



NRL VICTORIA

ARLC VIC Limited - ABN: 79 602 143 126



2020

OPERATIONS MANUAL



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NRL VICTORIA

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2020

COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

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**A. GENERAL****1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This document outlines the rules and regulations for all competitions of ARLC VIC Limited ("NRL VIC" or "NRL Victoria").
- 1.2 NRL VIC at all times reserves the right to add or change any By Laws (or rules and regulations) to the current rules and regulations contained within this document

2. Scope

- 2.1 The Rules apply to all participating clubs in NRL VIC competitions, to the officials, players and members of those clubs and to all other committees or associations involved in the running of NRL VIC competitions.
- 2.2 Any club, official, player or members of clubs that is found to be in breach of, contravened or failed to comply with any Rule shall be subject to the disciplinary provisions of NRL VIC, including but not limited to Code of Conduct, Fair Play Code and ARLC VIC Constitution.
- 2.3 Clubs and club officials are responsible for the ensuring that the Rules are adhered to, disseminate to and understood by their club, their officials, their players and members.

3. Definitions

NRL shall mean the National Rugby League

NRL VIC and **NRL Victoria** shall mean ARLC VIC Limited (ABN 79 602 143 126)

VRLRA shall mean the Victorian Rugby League Referees' Association

The **Rules** shall mean the NRL VIC Competition Rules and Regulations

Competition Season shall commence and end in line with the NRL VIC Financial Year (1 November to 31 October)

4. Application of Rules, Complaints & Appeals

- 4.1 The application of the Rules shall be made in a fair manner to conduct NRL VIC competitions in the best interest of the game and in the spirit of the game.
- 4.2 The NRL VIC General Manager (and/or their designated authority) shall be the final arbiter to any complaint about fair competition and/or fair application of the Rules.
- 4.3 An appeal may be made to the NRL VIC Appeals Panel about any final arbitration to a complaint in 4.2. An appeal will only be granted upon presentation of new evidence and must be lodged in writing to the NRL VIC General Manager at earliest practicable occasion.
- 4.4 The NRL VIC Appeals Panel will review any appeal at its earliest convenience. If at the discretion of the NRL VIC General Manager it is deemed the appeal requires urgent attention prior to a meeting of the NRL VIC Appeals Panel being able to be conveniently arranged, the NRL VIC General Manager shall process the appeal with the NRL VIC Appeals Panel in an appropriate manner.

**B. ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION****5. Incorporation and Affiliation of Clubs**

- 5.1 Clubs competing in any NRL VIC Competition must be Incorporated with the correct Government authorities for the Competition Season and must produce a copy or proof of such current incorporation to the NRL VIC General Manager before commencing any play in the Competition Season.
- 5.2 Clubs competing in any NRL VIC Competition must provide copy to NRL VIC a financial statement as required of relevant Government authorities annually prior to commencing any play in the Competition Season.
- 5.3 Clubs competing in any NRL VIC Competition must complete NRL VIC Club Affiliation agreements on the form prescribed by NRL VIC and submitted in the format and timeframe as specified by NRL VIC.
- 5.4 As per requirements of the NRL VIC Club Affiliation agreement, Clubs competing in any NRL VIC Competition must have all their teams competing in a NRL VIC sanctioned Competition or event.

6. Fees and Team Entry

- 6.1 All fees payable by participant clubs in NRL VIC competitions shall be due and payable to NRL VIC according to the due date on NRL VIC invoices. These fees may include, but not limited to, registration, insurances, referees' costs, fines, forfeit fees, goods, bonds, etc.
- 6.2 The registration and insurance payment for clubs are paid on a team basis (not individual player basis) and are non-refundable (even if a team withdraws full payment is required note 11.3) as per the following schedule:

COMPETITION	FULL FEE DUE BEFORE RD 1	DISCOUNT FEE IF PAID BY SPECIFIED DATE *
Men's First Grade	\$4,500	\$4,050
Men's Reserve Grade	\$4,250	\$3,825
Men's Second Grade	\$4,250	\$3,825
Women's First Grade	\$3,500	\$3,150
Men's U20	\$2,200	\$1,980
Boys' U17	\$1,800	\$1,620
Boys' U16	\$1,700	\$1,530
Boys' U15	\$1,600	\$1,440
Boys' U14	\$1,500	\$1,350
Boys' U13	\$1,400	\$1,260
U12	\$1,000	\$900
U11	\$800	\$720
U10	\$700	\$630
U9	\$450	\$405
U8	\$450	\$405



COMPETITION	FULL FEE DUE BEFORE RD 1	DISCOUNT FEE IF PAID BY SPECIFIED DATE *
U7	\$400	\$360
U6	\$400	\$360
Girl's, Womens' Tag and Girl's Tag	See addendum	See addendum

* Discount Fee to be paid by, otherwise Full Fee applicable:

Women's First Grade – Friday 6 March, 2020

Senior Men's & U20s Teams – Friday 13 March, 2020

Junior Teams – Friday 17 April, 2020

- 6.3 Teams will not have right to play in any match if payment is not met as per 6.2. Any matches not played as a result of non-payment as per 6.2 will be deemed as a Forfeit by non-compliant team and shall be subject to Forfeit fees (see 14. Forfeits).
- 6.4 If a team enters a competition after the commencement of the playing season the full fee is required to be paid before being permitted to play.
- 6.5 For a club to enter a team the Men's First Grade competition they must also enter a team in the Men's Reserve Grade competition. A club must maintain both teams and compete in both competitions for the duration of the Competition Season. (note 11.3)
- 6.6 Clubs will only be able to enter teams in Rounds 1 and 4 of the NRL VIC competitions. Notice must be given prior to 5pm Wednesday, 10 days before the scheduled Round. NRL VIC General Manager at their sole discretion on a case by case basis may allow for exceptions to these requirements only where practical and possible.
- 6.7 Cost of referees in 2020 will be as per the following schedule:

Competition	Paid By	Referee	Touch Judge	TOTAL
Men's First Grade	CLUBS	\$88.50	\$53.00	\$194.50
Men's Reserve Grade	CLUBS	\$58.00	\$35.00	\$128.00
Men's Second Grade	CLUBS	\$58.00	\$35.00	\$128.00
Women's Tag	NRL VIC	\$37.50	\$23.00	\$83.50
Women's First Grade	CLUBS	\$48.50	\$29.00	\$106.50
Men's U20	CLUBS	\$58.00	\$35.00	\$128.00
Boys' U17	NRL VIC	\$43.00	\$26.00	\$95.00
Boys' U16	NRL VIC	\$40.00	\$24.00	\$88.00
Boys' U15	NRL VIC	\$35.50	\$22.00	\$79.50
Boys' U14	NRL VIC	\$33.00	\$22.00	\$77.00
Boys' U13	NRL VIC	\$30.00	\$18.00	\$66.00
U12	NRL VIC	\$25.50	N/A	\$25.50



Competition	Paid By	Referee	Touch Judge	TOTAL
U11	NRL VIC	\$23.50	N/A	\$23.50
U10	NRL VIC	\$21.00	N/A	\$21.00
U9	NRL VIC	\$20.00	N/A	\$20.00
U8	NRL VIC	\$20.00	N/A	\$20.00
U7	NRL VIC	\$20.00	N/A	\$20.00
U6	NRL VIC	\$20.00	N/A	\$20.00
Girls' Tag U14 & U17s	NRL VIC	\$25.50	N/A	\$25.50
Girls' U19	NRL VIC	\$32.50	\$19.00	\$69.00
Girl's U17	NRL VIC	\$29.50	\$18.00	\$65.50
Girl's U15	NRL VIC	\$25.50	N/A	\$57.50
Girl's U13	NRL VIC	\$21.00	N/A	\$21.00

- 6.8 Referee fees for Men's First Grade, Men's Reserve Grade, Men's Second Grade, Men's U20s Women's Tag and Women's First Grade competitions shall be paid by the participating clubs in equal share of total cost regardless of where matches are played to NRL VIC upon receipt of invoice.
- 6.9 No Club shall have right of entry into the NRL VIC final series or any Gala Days or match day events played after preliminary rounds for any team from that club, irrespective of ladder position) if they are in arrears to NRL VIC for any payment due, including referees' fees.
- 6.10 All Clubs must purchase one (1) table for ten (10) people at the 2020 NRL Victoria Awards.
- 7. Registration**
- 7.1 NOTE: It is not the responsibility of the referee to determine eligibility or registration status of any player. Clubs are not permitted to request the involvement of referees to adjudicate or facilitate any dispute or query in regards to registration or eligibility.
- 7.2 Clubs must register all players with NRL VIC prior to that player taking part in any match conducted and scheduled by NRL VIC (from the first round of scheduled competition season this includes non-competitive scheduled matches such as end of season gala days).
- 7.3 Applications for registration must be on the form prescribed by NRL VIC and submitted in the format and timeframe as specified by NRL VIC.
- 7.4 To be eligible to be registered as a player with a club a person must have been admitted to any membership of that club in accordance with the constitution, rules, Model Rules or Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Club.
- 7.5 Any player may be registered up to 30 June inclusive. For all Age Group competitions up to and including the Under 12 Age Group, or where competition points are not played for, a club may register any player at anytime of the Competition Season including after 30 June.



- 7.6 It is the onus of the club to collect payment of registration and insurance, membership fees, or any other fees from a player. A club shall not request NRL VIC to enforce payment from a player on its behalf.
- 7.7 Any team which fields a player in a match not considered registered or registered to that team and club or eligible for any other reason under NRL VIC Competition Rules and Regulations, Codes or Policies, the match will be deemed as a Forfeit by the non-compliant team and will be subject to Forfeit fees (see 14. Forfeits). The Club will also be deemed to have committed Misconduct under the NRL VIC Code of Conduct and may be subject to further sanction by NRL VIC.
- 7.8 Any player is permitted to play in an Age Group competition in the immediate Age Group competition above their Nominal Age Group (eg. U13 player can play in U14 competition) unrestricted. Any player wishing to play in an Age Group competition more than 2 years above their nominal Age Group (eg. U13 player wanting to play in U15 competition) must provide written consent from parent/guardian on prescribed NRL VIC Parental Guardian Consent form and can only participate once written approval is provided by NRL VIC. NOTE, a player who has received dispensation to play in competition below Nominal Age Group is not permitted to play in Age Group competition above their Nominal Age Group.
- 7.9 Any player who has not turned 18 years of age must provide written consent from parent/guardian on prescribed NRL VIC Parental Guardian Consent form to participate in any senior competition and can only participate once written approval is provided by NRL VIC. Any player who is eligible by age for the Under 17 competition is NOT permitted to participate in senior competitions (including Men's U20s). Any player who has not turned 17 years of age is NOT permitted to participate in senior competitions irrespective of parental/guardian consent.
- 7.10 Only players born between 1 January 2000 and 31 December 2002 are permitted to participate in the Men's U20 competition. Players who qualify for the Under 17 Age Group Competition (ie. born on or after 1 January 2001) are NOT permitted to participate in the Men's U20 competition.
- 7.11 A player can play for another club in another competition they qualify for if the club they are registered to and play for does not have another team in that other competition. This shall only apply for a player wishing to play between senior competitions (ie. Men's First Grade, Men's Reserve Grade, Men's Second Grade, Men's U20s, Women's Tag, Women's First Grade) and junior competitions (ie. Age Group competitions and Girls Tag) and not within these competitions. In such circumstance, a permit to play for another club is required by written application to the NRL VIC General Manager.
- 7.12 Players may register to play in Age Group competition below their Nominal Age Group only if formal approval is provided by NRL VIC after application is made through Age Dispensation Policy and 18 Month Registrations Policy.

