be discharged, and the case continued.
- 32.8.** The QRL Rules and Guidelines shall apply for all Judiciary procedures, Appeals and Disputes. Refer to [QRL Rules Part 5 Tribunals](#).

33. TRIBUNALS – DISCIPLINARY – (Off field Issues) – Refer to [QRL Rules Part 5 Tribunals](#)

- 33.1.** RLB Disciplinary Tribunal Hearings will generally be convened on Thursday evenings.
- 33.2. Major Incident Reporting – Refer to [RLB Form 02](#):** The details of major incidents are to be immediately reported to the RLB Area Manager (or nominee).

Note: It is important that a detailed written report be compiled of every complaint made. In the event of further issues concerning involved parties arising, this report may form part of the evidence in a RLB Disciplinary Tribunal Hearing.

34. VOLUNTEER

- 34.1.** All clubs must register all volunteers on the NRL Database such as team managers, sports trainers, Leaguesafe, League First Aid, touch judges and other volunteers who hold any official position within the club. All clubs must upload a recent photograph to the NRL Database of those volunteers, directly involved with a team.

35. WARM UP AREA

- 35.1.** The home team shall ensure a safe, secure, and suitable area is provided for warm up.

36. WELFARE AND EDUCATION – Sport Integrity Australia

- 36.1.** The competition and its participants are bound by the Anti-Doping Policy of the Australian Rugby Commission Ltd, as per details below.
- Anti-Doping Policy of the Australian Rugby League Commission Limited, National Rugby League Limited, the NSWRL, the QRL, the CRL and our member and sub-member organisations, adopted by the Queensland Rugby League.

Please refer to the [NRL Anti-Doping Policy](#)

37. ROLE OF DUTY OFFICIALS

All duty officials must have sufficient knowledge of the RLB Rules and regulations to be able to complete their duties, or at least have one person appointed as chief duty official (Ground Manager) and have two other persons acting as assistant duty officials on match days.

Each club must appoint duty officials to act as listed below:

- 37.1.** Each host club shall supply a minimum two duty officials who should be of a responsible nature and be over eighteen (18) years of age. The visiting team shall supply one duty official whose main

role is the control of the visiting team's spectators. Visiting team duty officials should always support the home team duty officials.

- 37.2.** These duty officials shall be neatly attired and must, with no exceptions, wear the identification vest supplied by the RLB and enclosed footwear.
- 37.3.** These duty officials will be considered officials of RLB and have the full support of the RLB Management.
- 37.4.** The duty officials shall always be clearly visible.
- 37.5.** The duty officials will ensure that a suitable area is set aside for the sin bin.
- 37.6.** One duty official is to be responsible for the sin bin and assisting the referee as required. The other is to control spectator behaviour and all off field incidents and assisting the referee as required.
- 37.7.** The duty officials if necessary, will ensure that the area set aside for the consumption of alcohol is clearly defined and ensure that alcohol is consumed in this area only.
- 37.8.** The chief duty official (ground manager) should check with the referee before the game to determine if an official touch judge has been appointed for the game and if not arrange for a touch judge to be appointed from each team.
- 37.9.** Spectators shall not be allowed to encroach upon the playing area at any time during or immediately after any game and should not be allowed to shout abuse or obscenities at any player, official or other spectator. The duty officials should control and supervise spectators and supporters. Club officials should support and assist the duty officials in this supervision and control.
- 37.10.** The duty officials will provide a written report of any incident that requires further action. These reports should be lodged with the host club in the first instance.
- 37.11.** The duty officials are to assist the referee and touch judges as required. They should escort the referee and touch judges from the field at half time and full time.
- 37.12.** The duty officials are to ensure that no players, team officials or spectators harass the referee or touch judges before, during or after the game.
- 37.13.** The duty officials will escort players to the sin bin and remain with them until their designated sin bin time has elapsed. They are to ensure that players are not harassed while they are in the sin bin.
- 37.14.** Players in the sin bin can be treated for injuries and/or given assistance by qualified personnel. Players may return to their teams at half time.
- 37.15.** When a player has been sent from the field by the referee, the duty official shall ensure that the player goes directly to the dressing room. The player must not leave the dressing room in his/her playing gear and is not permitted to return to the players' enclosure for the duration of the match.
- 37.16.** The duty officials will obtain from the referee the charge sheet for any player sent from the field of play and deliver a copy to a team or club official of the player concerned. This should be done approximately twenty (20) minutes after the completion of the match.
- 37.17.** All referees have been instructed not to commence a match unless at least two (2) duty officials (one host club and one visiting club) are in attendance. Where a match is not played for this reason it will be regarded as a forfeit by the host team.
- 37.18.** Duty officials should always be approachable. The best way to defuse most situations is to be non-confronting and understanding to the needs of referees, touch judges, players, team officials and spectators.

38. RLB TEAM NOMINATION / AFFILIATION FEES FOR 2021

Teams	Nomination Fee Per Team
U6	\$69.30
U7	\$133.35
U8	\$133.35
U9	\$199.50
U10	\$199.50
U11	\$267.75
U12	\$360.13
U13	\$531.30
U14	\$531.30
U15	\$531.30
U16	\$531.30
U17	\$531.30
U18	\$531.30
Affiliation Fee Per Club	\$449.59

39. SCHEDULE OF FINES

OFFENCE	PENALTY
Playing an ineligible player	\$300 fine and \$500 bond and automatic forfeit of the game
Failure to notify of a forfeit	\$200 fine and \$400 bond
Late notification of forfeit	\$100 fine and \$200 bond
Withdrawal of player or teams from the field of play	\$250 fine and \$500 bond and loss of premiership points
Poaching players	\$500 fine and \$1000 bond and/or suspension from the game of rugby league
Noncompliance of field standards	\$100 fine for each offence and /or loss of home games
Clubs with teams failing to have all players in the registered Club uniform	\$100 fine for each breach
Failure to enter team list via MySideline by required due date and time	<p>1st offence – Warning letter</p> <p>2nd offence - \$200 fine per breach</p> <p>3rd offence - \$200 fine and loss of three (3) competitions points per breach.</p> <p>Continual breaches could result in withdrawal of team from competition or withdrawal of club from all competitions</p>
QRL & Lion (XXXX) Partnership Circular 358	<p>1st offence – Warning letter</p> <p>2nd offence - \$500 fine</p> <p>3rd offence - \$1000 fine and loss of three (3) competitions points.</p> <p>Continual breaches could result in loss of hosting rights for the club and/or withdrawal of teams from all competitions.</p>
<u>Interchange Breaches</u>	<p>1st breach by a team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Loss of premiership points for that match. <p>2nd breach by a team (in a different match to the first breach)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Loss of premiership points for that match; and loss of an additional 2 premiership points; and \$500 fine. <p>Subsequent offences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Loss of all premiership points for the season (includes future matches where the team will not be able to accumulate premiership points, although the opposition may); and \$500 fine for each offence (multiple fines may apply in each match if more than the maximum number of interchanges take place); and withdrawal of participation in the game by the coach.

39.1. TRIBUNAL / JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATION FEES

39.1.1. Junior Grade or charge appeal \$100.00

***Please note the appeal fee must be paid into RLB accounts by COB the day before the hearing. ***

If the appeal is successful, \$100 will be refunded.

39.2. TRANSFER APPEAL ADMINISTRATION FEES

39.2.1. Junior appeal for special circumstances \$200.00

39.2.2. If appeal is successful or participant takes up the option provided \$100 will be refunded

NOTES