8. Deregistration

- 8.1 Clubs can deregister players during the competition season prior to close of business on 30 June.



- 8.2 A player cannot be deregistered if they have played one or more games of any type during the competition season.

9. Transfers & Clearances

- 9.1 Interclub transfers will not be recognised if not submitted on or before June 30 in any competition season, with exception to age groups for Under 12s and younger which shall require written application to NRL VIC General Manager for approval.
- 9.2 Applications for transfer must be on the form prescribed by NRL VIC and submitted in the format and timeframe as specified by NRL VIC. All applications online will be subject to the NRL Online Clearance Policy which sets out timeframes and appeals.
- 9.3 Clubs may register a player transferring from a club in another League (interstate or international) during the competition season prior to close of business 30 June, with exception to age groups for Under 12s and younger which shall require written application to NRL VIC General Manager for approval.
- 9.4 Unless agreed to in writing by both clubs, **the maximum number of players to be transferred from one club to another club during the 2020 competition season will be three (3) registered players per junior Age Group, five (5) registered players for Women and five (5) registered players for Men (includes U20 Age Group)**, except for players who did not play a game during the 2019 season. A club can only request transfer clearance to be denied on this basis if there is no other reason for clearance to be denied. A club or an individual may upon written submission application to the NRL VIC General Manager request to have any case reviewed for dispensation of this requirement, which shall be treated on a case by case basis at NRL VIC's sole discretion.
- 9.5 A player from a team that has folded or withdrawn from a NRL VIC competition after 30 June may be granted permit to play for another club (subject to no other suitable team from their club still playing) upon written application to the NRL VIC General Manager. NRL VIC shall have sole discretion on providing a permit on a player by player basis.
- 9.6 A player who transfers from a junior team (age restricted team) to a senior team within the same club is not subject to transfer or clearance.
- 9.7 A player will not be transferred to another club if they are in arrears to their club and/or are in possession of goods that have not been returned to the club. Any disputes regarding players denied clearance under this rule is to be resolved between individual and/or clubs concerned. NRL Victoria will not arbitrate or mediate on any complaints or disputes regarding this rule.
- 9.8 Permits for players to participate in competitions outside of NRL VIC will only be provided for Competitions that are sanctioned by NRL VIC. Permits for players from competitions outside of NRL VIC to participate in NRL VIC Competitions will only be approved by NRL VIC if the player seeking a permit is from a competition that is sanctioned by NRL VIC. Permit applications after 30 June will not be approved by NRL VIC except where under written application to the NRL VIC General Manager it is deemed permit is for exceptional circumstances.

2020 COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

C. COMPETITION

10. Game Playing Conditions

Age Group	Game Time	Time Off	Ball Size	Field Size (meters)	Players on field		Interchange Players	Comp points	Match Officials Required
					Min	Max			
Men's First Grade	2 x 40 min (10 min half time)	Y	5 (int)	100 x 68	9	13	Up to 4 (limit 12 interchange)	Y	Ref & TJs
Men's Reserve Grade	2 x 35 min (10 min half time)	N	5 (int)	100 x 68	9	13	Up to 7 (unlimited)	Y	Ref & TJs
Men's Second Grade	2 x 35 min (10 min half time)	Y	5 (int)	100 x 68	9	13	Up to 7 (unlimited)	Y	Ref & TJs
Women's First Grade	2 x 30min (10min half time)	Y	5 (int)	100 x 68	9	13	Up to 7 (unlimited)	Y	Ref & TJ
Men's U20	2 x 35 min (10 min half time)	N	5 (int)	100 x 68	9	13	Up to 4 (unlimited)	Y	Ref & TJs
Boys' U17	2 x 30 min (10 min half time)	N	5 (int)	100 x 68	9	13	Up to 7 (unlimited)	Y	Ref & TJs
Boys' U16, U15, U14, U13	2 x 25 min (5 min half time)	N	5 (int)	100 x 68	9	13	Up to 7 (unlimited)	Y	Ref & TJs
U12	2 x 20 min (5 min half time)	N	4 (mod)	100 x 68	11	13	Up to 7 ^	N	Ref only
U11, U10	2 x 20 min (5 min half time)	N	4 (mod)	80 x 48	8	11	Up to 9 ^	N	Ref only
U9, U8	4 x 8 min (3 x 2 min breaks)	N	3 (mini)	68 x 30	6	8	Up to 8 *	N	Ref only
U7 tag, U6 tag	4 x 8 min (3 x 2 min breaks)	N	3 (mini)	40 x 20	6	6	Up to 6 *	N	Club Facilitator
Girl's U17, U19	2 x 25 min (5 min half time)	N	5 (int)	100 x 68	11	13	Up to 9 (unlimited)	Y	Ref & TJs
Girl's U15	2 x 20 min (5 min half time)	N	5 (int)	80 x 48	7	9	Up to 6 (unlimited)	Y	Ref only
Girl's U13	2 x 20 min (5 min half time)	N	5 (int)	80 x 48	5	7	Up to 4 (unlimited)	Y	Ref only

* MINI - Each player must play a MINIMUM OF **TWO** UNBROKEN PERIODS of eight (8) minutes. That is each player must start at least two of the periods and must not be interchanged until completion of that period.

^ MOD - Each player must play a MINIMUM OF ONE UNBROKEN HALF of a match (i.e. Twenty (20) minutes). That is each player must start at least one of the two halves and must not be interchanged until completion of that half.

* & ^ MINI/MOD - In the event that a player, who has already attempted a kick at goal, attempts another kick, prior to all players (on the field at the time) being given the chance to kick, if successful the points will not be awarded, and another attempt will not be provided to the team to convert that try.

NOTE: it is the responsibility of the Team Coach and/or Team Manager/Scorer to ensure that this occurs, not the referees, and issues are to be resolved on match day.

Age Groups to be read in conjunction with Age Group Document, Age Dispensation and Parent/Guardian consent form.

2020 COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

11. Schedule

- 11.1 NRL VIC competition matches shall be scheduled to be played on a Saturday (note 11.2).
- 11.2 Matches may be scheduled for other days subject to written request being made to the NRL VIC General Manager. Approval may be considered subject to approval of both competing teams/clubs and availability of referees, otherwise original schedule will remain.
- 11.3 Should a team withdraw from a competition for any reason, NRL VIC shall determine course of action for remaining season schedule and competition table. This shall be undertaken with collaboration of the remaining competing teams within that competition. Please note 6.2 that team fees for any withdrawing team are not refundable. The first match following notification of team withdrawing will attract fine applicable to Forfeit (see 14). NOTE: any Club with a Men's First Grade team that withdraws its Men's Reserve Grade team from the competition will not be eligible to enter into finals for Men's First Grade and (if applicable) Men's Second Grade competitions.
- 11.4 Matches shall only be scheduled to be played at venues under lights that have been approved by NRL VIC. Approval will only be provided subject to report provided by a supplier endorsed by local council that indicates that lighting meets minimum Australian Safety Standards for Rugby League competition play. Matches may not be played under lights if no approval is provided or council has deemed lights to be unsafe. NOTE: should it be clear and obvious that lighting is not operating at satisfactory level on match day then this maybe reason for Ground Manager to determine ground to be unsafe under 13.6.a.

12. Match Conditions

- 12.1 Game Playing Conditions are tabled in 10 and are not to be modified except under permission of the NRL VIC General Manager or their designated authority.
- 12.2 Teams shall not be permitted to commence play without completion of official match books, including player and personnel signatures, sighting of registration/accreditation and inspection of player equipment by the referees.
- 12.3 The match clock shall be started at scheduled start time regardless of completion of items in 12.2, which shall be enforced by the referee.
- 12.4 **NOTE: U6 and U7 Age Groups MUST play under League Tag format ONLY.**

13. Cancellation of Matches Postponing Matches, and Uncompleted Matches

- 13.1 Matches may only be cancelled due to the following reasons:
- a. Closure of grounds by council
 - b. Ground conditions are determined to be unsafe (see 13.6)
 - c. Adverse weather (see 13.10)



- 13.2 Any game cancelled by the reasons stated in 13.1 shall be declared No Result and teams allocated competition points as prescribed in 15.1 and a match score of 0-0.
- 13.3 Any game cancelled by the reasons stated in 13.1 may be postponed to be played at a later date subject to written request being made to the NRL VIC General Manager no later than 5.00pm of next business day after the originally scheduled game. Approval may be considered subject to approval of both competing teams/clubs and availability of referees, otherwise original schedule will remain. Clubs must provide confirmation to NRL VIC of agreed time and date of re-scheduled game no later than 5.00pm five (5) business days after originally scheduled game. Should clubs fail to agree or meet conditions of 13.3 No Result will be recorded against the game as per 13.2.
- 13.4 Any game may be postponed for any other reason deemed appropriate by the NRL VIC General Manager and played at a later date subject to written request being made to the NRL VIC General Manager no later than 5.00pm of next business day after the originally scheduled game. Approval may be considered subject to approval of both competing teams/clubs and availability of referees, otherwise original schedule will remain. Clubs must provide confirmation to NRL VIC of agreed time and date of re-scheduled game no later than 5.00pm five (5) business days after originally scheduled game. Should clubs fail to agree or meet conditions of 13.4 the game shall be declared Abandoned with no competition points awarded as prescribed in 15.1.
- 13.5 Any postponed match must be completed with result formally submitted to the NRL VIC General Manager by 5.00pm of Tuesday immediately prior to the first week of scheduled finals. Any team who confirms in writing with NRL VIC to play a postponed match and does not fulfill its requirements to do so will be deemed to have forfeited the match and all applicable rules under 14 Forfeits shall apply. Should the postponed match not proceed other than for reasons of forfeit the game shall be declared Abandoned with no competition points awarded as prescribed in 15.1.
- 13.6 For a match to be cancelled where ground conditions are determined to be unsafe under 13.1 b., **this shall only be on the basis that the ground is declared unsafe** and not on the basis the ground is not considered to be in most ideal condition for play. A ground can be declared unsafe at any time and can only occur when:
- a. The Official Ground Manager determines the ground to be unsafe (note 11.4).
 - b. If both teams declare and agree the ground unsafe.
- 13.7 If only one team declares the ground unsafe and refuses to play this team shall be determined as forfeiting the match.
- 13.8 A referee does not have the authority to declare a ground unsafe and cancel a match.



- 13.9 Referee fees will only be payable for matches cancelled where ground conditions are determined to be unsafe under 13.1 b. This will be the responsibility of the host club. Referees fees will not be due for matches cancelled for any other reason.
- 13.10 A match may only be cancelled due to adverse weather under 13.1 c. by the referee. Adverse weather is determined as extreme weather that has potential to affect the health and well being of participants (examples being extreme heat, lighting strike, etc.) or conditions become unplayable where it is not possible for players to conduct an ordinary game of rugby league (examples being extreme gale force wind, excessive puddles or muddying where it is not possible to play-the-ball or kick the ball or other basic elements of the game is not possible, etc. Not being able to see lines is not an acceptable reason to cancel or cease playing or stop a match).
- 13.11 A match that has been forfeited for any reason by either team, or once match is started and is unable to be completed due to insufficient number of players in a team (note 14.5), then the match shall not be considered a cancelled match and cannot be postponed to be played at a later date.
- 13.12 Should a match not be able to be completed after commencement (ie. kick-off has occurred) through no fault or deliberate action of either or both teams then the result shall be the score of the match at the time the match was unable to be continued (note 14.5).

14. Forfeits

- 14.1 Should a team forfeit a match, the following shall apply:
- a. Competition points awarded as per 15.1
 - b. A match score of 50-0 to the non-offending team, or if a match has already commenced, the score of the match at the time the match is forfeited if point differential is greater than 50 points.
 - c. If match is forfeited prior to 5.00pm on day prior to scheduled match a fine of 10% of the full team registration fee in 6.2 or \$100, whichever is the greater, is payable to NRL VIC. If after 5.00pm on day prior to scheduled match the match is forfeited a fine of 20% of the full team registration fee in 6.2 is payable to NRL VIC – except where the match is played and ruled a Forfeit by NRL VIC then only the 10% fee applies.
 - d. If match is forfeited after 5.00pm on a Wednesday prior to the scheduled (or postponed) match then referees fees shall also be paid to NRL VIC as per schedule in 6.7, unless a match has commenced, been played competitively or otherwise, then this shall not apply.
- 14.2 If a club is aware that it is forfeiting a match prior to the weekend of play then the forfeiting club must advise the NRL VIC General Manager AND the opposing club.



- 14.3 Any team who forfeits on 3 separate occasions shall be immediately suspended from the competition and fined applicable fine amount in 14.1.c for each remaining match it is scheduled to play until it can show just cause to the satisfaction of the NRL VIC General Manager to be permitted to continue on the basis no further forfeits shall occur.
- 14.4 Any club that forfeits for any reason their Men's First Grade or First Division Age Group Competition match on any given competition round, including Finals, their Men's Reserve Grade and Men's Second Grade matches, will automatically be deemed a Forfeit regardless of result or bye. In this case only 14.1.a and 14.b shall apply to the Men's Reserve Grade and Men's Second Grade matches.
- 14.5 A match that has commenced and cannot be completed due to playing numbers in a particular team falling below minimum number allowed shall be deemed a Forfeit in Men's First Grade competition only, with all rules 14.1 to 14.4 being applicable. For all other competitions the non-compliant team shall be deemed to have lost the game, with match score at time of match terminating to be final unless non-compliant team was level or winning, then match score shall be adjusted by NRL VIC to reflect a loss of minimum margin of 2 points.
- 14.6 For any forfeit fee paid in 14.1.c, 50% shall be paid by NRL VIC to non-offending team and 50% to host club, except that no fee will be pass on to non-offending club or host where a match commenced, played competitively or otherwise, even if forfeited prior to the commencement of the match.

15. Competition Points & Table

- 15.1 Competition points shall be awarded as follows:

Win	2 points
Bye	2 points
Draw	1 point
No Result	1 point
Loss	0 points
Abandoned	0 points
Forfeit	-2 points

No Result – as prescribed under 13.1 or 13.2, or where a match that is unable to commence through no fault of either team or as determined by NRL VIC.

Abandoned – as prescribed under 13.3 or 13.4, or where a match that was unable to commence or be completed through fault or deliberate action of both teams, or as determined by NRL VIC.

- 15.2 Teams shall be ranked higher on the competition ladder based on most competition points. Should two teams share the same number of competition points they shall be separated and ranked higher than the other team based on the following in order:



- a. Greater positive difference between match points scored for and scored against
 - b. Higher match points scored for
 - c. Higher ranking from 2019 NRL Victoria Spirit of League Award
- 15.3 Teams entering the competition after the commencement of the competition shall start on zero competition (0) points.

16. Finals

- 16.1 Teams ranked as follows on the competition table at the end of preliminary rounds shall qualify for Finals (subject to 6.8):
- a. In competitions comprising of nine (9) teams or less, the four (4) highest ranking teams.
 - b. In competitions comprising of ten (10) or eleven (11) teams, the five (5) highest ranking teams.
 - c. In competitions comprising of twelve (12) or more teams, the six (6) highest ranking teams.
 - d. For U13 and U14 competitions, only the two (2) highest ranking teams play.
- 16.2 Finals format shall be:

- a. 4-Team Finals System (for competitions of 9 teams or less):

Week 1

Major Semi Final: Team ranked 1 v Team ranked 2

Elimination Semi Final: Team ranked 3 v Team ranked 4

Week 2

Preliminary Final: Loser of Major Semi Final v Winner Elimination Semi Final

Week 3

Grand Final: Winner of Major Semi Final v Winner Preliminary Final

The winner of the Grand Final shall be declared competition winners.

- b. 5-Team Finals System (for competitions of 10 or 11 teams):

Week 1

Qualifying Final 1: Team ranked 2 v Team ranked 5

Qualifying Final 2: Team ranked 3 v Team ranked 4

Bye: Team ranked 1



Lowest ranked loser of Qualifying Finals is eliminated

Week 2

Semi Final 1: Team ranked 1 v Lowest ranked team not eliminated
Semi Final 2: Highest ranked QF winner v Highest ranked losing QF team

Week 3

Grand Final: Winner of Semi Final 1 v Winner Semi Final 2

The winner of the Grand Final shall be declared competition winners.

c. 6-Team Finals System (for competitions of 12 teams or more):

Week 1

Qualifying Final 1: Team ranked 3 v Team ranked 6
Qualifying Final 2: Team ranked 4 v Team ranked 5
Bye: Team ranked 1 and Team Ranked 2

Week 2

Semi Final 1: Team ranked 1 v Lowest ranked QF winner
Semi Final 2: Team ranked 2 v Highest ranked QF winner

Week 3

Grand Final: Winner of Semi Final 1 v Winner Semi Final 2

The winner of the Grand Final shall be declared competition winners.

d. U13 and U14 Finals

Grand Final: Team ranked 1 v Team ranked 2.

The winner of the Grand Final shall be declared competition winners.

16.3 Finals matches shall be played under the conditions set out in 10.

16.4 Any matches in the Finals where scores are drawn at the completion of normal game time the following shall occur:

- a. Teams will have 5 minutes break and swap ends to play Extra Time.
- b. The first team to score in Extra Time will be declared the winner. i.e. Sudden Death/Golden Point



- c. Extra Time will be played with teams swapping ends for each period of 5 minutes with no break.
- 16.5 Should any match in the Finals not be able to be completed as formally scheduled by NRL VIC through no fault of either team (note 14.5 overrides this rule) then determination of match result shall be as follows:
- a. If the match is unable to be started then the higher ranked team on competition ladder at completion of preliminary round shall be declared the winner.
- b. If the match commences and scores are level at time match is abandoned then the higher ranked team on competition ladder at completion of preliminary round shall be declared the winner.
- c. If the match commences and at the time the match is abandoned and one team score is higher than the other than that team shall be declared the winner.
- 16.6 Prize money for NRL VIC competitions shall be paid only for the following:

Competition	Winner	Grand Finalist	Preliminary Finalist	Finalist	Total
NRL VIC First Grade	\$2,500	\$1,500	\$600	\$400	\$5,000
NRL VIC Women's First Grade	\$2,100	\$1,160	\$560	\$350	\$4,170
NRL VIC Reserve Grade	\$600	\$400	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
NRL VIC Second Grade	\$600	\$400	\$0	\$0	\$1,000

17. Player Qualification for Finals

- 17.1 A player shall be eligible to participate in Finals subject to the following conditions:

a. Men's First Grade

To qualify for Men's First Grade finals:

- i. A player must have played a minimum of 33% of scheduled matches for that club in Men's First Grade, Men's Reserve Grade, or Men's Second Grade, or Men's U20s prior to the Finals for that Club (this cannot be combined across clubs).
- ii. A competition round shall be counted for any match played in Men's First Grade, Men's Reserve Grade, or Men's Second Grade or Men's U20s but if a player plays in Men's First Grade and also in Men's Reserve Grade and/or Men's Second Grade and/or Men's U20s in the same competition round they shall only be credited once for Men's First Grade only.

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b. Men's Reserve Grade and Men's Second Grade and Men's U20s

To qualify for Men's Reserve Grade and Men's Second Grade and Men's U20s finals:

- i. A player must have played a minimum of 33% of scheduled matches for that team in the competition they wish to qualify for prior to the Finals for that Club (cannot be combined across clubs). Matches played in the Men's U20s competition shall be counted towards qualification for First Grade, Reserve Grade and Second Grade.
- ii. A competition round shall be counted for any match played in Men's Reserve Grade or Men's Second Grade or Men's U20s respectively. Men's First Grade matches are not credited to Men's Reserve Grade or Men's Second Grade or Men's U20s qualification. If a player plays in Men's First Grade and/or in Men's Reserve Grade and/or Men's Second Grade or Men's U20s in the same competition round they shall only be credited once at the highest level of competition played in.
- iii. If a player has played more than 50% of scheduled matches for that team in Men's First Grade they are not eligible to play in Men's Reserve Grade Finals and/or Men's Second Grade Finals and/or Men's U20s Finals. There is no restriction on Men's Reserve Grade and/or Men's Second Grade and/or Men's U20s matches to play in either competition finals subject to condition i) and ii) above.
- iv. A player may qualify for Finals in Men's Second Grade and Men's Reserve Grade and Men's U20s and Men's First Grade competitions subject to meeting the conditions of qualification in each competition.

c. Women's First Grade, Girls' (U19, U17, U15, U13) and Boys' U17, U16, U15, U14, U13)

To qualify for Women's First Grade, Girls' (U19, U17, U15, U13) and Boys' U17, U16, U15, U14, U13):

- i. A player must have played a minimum of 33% of scheduled matches for that team in the competition age group they wish to qualify for prior to the Finals for that Club (this cannot be combined across clubs).
- d. A player may qualify for Finals in more than one competition age group subject to playing minimum number of matches in each competition. A player shall be credited for each match they play in that competition age group even if they play more than one match on any weekend.
- e. If a player has played more than 50% of scheduled matches for that team in First Division of an Age Group Competition then they are not eligible to play in any Finals match of the respective Age Group Second Division.



- f. In addition to qualifying for age group competitions, a player may qualify for Finals in Men's First Grade and/or Men's Reserve Grade and/or Second Grade and/or Men's U20s subject to meeting the conditions of qualification in each competition.

17.2 Calculation of minimum matches played shall be on the following basis:

- a. Matches are based on scheduled matches in that competition for that team.
- b. Byes do not count as matches scheduled for that competition and do not count towards matches played by a player.
- c. Matches forfeited by a team for any reason will not count towards matches played by a player but will count as a match scheduled for that team in that competition.
- d. Should a match be forfeited, players from the non-forfeiting team shall have that match counted towards their qualification subject to completion of signed official team match sheet being submitted to NRL VIC no later than 5.00pm next business day after the scheduled match.
- e. Should a match be cancelled (and not postponed to be played later) each player shall have that match counted towards their qualification subject to completion of signed official team match sheet (in format prescribed by NRL VIC) being submitted to NRL VIC no later than 5.00pm next business day after the scheduled match.
- f. Any player listed on an official team match sheet (in format prescribed by NRL VIC) that is not signed by that player and does not include their registration number will not have the match counted towards their qualification.
- g. Matches missed through suspension will not count towards qualification for a player but will count as scheduled matches for that team.
- h. Match sheets (In prescribed format by NRL VIC) for completed matches received by NRL VIC after 5.00pm four (4) business days after the scheduled match shall not count towards qualifications for finals.
- i. Qualification of minimum 33% of scheduled matches will be calculated as follows:

16, 17 or 18 scheduled games	6 games played to qualify
13, 14 or 15 scheduled games	5 games played to qualify
10, 11 or 12 scheduled games	4 games played to qualify
7, 8 or 9 scheduled games	3 games played to qualify
4, 5 or 6 scheduled games	2 games played to qualify



17.3 Dispensation is available to a player for qualification to Finals for the following:

a. Representation

- i. Players will be credited with having played a competition match for each match missed when playing in a Representative Team as defined in the NRL VIC Representative Team Policy, including matches missed where player is requested to be "rested" for the Representative Team. The same shall apply if officiating in a representative program/event as determined by NRL VIC at the time.
- ii. To receive this credit the player must have played in the most recent available match in the relevant competition which dispensation is being sought, BOTH before AND after duties of Representative Team.
- iii. Players will not be credited for missing matches to play for Melbourne Storm teams or School teams.

b. Injury

- i. To be eligible to be credited with a game which is missed whilst injured the Club must complete an Injury Report Form and submit to NRL VIC a medical certificate (or equivalent official medical evidence). NOTE: Illness shall not be considered an injury for purposes of dispensation.
- ii. Submission to NRL VIC for dispensation for must be provided no later than 12.00noon of the business day immediately prior to match(es) for which dispensation is sought.
- iii. Retrospective credits will not be provided for any matches that have been missed prior to the deadline set out in b above.

18. Disqualified / Suspended Players

18.1 No player who has been disqualified / suspended by NRL VIC or any other Rugby League body for any reason will be entitled to play in any NRL VIC game until such disqualification / suspension has expired or been removed by NRL VIC or the Rugby League Body imposing the disqualification.

18.2 Unless explicitly stated within the sanction, conditions of Disqualification / Suspension are as follows (also refer to the NRL VIC Scope of Sanctions and Suspensions Policy):

- a. Suspensions shall be considered for games not weeks. For example, a suspension is not served during weekends where there is a general bye or the team has a scheduled bye
- b. A suspension will serve across all NRL VIC competitions and events and will expire at the completion of the scheduled matches of the team that the particular player received the suspension for. For example:



1. If player receives a 1 week suspension in an U14 game
2. Scenario is that the U14 team has the Bye the next week
3. Player cannot play for another team (eg. U16) until he / she serves the scheduled number of U14 games.

c. Matches that are forfeited by a suspended player's team do not count as part of the suspension. For clarification, where a suspended player's team is forfeited against this game shall count as part of the suspension.

19. Clubs With Two Teams in One Competition

- 19.1 When a club submits two teams in a competition, each team will be treated as if they are from two separate clubs in all aspects of the competition.
- 19.2 Players are not permitted to change teams once they have played one game for a team in the relevant competition.
- 19.3 Players wanting to transfer to another team in the competition need to apply for clearance to do so proving just cause to NRL VIC General Manager. This must be done prior to COB June 30.
- 19.4 Where a club has two teams in one competition, they need to submit final squads to the NRL VIC General Manager (or their designated authority) prior to COB next business day after June 30.
- 19.5 When a team enters a second team in a competition late, clubs must submit squad list to the NRL VIC General Manager for approval prior to this team being granted entry into the competition.
- 19.6 Should a team, whereby it is one of more than one team from a club in the same competition, withdraw from the competition, then players seeking to continue to play must seek a clearance as per 19.3, and games played in original team do not count for finals qualifications. Should the team fold after 30 June, rule 9.5 applies and games played in original team do not count for finals qualifications.



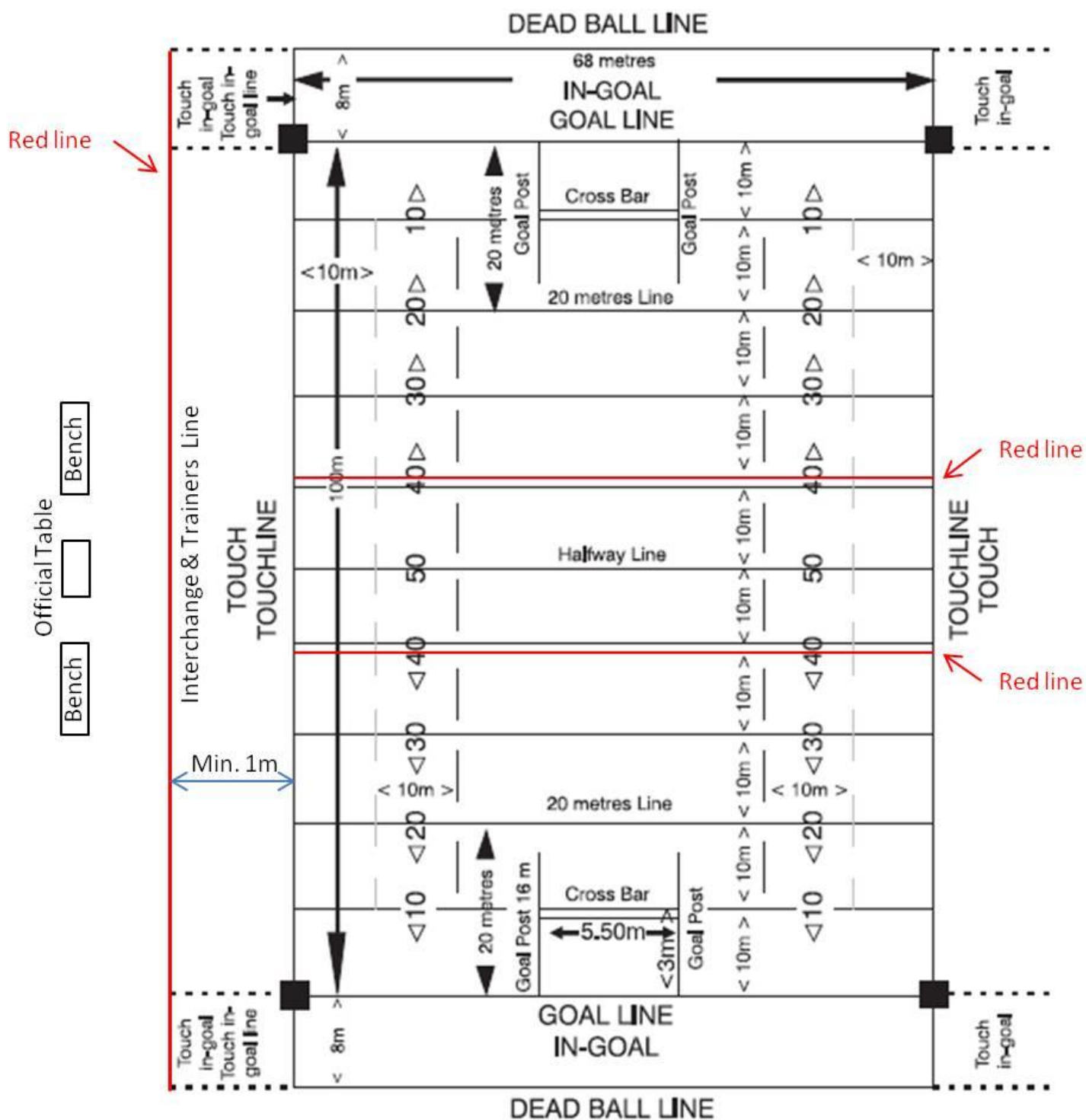
D. MATCH DAY AND VENUE REQUIREMENTS

20. Duty of Care Officer and Duty of Care Checklist

- 20.1 Each Host Club/Venue will appoint a Duty of Care Officer (this can also be an official Ground Manager).
- 20.2 The Duty of Care Checklist (in format prescribed by NRL VIC) will be completed by the Duty of Care Officer (or Ground Manager) before the commencement of play at any NRL VIC sanctioned venue.
- 20.3 It is duty of Host Club/Venue to ensure that the Duty of Care checklist is forwarded to NRL VIC no later than 5.00pm four (4) business days after the scheduled match.

21. The Playing Area

- 21.1 The "Playing Area" is defined as the area enclosed by the fence, or other such line of demarcation, which prevents the encroachment of spectators. All spectators shall be located behind such fenced areas at all times.
- 21.2 Where no such boundary exists, all fields shall be fully roped off enclosing the playing area along each sideline and the dead ball lines. The ropes should be set back, where possible/practicable, (5) five metres from the touchline on both sides of the ground and dead ball lines at both ends of the ground.
- 21.3 All spectators are to be located behind fenced areas. **Under no circumstances are spectators allowed on the playing area.**
- 21.4 Ground Managers will be appointed by the Host Club for each playing field (if more than one playing field is operation then sufficient Ground Managers are to be appointed to ensure there is one per playing field) and are responsible for enforcing and managing spectator behaviour (see 26.).
- 21.5 A red line shall be marked one metre in touch from each touch line extending from the dead ball lines to define the referees' movement area. This one metre strip/area is to be left clear of any personnel/players at all times.
- 21.6 Fields must be lined, marked in white with red forty metre lines. The use of lime product marking material is strictly prohibited.



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22. Personnel Permitted Inside Playing Area & Playing Field

22.1 The match referee is authorised to dismiss any person not entitled to enter the Playing Area & Playing Field or any person who does not observe these rules or the direction of the referee.

22.2 Only the following personnel are permitted inside the Playing Area:

- a. Eligible and qualified players participating in the match (as per schedule in 10) and signed on official team match sheet.
- b. Official Personnel from Clubs as defined in 22.3
- c. Officially appointed match referee personnel.
- d. Ground Manager
- e. Relevant personnel for ball duties and tee duties (maximum 2 per team). Each participating team are to provide one unless provided for by Host Club/Venue.
- f. Photographers and/or media personnel as approved by NRL VIC by prior arrangement in writing. Note such personnel during play are not permitted to be located near player benches and/or official table and must not engage in communication with any individuals unless instructed by Ground Manager and match referee personnel.

22.3 Only the following Official Club Personnel from each of the competing teams for each game are permitted inside the Playing Area, all of whom **MUST** have appropriate and current accreditation for their role, be registered in manner prescribed by NRL VIC, **and must carry accreditation and official NRL VIC registration cards (in manner prescribed by NRL VIC) at all times:**

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|--|
| a. | Coaches | Maximum 2 per team permitted |
| b. | Manager | Only 1 per team permitted |
| c. | Sports Trainers | Maximum 2 per team permitted |
| d. | Water Runner | Only 1 per team permitted (Yellow Shirt);
Except if a team does not have 2 accredited Sports Trainers they are permitted 2 Water Runners (ie. 1 Sports Trainer) |
| e. | Official Table Personnel | Only 1 per team permitted |



22.4 Note that Playing Field (and Field of Play) is not the same as Playing Area. The Playing Field is defined as the area bounded by the touchlines and dead ball lines. Only the following personnel are permitted in the Playing Field:

- a. Players who are not interchange players.
- b. Sports Trainers & Water Runner only when completing their duties (see 25.5).
- c. Officially appointed match referee personnel.
- d. Ball and tee duty personnel.
- e. Anyone allowed permission by the referee as granted under their authority.

23. Official Table

23.1 Each participating team must supply one representative to carry out the duties of the official table. Only one representative from each club shall carry out the duties of the official table at any given time.

23.2 The duties of the official table representatives are as follows:

- a. Ensure details of match are accurately recorded of official team match sheet/book.
- b. Ensure official team match sheet/book has team and player details completed with player sign on before sighting of players.
- c. Be in attendance at official table fifteen minutes before scheduled game time with completed sign on of match book.
- d. Sighting of opposition players against match book and official registration cards (cards in format as prescribed by NRL VIC), including any players late to sign on. Players are not to wear head gear at time of sighting.
- e. Between both team's representatives to be solely responsible for accurately keeping match time. Note: the referee is authorised to commence time clock at scheduled start time.
- f. Time and supervise Sin-Bins
- g. Ensure that only authorised personnel are in the Playing Area and that only authorised personnel are on the Playing Field.

23.3 The Official Table will be equipped as per 31.

**24. Interchange/Reserve Players & Official Club Personnel**

- 24.1 Interchange/Reserve players for teams must remain seated on the interchange/reserves bench/seat at all times during the game, except when in the act of interchange (which must occur without interference of touch judge by remaining behind red line) or conducting a warm-up (which must be behind red line and not interfere with any other personnel).
- 24.2 Club Coaches and Managers must remain seated on the interchange/reserves bench/seat or if standing immediately beside or behind bench/seat (not in front).
- 24.3 Club Sports Trainers and Water Runners when not carrying out their duties must remain seated on the interchange/reserves bench/seat or if standing immediately beside or behind bench/seat (not in front). When affecting their duties they are not permitted to walk up and down the touch lines and must only move in the area behind the red line until entering the Playing Field to carry out duties.
- 24.5 For Men's First Grade Competition only, interchanges will operate as follows:
- a. Interchanges will be limited to 12 interchanges per team per match. In matches where official Extra Time is played and additional 2 interchanges will be permitted (which will be in addition to any unused interchanges in normal time).
 - b. Clubs will be provided with a set of official interchange cards numbered 1-12. It is the responsibility of each club to have these cards available at all matches.
 - c. To interchange a player, the player must report to the match official table and present interchange card to opposing team scorer (1st interchange will use card no. 1, and so on until last interchange player uses card no. 12). A maximum of two (2) players from each team can report to the match official table at any one time.
 - d. The interchanging players must comply with Laws of game regarding interchange.
 - e. If player who is bleeding or injured is interchanged then this shall count for as part of the limited interchange. If a player is caused to leave the field due to injury as a result of Foul Play in which the offending player is dismissed from field then an interchange is permitted that shall not count within the interchange limit. If the fouled player later returns to the field then this shall also not count within the interchange limit.

25. Sports Trainer & Water Runners

- 25.1 No team is permitted to participate in any match without the presence of an allocated NRL Accredited Sports Trainer. This is except for Mini and Mod League teams where a minimum of one (1) Sports Trainer is required per field.



- 25.2 All Sports Trainers and Water Runners must adhere to the requirements of these rules and direction of the match referee. Failure to do so will be considered misconduct and persons and clubs will face disciplinary action.
- 25.3 The match referee is authorised to dismiss any person who fails to adhere to these rules or the direction of the referee.
- 25.4 Each Trainer and Water Runner must not interfere with the duties of other personnel including the referee and touch judges, and must leave the field once their assigned task has been completed. Sports Trainers are only permitted to initiate communication with match referee and/or touch judge when advising of injury concern that may affect play and shall only be done in an appropriate manner. All other forms of communication by Sports Trainers to match referee and/or touch judge will be considered misconduct and persons and/or clubs will face disciplinary action. Water Runners are not permitted to initiate communication with match referee and/or touch judge and will be considered misconduct and persons and/or clubs will face disciplinary action.
- 25.5 All Trainers & Water Runners must be accredited (minimum accreditation level as per 25.6) and have their accreditation/registration displayed when inside the Playing Area.
- 25.6 The specific roles and responsibilities are as follows:

Head Trainer - Orange Shirt (minimum Level 2 Trainer Accreditation) or Blue Shirt if not enough qualified personnel (minimum Level 1 Accreditation)

- a. Is allowed unlimited access to the playing field to attend injured players and carry water.
- b. Is allowed to be on-field to be involved in the interchange process (i.e. to go to player on-field to be interchanged).
- c. Must NOT carry messages or provide directions to players at anytime.

Assistant Head Trainer - Blue Shirt (minimum Level 1 Trainer Accreditation)

- a. Is ONLY allowed to enter the Playing Field at the direction of the Head Trainer when:
 - 1. Assisting the Head Trainer to remove an injured player from the field; OR
 - 2. To treat an injured player if there is more than one injured player and the head trainer is already occupied.
- b. Is ONLY allowed to carry water when:



1. A try has been scored (either for or against); OR
2. Due to extreme weather conditions, the two Head Trainers from the participating clubs agree each team uses Assistant Head Trainer as an additional water runner.
- c. Is allowed to provide assistance off the Playing Field of any nature, including but limited to, the interchange process, refilling of water bottles, etc. so long as it does not interfere with the role of any other personnel or player.

Water Runner - Yellow Shirt (minimum LeagueSafe Accreditation)

- a. Is allowed unlimited access on-field to carry water.
- b. Is allowed be on-field to be involved in the interchange process (i.e. to go to player on-field to be interchanged).
- c. Is allowed on-field to carry messages to individual players
- d. Must NOT provide directions or messages to the team while play is in progress.
- e. Must enter and leave the field from an onside position.

26. Ground Manager

- 26.1 Each Host Club/Venue must assign a Ground Manager to each playing field in operation at their venue. If there is more than one playing field is operational then sufficient Ground Managers are to be appointed to ensure there is one per playing field. This is a MANDATORY position that must be filled by the Host Club/Venue and failure for a Host Club to provide appropriate person to complete this role may result in penalties being issued by NRL VIC on the Club.
- 26.2 A person is only permitted to be assigned as Ground Manager under the following conditions:
 - a. They are of a minimum age of 18 Years; and
 - b. Have a current and valid Working With Children Check; and
 - c. Have a Leaguesafe and/or Sports Trainer accreditation; and
 - d. Are registered as a volunteer as per NRL VIC volunteer registration processes.
- 26.2 The Ground Manager must be visible and identifiable wearing the uniform that has been provided and have appropriate NRL VIC Volunteer Registration Card displayed on themselves.



- 26.3 The Ground Manager must be aware of and fully understand the requirements of NRL VIC Rules and Regulations and any NRL VIC policies that are in effect on match day.
- 26.3 The Ground Manager is responsible for ensuring that the grounds and associated equipment are safe for use, that the Playing Area and Playing Field are set up appropriately for play, and that the Duty of Care Checklist is completed before play can commence on any field. They are to ensure only appropriate personnel are within playing area.
- 26.4. The Ground Manager has the authority to prevent play commencing or further play at anytime if they are of the reasonable belief it is unsafe to do so.
- 26.5 The Ground Manager has specific powers under the NRL VIC Code of Conduct for managing behaviour of any person at the match venue and must reasonably use these powers accordingly.
- 27. Team Sign On**
- 27.1 An Official Team Match sheet shall be completed for ALL matches conducted under the auspices of NRL VIC including gala day matches and exhibition matches across all age groups including mini and mod matches.**
- 27.2 Team officials shall ensure that the names and registration numbers of all players who are to participate in the game are entered on the Official Team Match Sheet (match in format as prescribed by NRL VIC) prior to the start of the game (see finals qualifications 17.2 f).
- 27.3 A maximum of only 20 players can be listed on the Official Team Match Sheet per team, **except in First Grade and the Under 18 competitions whereby only a maximum of 17 players can be listed on the Official Team Match Sheet per team.** It is offence to list more players than permitted on the Official Team Match even if the players listed do not take to the field.
- 27.4 The match shall not commence until all players sign the Official Team Match Sheet (or in manner as prescribed by NRL VIC) and have their registration card sighted. (Note 27.9) Teams are responsible for allowing enough time to organise for these duties to be completed, in addition to equipment inspection by the referees, in a manner that players are ready for kick off at the scheduled time.
- 27.5 Whilst the match may not commence until the completion of the task in 27.4, the match clock shall be started at scheduled start time regardless of these tasks being completed, which shall be enforced by the referee.
- 27.6 A player who arrives late for a game that has already commenced shall be permitted to participate in the game at anytime provided that:



- a. the player's name and registration number appears on the Official Team Match Sheet prior to the kick off of the second half.
- b. the player signs the Official Team Match Sheet under supervision of Official Table Personnel.
- c. the player registration card is sighted prior to the player taking the field.
- d. the player enters the Playing Field through the normal interchange process regardless of interchanging with another player.

27.7 At the commencement of a match, any team fielding an unregistered or ineligible player or field a player without a registration card for sighting by the official table personnel shall be considered to have forfeited the game and pay a fee equivalent to the relevant fee in 14.1.c.

- 27.8 If the minimum number of players on-field for a team have not signed on after 15 minutes has expired on the game clock (see 27.5), the game shall be forfeited by that team.
- 27.9 For matches played in the U6, U7, U8, U9, U10, U11 and U12 age groups only, the team manager or team Official Table Personnel is permitted to sign the official team match sheet on behalf of the players.
- 27.10 Match sheets are required to be received by NRL VIC no later than 5.00pm four (4) business days after the scheduled match (note 17.2.h). For forfeited or cancelled matches match sheets are to be received by NRL VIC no later than 5.00pm the next business day after scheduled match (note 17.2 d & e). Non-compliance shall mean match does not count for finals qualifications for players initially. Repeated non-compliance for a team following a warning may result in penalties including competition points and/or fines.

28 Player Dismissal

- 28.1 Any player, who has been dismissed (sent off and not "sin binned") from the field, must report to the Official Table and have their name recorded on the Official Team Match sheet.
- 28.2 Following reporting to the Official Table, a dismissed player must leave the Playing Area and is not permitted to return to the Playing Area. They may have no further involvement in that game or any other game until the appropriate judicial process has been put into action.

29. Sin-Bin

- 29.1 The Sin-Bin is NOT to be used for Foul Play, this means it must NOT be used for the following:
 - Kicking
 - Tripping
 - Striking



- High Tackle (contact with neck and/or head during tackle)
- Dropping Knees
- Dangerous throw

For Foul Play, the Referee can only use power of dismissal if warranted. However, Sin-Bin can be used for repeated infringements.

- 29.2 The Sin-Bin time commences for the player when the referee re-starts play, either by blowing the whistle for a penalty or play recommencing.

N.B. The player's time does NOT begin when the referee holds his hands up to signal the sin-bin or when the player reaches the official table.

- 29.3 Time for Half-time break does not count towards Sin-Bin time and time shall continue into the second half.

- 29.4 Sin-Bin time shall continue even if Time Off has been blown by the Referee.

- 29.5 The player must sit in a designated Sin-Bin area, which shall be located near the official table and away from both team benches, and not be permitted to leave their seat until their Sin-Bin time is completed (except for half time break, if applicable).

30. Uniform

- 30.1 A Club on-field uniform must comply with and be approved under the NRL VIC Club On Field Uniform Design and Colour Policy. NOTE IN PARTICULAR clubs are to comply with requirements of using licensed suppliers for On Field Uniform as per this policy.

- 30.2 Player's uniforms and equipment shall be in accordance with Section 4 of the International Laws:

- a. Each team's players shall be uniform (ie. all players wearing the same design and colour jersey, shorts and socks.)
- b. Each player jersey shall be easily identifiable with individual numbers.
- c. No item of clothing or equipment is permitted which may be considered dangerous. Shorts with pockets shall NOT be permitted under any circumstances, and pockets cannot be taped or sewn, or shorts turned inside out.

- 30.3 Referees will be required to advise teams and note on the official match under their report if a club has not complied with ensuring a team has uniform jerseys, shorts and socks. Clubs will be issued with a formal warning for each breach by a team and will receive a second and final warning for any subsequent breach by a team. Following a final warning, further breaches will be considered misconduct by the Club (not players) and may be subject to appropriate sanctioning.



30.4 For League Tag competitions the following uniform conditions apply:

Shorts

- a. Skin tight shorts are not permitted. Skins may be worn under the shorts but must not have the Velcro tab attached. Belts are not permitted. Jerseys must be tucked into shorts to ensure that the tags are not obstructed. Velcro tabs attached to shorts and tags shall be a maximum of 5cm x 5cm (if there are discrepancy with Laws of League Tag then the Laws shall prevail).

Tags

- a. Each team will have a set of NRL sanctioned tags of distinctive colour. Tag length shall be maximum of 36cm x 8cm. No part of the tags or Velcro may be altered.
- b. Teams must have 2 sets of colours with them at each match to avoid colour clashes. The first listed team on the NRL VIC match schedule will have the right to elect the colour they will wear.

31. Equipment

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Official Team Match Sheet / Book	Each Club/Team for their own book
3 x NRL VIC branded Steeden Footballs	Host Club/First Listed Team on the NRL VIC Fixture: Finals and Gala days this shall be Host Club
Duty of Care Book – completed & kept at Official Table	Host Club/Venue
Goal Post Pads	Host Club/Venue
Seating for interchange / reserve players - sufficient for numbers defined in rule 11.	Host Club/Venue
Official Table - Table - 2 x Chairs - Time Clock - Bell/Horn/Hooter - Stretcher	Host Club/Venue
2 x Sin-Bin chairs - next to Official table	Host Club/Venue
Kicking Tee	Each Team
First Aid Signage	Host Club/Venue
Ice – to be available to all participating teams either accessed on field or in club rooms	Host Club/Venue
Dressing Room Allocation Signage	Host Club/Venue



32. First Aid

- 32.1 A stretcher shall be provided by the Host Club/Venue and positioned in an area adjacent to the official table.
- 32.2 It is COMPULSORY for a Sports Trainer with a minimum Level 1 qualification, or similarly qualified personnel as approved by NRL VIC, from each team and equipped with an appropriate First Aid Kit to be in attendance at all games.
- 32.3 Signage to be displayed in Change rooms must contain:
- Ambulance Number 000.
 - Nearest Hospital Name, phone number and street address.
 - Nearest Doctors Surgery, phone number and street address.
 - The Host Clubs Address and contact numbers (for ambulance attendance).
- 32.4 If an ambulance is required the Ground Manager or nominee is to be located at ground entry to direct ambulance officials.

33. Dressing Rooms

- 33.1 Teams will be allocated dressing rooms on the day by the Host Club/Venue with signage indicating timing allocation located next to dressing room entry (note 33.4).
- 33.2 The Referees will be allocated a dressing room on the day by the Host Club/Venue.
- 33.3 It is the individual player's responsibility to ensure that any valuables are not left in the dressing rooms. Any loss incurred is the individual's responsibility.
- 33.4 Teams in subsequent matches will be allowed into dressing rooms at the completion of the half-time interval of match scheduled immediately prior at the discretion of the host venue Ground Managers.
- 33.5 **Each team will be responsible for leaving their room tidy.**

34. Video Recording of Men's First Grade Matches

- 34.1 It is compulsory for all Men's First Grade matches to be recorded by video.
- 34.2 It is the responsibility of the Host Club/Venue to ensure that Men's First Grade matches are recorded in full and recording supplied in whole and unedited to NRL Victoria no later than 5.00pm the first business day following the match. Recording of matches must be with a digital video camera (recording by mobile phone, tablet or other device will not be accepted) and must be from an elevated position on a platform of 1.2metres in height or greater.



- 34.3 It is the responsibility of the Host Club/Venue to ensure that appropriate infrastructure and arrangements are made to allow recording of Men's First Grade matches by video.
- 34.4 Repeated non-compliance of above conditions may result in Host Club/Venue being prohibited from future hosting opportunities for period of time determined appropriate by NRL Victoria.



E. POLICIES

35. NRL VIC Policies

- 35.1 All participants in NRL VIC competitions and activities are bound by the Policies, Rules and Regulations of NRL VIC. This includes, but not limited to, the following which may be amended, updated, or added to at anytime:
- a. NRL VIC Code of Conduct
 - b. NRL VIC Judiciary Procedures and Penalties
 - c. NRL VIC Tough Love Policy
 - d. NRL VIC Scope of Sanctions and Suspensions Policy
 - e. NRL VIC Sanctions and Suspensions in Other Sports Policy
 - f. NRL VIC Representative Player Policy
 - g. NRL VIC Age Groups
 - h. NRL VIC Age Dispensation Policy
 - i. NRL VIC Parent / Guardian Consent Form
 - j. NRL VIC Club On Field Uniform Design and Colour Policy
 - k. NRL VIC Touring Team Policy
 - l. NRL VIC Child Safety Policy
 - m. Victorian Government Fair Play Code

All policies can be found at www.nrlvic.com.au

36. Rugby League Policies and Guidelines

- 36.1 All participants in NRL VIC competitions and activities are bound by Policies, Rules and Regulations as set out by the Rugby League Authorities to which NRL VIC is affiliated to and to applicable Government requirements. This includes, but not limited to, the following which may be amended, updated, or added to at anytime:
- a. NRL National Code of Conduct



- b. NRL National Safe Play Code
- c. NRL Member Protection Policy
- d. NRL On-Field Policy
- e. NRL Return to Play Policy
- f. NRL Infectious Disease Policy
- g. NRL Sun Protection Policy
- h. NRL Mixed Gender Policy
- i. NRL Privacy Policy
- j. NRL Travel and Tour Policy
- k. NRL Clearance & Permits Policy
- l. NRL National Registration Policy
- m. NRL Leagues Anti-Doping Policy
- n. NRL Unmanned Aerial Drone Policy
- o. NRL Sports Glasses/Goggles Policy
- p. NRL Mouthguard Policy
- q. NRL Neck Injury & Cervical Collar Policy
- r. NRL Management of Concussion in Rugby League Guidelines
- s. NRL Head Injuries Guidelines
- t. NRL Heat Guidelines
- u. NRL Electrical Storm Safety Guidelines

All policies can be found at www.playnrl.com/policies/


ADDENDUM A – 2020 Female Competitions
1. Junior Female Competitions

1.1 The 2020 NRL Junior Female Competitions shall operate under 2020 NRL Victoria Competition Rules and Regulations except where outlined in this Addendum.

1.2 Game Playing Conditions will be played under the following:

Age Group	Under 13	Under 15	Under 17	Under 19
Game Time	2 x 20 min halves	2 x 20 min halves	2 x 25 min halves	2 x 25 min halves
Field Size	80m x 48m	80m x 48m	100m x 68m	100m x 68m
Players on Field	Max 7 per team Min 5 per team	Max 9 per team Min 7 per team	Max 13 per team Min 9 per team	Max 13 per team Min 9 per team
Interchange	Up to 4 (unlimited)	Up to 6 (unlimited)	Up to 7 (unlimited)	Up to 7 (unlimited)
Scrum	Handover replaces scrums		Scrum as per International Laws	
Kicks	Kicks in general play allowed (no “bombs”)		All kicks permitted – as per International Laws	
Conversions	No conversions	Conversions from where the team scores (but no less than 10m in from touch line)	Conversions as per International Laws	
Safeplay	Safeplay Code		No Safeplay Code	
Drop outs	No drop-outs Handover to opposition 10m out		Dropouts as per International Laws	
Re-Starts	Tap re-start by non-scoring team		Re-starts as per International Laws	
Finals	Top 2 final series	Top 4 final series	Top 4 final series	Top 4 final series

1.3 Fees for participation in competition and relevant referee fees shall be as communicated by NRL VIC prior to competition commencement.

**ADDENDUM B – 2020 Community Competitions****1. Community Competitions**

1.1 Community Competitions shall operate under 2020 NRL Victoria Competition Rules and Regulations except where outlined in this Addendum.

1.2 Game Playing Conditions will be played under the following:

Age Group	Boys Under 13 Community	Boys Under 15 Community	Women's Community
Game Time	2 x 20 min halves	2 x 20 min halves	2 x 20 min halves
Field Size	80m x 48m	80m x 48m	100m x 68m
Players on Field	Max 11 per team Min 7 per team	Max 11 per team Min 7 per team	Max 11 per team Min 7 per team
Interchange	Up to 5 (unlimited)	Up to 5 (unlimited)	Up to 5 (unlimited)
Scrum	Handover replaces scrums		
Kicks	Kicks in general play allowed (no “bombs”)		
Conversions	No conversions	Conversions from where the team scores (but no less than 10m in from touch line)	
Safeplay	Safeplay Code		
Drop outs	No drop-outs; Handover to opposition 10m out		
Re-Starts	Tap re-start by non-scoring team		Tap re-start by non-scoring team (up to 30 June) Re-start as per International Laws (after 30 June)
Finals	Top 2 final series	Top 4 final series	Top 4 final series (please see 1.4)

1.3 Fees for participation in competition and relevant referee fees shall be as communicated by NRL VIC prior to competition commencement.

1.4 Teams may enter into a Community Competition at anytime prior to June 30. For a team to play in a Community Competition after June 30 they must have entered and paid teams in full prior to June 30.

1.5 No Competition Points shall apply to any matches prior to June 30 in any of the Community Competitions. Competition Points shall only apply to matches played after June 30.

1.6 Should any team within the Boys Under 13 or Boys Under 15 Community Competition prior to June 30 inclusive has 20 or more registered players, the team will no longer be permitted to play in the Community Competition will be required to play in the regular NRL VIC Age Group competition fixture.

1.7 If a club has both a regular competition team and a Community competition team, players will not be permitted to play in the Community competition once they have played 33% of scheduled matches in the regular competition team.



ADDENDUM C – 2020 League Tag Competitions

1. League Tag Competitions

1.1 The 2020 NRL League Tag Competitions shall operate under the 2020 NRL Victoria Competition Rules and Regulations except where outlined in this addendum.

1.2 Game Playing Conditions will be played under the following:

13s & 15s	17s & Womens
7 Per Team – Minimum 5	
68m x 48m	
2 x 15 mins	2 x 20 mins
Defence = 5 metres	
Kick Off restart by non-scoring team after try scored	
General play kicking allowed (no “bombs”)	
Ball into touch – handover 5m in	
Penalties – no kicks for touch: tap kick only	
PTB – to be taken where tagged. No need to replace tag until after the PTB	
All additional International League Tag Laws apply	

1.2 Fees for participation in this competition shall be as communicated by NRL VIC prior to competition commencement.

2020 CODE OF CONDUCT PROCEDURES

Preamble

NRL Victoria adopts the Rugby League Code of Conduct nationally implemented by the National Rugby League (NRL). The following outlines the procedures of the Code as issued by the NRL.

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Rugby League Code of Conduct Procedures is to provide administrators with details of the processes that are to be followed in the case of a breach of the Code as well as information regarding penalties, appeals and notices.

2. Definition

For the purposes of this Code, participants include:

- Registered players;
- Accredited persons (coaches, first aid officers, league safe officers, referees and touch judges);
- Officials (club, league or association staff and volunteers, ground managers and duty officials);
- Parents/carers of players, sponsor representatives and club supporters;
- Members of the general public attending as spectators.

3. Procedures

Section (A) Breaches of the Code - Ground Manager on Match Day

- (i) Any person/s committing an offence, as listed under the Rugby League Code of Conduct Summary of Offences, may be reported by the Ground Manager, or an official of the home club/league, to the Team Manager or other representative of the team which that person/s is supporting. Where a team does not have a Team Manager present, a request or direction from the Ground Manager, or official of the home club/league, to any representative/official of the team or the team's club, shall be regarded as a direction to the Team Manager for the purposes of this Code.
- (ii) The Ground Manager and/or the Team Manager/official must advise the offending person/s of the relevant breach of the Code. The Ground Manager and/or the Team Manager/official should complete a Code of Conduct Incident Report form and endeavour to obtain the name/s and contact details of the offending person/s.
- (iii) In the event that the inappropriate conduct continues, the Ground Manager and/or the Team Manager/official may request the offending person/s to immediately leave the venue or facility. This should also be noted on the Code of Conduct Incident Report form.

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- (iv) In the event that the offending person/s refuses to obey the direction of the Ground Manager and/or Team Manager/official, the Ground Manager may seek the assistance of the venue/facility security staff to request the offending person/s to immediately leave the venue or facility.
- (v) If the offending person/s continues to refuse the direction of the Ground Manager and/or Team Manager/official and/or venue/facility security staff, the Ground Manager may ask the referee to stop the match. If the offending person/s either ceases the inappropriate behaviour or leaves the venue or facility, the match may be resumed. If not, the match may be terminated. In the event that the match is so terminated, the home league may, at its absolute discretion, award the competition points to the non-offending team, or declare that neither side shall be awarded competition points for that match.

Section (B) Breaches of the Code - Referee, Touch Judge, Club and/or League Official on Match Day

- (i) Any person/s committing an offence, as listed under the Rugby League Code of Conduct Summary of Offences, may be reported to the Ground Manager, or an official of the home club/league, by a referee, touch judge, club and/or league official. The Ground Manager or the referee, touch judge, club and/or league official should complete a Code of Conduct Incident Report form and endeavour to obtain the name/s and contact details of the offending person/s.
- (ii) Breaches under this clause 3, B, (i) may be dealt with under the match day provisions listed above in clause 3, A, (i) to (v) or be the subject of a separate report. In either case, a Code of Conduct Incident form must be completed.

Section (C) Breaches of the Code - Club and/or League Official at Function or Event

- (i) Any person/s committing an offence, as listed under the Rugby League Code of Conduct Summary of Offences, may be reported by a club and/or league official. The club and/or league official should complete a Code of Conduct Incident Report form and endeavour to obtain the name/s and contact details of the offending person/s.
- (ii) Breaches under this clause 3, C, (i) should be the subject of a separate report.

Section (D) Lodgement of the Code of Conduct Incident Report

All Code of Conduct Incident Reports must be lodged with the home league's General Manager no later than 12 noon on the first working day after the breach occurred.

The league should maintain a register of Incident Reports.

After reviewing the Incident Report, the General Manager shall decide whether any further action under the Code is warranted.

2020 CODE OF CONDUCT PROCEDURES

If in the opinion of the General Manager no action is warranted, even though a breach may have occurred, the General Manager may write to the offending person/s and/or the person/s club, if known, and advise them that a breach has occurred, but no action is being taken at this time.

Section (E) Code of Conduct Breach Notice

If the General Manager decides that a breach has occurred, and a penalty is warranted, he shall issue a Code of Conduct Breach Notice to the person/s and/or the person/s club by no later than 5:00pm on the second working day after the breach occurred. The Breach Notice shall clearly state the details of the breach (as per the Code of Conduct Summary of Offences); the proposed penalty; and a date and time by which a written response is due, normally within 24 hours of Breach Notice being supplied.

Once the offending person/s and/or the person/s club have responded to the Breach Notice, the General Manager shall determine if the charge is sustained and if so, whether a penalty applies.

The General Manager shall write to the offending person/s and/or the person/s club and advise them of the result of the charge and the penalty imposed, normally by no later than 5:00pm on the fourth working day after the breach occurred.

If the person/s and/or the person/s club accept the penalty, no further action is necessary and the penalty will take effect immediately.

Section (F) Code of Conduct Appeal

The offending person/s and/or the person/s club may request an appeal against the penalty. An appeal may only be lodged on the basis of new evidence not previously presented (E.g. new video evidence, new witness statements, etc). A non-refundable fee of \$100 must accompany any request for appeal and the appeal must be lodged by 12 noon the day after receiving the Result of the Charge and the penalty imposed.

The General Manager will refer the request for appeal to a director of the home league (or delegate nominated by the directors) who will review the new material and determine if an appeal may go ahead.

If an appeal is approved, the General Manager will convene a tribunal consisting of up to three officials nominated by the league, one of whom may be a lawyer, to hear the appeal. The proposed penalty will be set aside until the Appeal Hearing has been completed.

An Appeal Hearing shall not proceed, and the proposed penalty will be in force, where the offending person/s and/or the person/s club representative fail to appear.

The General Manager will fix the date, time and place for the Appeal Hearing as soon as practicable after the appeal is approved and will advise all relevant parties.

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2020 CODE OF CONDUCT PROCEDURES

The Appeal Tribunal may regulate any proceedings brought before it in such a manner as it thinks fit provided that it must give all persons entitled to be heard by it the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in respect of the issue of penalty.

The Appeal Tribunal may confirm, reverse or modify the proposed penalty and make such orders and give such directions as in its absolute discretion it thinks fit.

The General Manager shall advise all parties of the Appeal Tribunal's decision as soon as is practicable after the Appeal Hearing.

4. Penalties

(a) Low Range Offence

A fine of up to \$500.00, and/or loss of competition points, and/or suspension of the coach, first aid officer, referee, touch judge, official or spectator from attending future matches.

(b) Mid Range Offence

A fine of up to \$1,000, and/or suspension of the coach, first aid officer, referee, touch judge, official or spectator, and/or team and/or club from the competition on a temporary basis.

(c) High Range Offence

A fine of up to \$2,500 and/or suspension of the coach, first aid officer, referees, touch judge, official or spectator, and/or team and/or club from the competition for the remainder of the season, or permanently.

These penalties are in addition to any penalty which may be imposed by the home league's judiciary.

5. Ground Manager & Roped-off Grounds

All Host Clubs are expected to have a Ground Manager on duty and wearing the appropriate Ground Manager uniform.

All Host Clubs are expected to ensure the playing field is roped-off as a visible barrier between the playing field and the spectator area.

The person lodging the Incident Report should make every reasonable endeavour to determine whether a Ground Manager was on duty and if the Ground Manager was identifiable in the correct Ground Manager uniform.

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The person lodging the Incident Report should make every reasonable endeavour to determine whether the Playing area was roped off with some form of barrier to visibly separate the Playing area and the Spectator area.

When completing the Incident Report Form this section of the Form, asking whether a Ground Manager was on duty and were the Grounds roped-off should be completed.

If it is determined that a Ground Manager was not on duty or was not identifiable then a \$100 penalty will be applied to the Host Club

If it is determined that the Ground was not roped-off then a \$100 penalty will be applied to the Host Club.

If the Host Club fails to have a Ground Manager and the Playing area is not roped off then it would be a \$200 penalty.

6. General

(a) Generally speaking, Code of Conduct matters will involve incidents that happen outside of the Field of Play. Likely instances are:

- Being abusive to match officials
- Refusing to obey directions
- Being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs at a match, function or event
- Being abusive to club and/or league staff and volunteers
- Misbehaviour by participants on a tour, camp or tournament
- Misbehaviour on any form of transport on the way to or from any match, function or event

The following persons are liable to be dealt with under the Code of Conduct:

- Accredited persons (coaches, first aid officers, league safe officers, referees and touch judges);
- Officials (club, league or association staff and volunteers, ground managers and duty officials);
- Parents/carers of players, sponsor representatives and club supporters;
- Members of the general public attending as spectators.

(b) Any incident involving a registered player during a match will handled by the league's judiciary.

(c) The provisions of the Code of Conduct relating to breaches can apply to both individuals (whether they support a particular club or not) or a club.

2020 CODE OF CONDUCT PROCEDURES

A Breach Notice can be sent to a person/s that is identified on the Incident Report Form. Any subsequent penalty will apply directly to that person/s.

A Breach Notice can be sent to a club where it is believed that their supporters have breached the Code, whether they are identified or not. In this case, any subsequent penalty will apply directly to that club.

A Breach Notice can also be sent to a club where an individual has been identified, for example a coach or first aid officer. In this case, any subsequent penalty will apply to the identified person.

- (d) The time frames contained within this Code of Conduct may be adjusted at the General Manager's sole discretion and as a guide will only exercise this option to adjust time frames if it is in the interest of fairness and natural justice where circumstances justify.

2020 CODE OF CONDUCT INCIDENT REPORT FORM

NOTE: Completion of this form is for reporting breaches of the Code of Conduct ONLY and should not be used for reporting of any other types of incidents.

Breach Details

Date of alleged breach of Code: _____

Name of venue or facility: _____

Name of match, function or event: _____

Name of Offending Person/s: _____

Club of Offending Person/s: _____

Code of Conduct Offence (tick one or more boxes)

No person/s attending a match, function or event shall:

- ☐ (a) Use offensive or obscene language to any participant;
- ☐ (b) Enter the Field of Play during the course of a match without the prior approval of the Ground Manager appointed by the home club and/or league;
- ☐ (c) Excessively dispute the decision of a referee or touch judge either during or after a match;
- ☐ (d) Assault or act with aggression to any person/s;
- ☐ (e) Behave in a way contrary to the Code of Conduct and/or the spirit of the game;
- ☐ (f) Behave in a way which disturbs the enjoyment of a match, function or event by any other person/s, or brings discredit to the home club and/or league;
- ☐ (g) Act in such a way as to exhibit racial intolerance, by language or other conduct, to any person/s;
- ☐ (h) Refuse to accept the reasonable direction of the Ground Manager, official of the team/club which that person is supporting, or official of the home club and/or league.

Ground Manager Confirmation

10

11

Playing Area roped-off

11

10

Description of Incident:

[illegible]

Incident Report Form Completed By: _____

Title/Position: _____

Phone or Email: _____

2020 JUDICIARY PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES

1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 This document outlines Judicial Procedures and Penalties for any match played under the auspices of NRL Victoria.
- 1.2 The procedures outlined in this document do not limit action processed through other NRL VIC policies, including but not limited to, the NRL VIC Code of Conduct.

2. Lodgment of Charge

- 2.1 The referee and/or touch judge may charge a player with an offence as listed on the Charge Description List (see 6).
- 2.2 A charge may be laid whether the player was dismissed by the referee from the field or not. Should a player be dismissed from the field by the referee a charge must be completed as per the procedures outlined.
- 2.3 To complete a charge the referee or touch judge must submit the charge (regardless of match being video recorded) as per prescribed communication method to reporting officer of the VRLRA and/or the NRL VIC General Manager stating the following:
 - a) Offence as listed on the Charge Description List (see 6); and
 - b) Grade of the offence as to its severity, as follows:
 - Grade 1 – Least Severe
 - Grade 2 – Severe
 - Grade 3 – Most Severe
- 2.4 The referee of the match must advise the authorised person of the VRLRA and/or NRL VIC, immediately following the match of any charge made under 2.
- 2.5 The VRLRA or authorized person of NRL VIC must notify the NRL VIC General Manager in writing by no later than 12.00noon on the first working day after the game (ordinarily a Monday) of any charges under these procedures.
- 2.6 For matches where there is an official match video, being a pre-sanctioned video recording service approved by NRL VIC, the video may be reviewed by the NRL VIC Match Review Committee, consisting of the NRL VIC General Manager and at least one other person nominated by NRL VIC. Should the NRL VIC Match Review Committee determine a player be charged with an offence on the Charge Description List (see 6), severity of the offence shall also be determined, and the NRL VIC General Manager shall confirm the charge as per Notification of Charge process (see 3).
- 2.7 On rare occasions due to the seriousness of the incident, the NRL VIC General Manager at their sole discretion following proper investigation of evidence available may refer any charge without

2020 JUDICIARY PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES

grading directly to the NRL VIC Judiciary Panel, who shall be free to determine appropriate penalty (regardless of demerit points listed in 7) if the player is found guilty following a hearing.

3. Notification of Charge and Response

- 3.1 The NRL VIC General Manager will confirm in writing the charged player's club of the details of the offence as well as the total number of demerit points that the player has incurred and the corresponding penalty (as calculated under 8 Penalties), no later than 5.00pm on the first working day after the game (ordinarily a Monday).
- 3.2 The charged player's club must enter a written plea of either guilty or not guilty to the NRL VIC General Manager by 5.00pm on the next day that it has been advised of the charge (ordinarily a Tuesday).
- 3.3 If the club advises the NRL VIC General Manager that the player accepts guilt and the penalty as notified, the NRL VIC General Manager will take appropriate action to enforce any penalty and any carry-over demerit points are documented.

4. Judiciary

- 4.1 If the player does not accept guilt and the calculated penalty, or accepts guilt but not the grading of severity, the General Manager will convene the NRL VIC Judiciary Panel which will meet by no later than the fourth working day after the game, normally Thursday.
- 4.2 Subject to the evidence presented at a hearing, the NRL VIC Judiciary Panel has the power to:
 - a) downgrade the grade/severity of any charge; and/or
 - b) in the case of a High Tackle charge downgrade from Intentional to Reckless, or Careless, or from Reckless to Careless; or
 - c) where applicable/appropriate change a charge to Dangerous Contact or Contrary Conduct.
- 4.3 The grade/severity of charge cannot be upgraded by the NRL VIC Judiciary Panel (except for charges made under 2.7).
- 4.4 A player may take legal representation into a judiciary hearing. However, the Judiciary Panel may suspend such a hearing until it retains legal representation on its own behalf.

5. Appeal

- 5.1 A club/association may lodge an appeal against penalties determined by the Judiciary by advising the NRL VIC General Manager no later than 24 hours after the Judiciary Hearing. An Appeal may **only** be lodged on the basis of new evidence not previously presented (e.g. new video evidence). A non-refundable fee of \$100 must accompany any request for appeal.

2020 JUDICIARY PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES

- 5.2 If an appeal is approved, the NRL VIC General Manager shall convene a tribunal consisting of NRL VIC General Manager and up to two other officials nominated by the league, one of whom may be a lawyer.
- 5.3 Any proposed penalty will be set aside until the appeal has been heard.

2020 JUDICIARY PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES

6. Charge Description List

Short Description	Description of Misconduct
Tripping	A player is guilty of misconduct if he trips another player
Kicking	A player is guilty of misconduct if he kicks another player
Striking	A player is guilty of misconduct if he strikes another player
Intentional High Tackle	A player is guilty of misconduct if, when effecting or attempting to effect a tackle, he makes contact with the head or neck of an opponent intentionally
Reckless High Tackle	A player is guilty of misconduct if, when effecting or attempting to effect a tackle, he makes contact with the head or neck of an opponent recklessly
Careless High Tackle	A player is guilty of misconduct if, when effecting or attempting to effect a tackle, he makes contact with the head or neck of an opponent carelessly
Dropping Knees	A player is guilty of misconduct if he drops his knees into an opponent who is on the ground
Dangerous Throw	A player is guilty of misconduct if he uses any dangerous throw when effecting a tackle
Contrary Conduct	A player is guilty of misconduct if he behaves in a way contrary to the true spirit of the game.
Detrimental Conduct	A player is guilty of misconduct if he behaves in a manner which is detrimental to the interests, welfare or image of the league or rugby league football
Dangerous Contact	A player is guilty of misconduct if he carelessly, recklessly or intentionally makes dangerous contact with another person or engages in dangerous conduct
Shoulder Charge	A player is guilty of misconduct if a defender, without attempting to tackle, grab or hold the ball-carrier (or any opposing player) using the arms or hands, makes direct physical contact with the shoulder or the upper arm.

2020 JUDICIARY PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES

7. Offences Table and Demerit Points

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE	DEMERIT POINTS		
	GRADE 1: LEAST SEVERE	GRADE 2: SEVERE	GRADE 3: MOST SEVERE
Tripping	100	200	300
Kicking	200	300	400
Striking	200	300	400
Intentional High Tackle	550	650	750
Reckless High Tackle	300	400	500
Careless High Tackle	100	150	200
Dropping Knees	200	300	400
Dangerous Throw	200	350	500
Contrary Conduct	200	300	400
Detrimental Conduct	100	200	300
Dangerous Contact	200	350	500
Shoulder Charge	200	350	500

2020 JUDICIARY PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES

8. Penalties

- 8.1 A one-match suspension will result for each 100 demerit points received by a player.
- 8.2 Following any suspension, any points remaining will stay on the player's record for the following 12 calendar months, carrying-over and applying to any future penalties for offences under this procedure. For example, a penalty of 275 points will result in the player receiving a two-match suspension, with the remaining 75 points staying on the player's record for 12 calendar months after the date of the last day suspension is enforced as carry-over points.
- 8.3 If a player has played rugby league and in the past two or more years has not been convicted of an offence, the player is entitled to a 25% reduction of the base demerit point penalty.
- 8.4 A guilty plea by a player will result in a 25% reduction of the base demerit point penalty.
- 8.5 EXAMPLE DEMERIT POINT PENALTY APPLICATION

Example 1

Offence Demerit Points (base penalty):	350
No prior offence in past 2 years (less 25% of base):	-88
Guilty plea (less 25% of base):	-88
Total Demerit Points:	174

Example 2

Offence Demerit Points (base penalty):	350
Prior offence in past 2 years (no deduction):	-0
Guilty plea (less 25% of base):	-88
Total Demerit Points:	262

Example 3

Offence Demerit Points (base penalty):	350
No prior offence in past 2 years (less 25% of base):	-88
Not Guilty plea & found Guilty at Judiciary:	-0
Total Demerit Points:	262

Example 4

Offence Demerit Points (base penalty):	350
Prior offence in past 2 years (no deduction):	-0
Not Guilty plea & found Guilty at Judiciary:	-0
Total Demerit Points:	350

- 8.6 **NOTE: Penalties determined under these procedures do not override or limit penalties that may be determined under other NRL VIC policies, including but not limited to, the NRL VIC Code of Conduct, and NRL VIC Tough Love Policy.**

2020 TOUGH LOVE REGULATIONS

1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 This document outlines Regulations and Penalties under the NRL VIC'S Tough Love program for any match played under the auspices of NRL Victoria.
- 1.2 The procedures outlined in this document do not limit action processed through other NRL VIC policies, including but not limited to, the NRL VIC Code of Conduct, and NRL VIC Judiciary Procedures and Penalties.
- 1.3 The objectives of these Regulations are:
- (a) To reduce the amount of violence in games played in NRL VIC.
 - (b) To take pressure off young and inexperienced referees and match officials.
 - (c) To make the Rugby League experience safe, fair and fun for all.
 - (d) To encourage increased participation in the game.

With the desired outcomes to be:

- Reduced on field violence.
- Elimination of unsavoury behaviour towards referees.
- Stop "all in" melees.
- Remove repeat offenders from the game (both teams and individuals).
- Reduce the number of matches being threatened with abandonment due to poor behaviour.
- Stop spectators from entering the field.
- Educate players at a young age that violence in our game will not be tolerated.

2. Laws of the Game

- 2.1 The Laws of the Game state the following regarding Misconduct:

"SECTION 15
PLAYER'S MISCONDUCT

1. A player is guilty of misconduct if he:
- a) Trips, kicks or strikes another player."

Note: Offences under Section 15, 1.a) of the Laws of the Game as per above are considered to be Foul Play and may warrant instant dismissal. The Sin Bin is not to be used for these offences.

2020 TOUGH LOVE REGULATIONS

3. Zero Tolerance of Striking or Punching

- 3.1 NRL VIC adopts a zero tolerance policy of Striking or Punching.
- 3.2 Any player who throws a punch or “strikes” another player during a match will be automatically dismissed from the field. If that player is subsequently found guilty, **the MINIMUM penalty will be a one game suspension.**
- 3.3 Any player found guilty of punching or striking (ie. breaching 3.2) for the third time in a season will incur an automatic **MINIMUM 12 month suspension** from the game.

4. Zero Tolerance of Fighting and Melees

- 4.1 NRL VIC adopts a zero tolerance policy of Fighting and Melees.
- 4.2 A Melee is considered to be Misconduct involving more than two players at any one time.
- 4.3 A **“TIME OUT”** system will be introduced whenever a severe “melee” occurs as follows:
 - (a) The referee will signal a “TIME OUT” period and call for the ground manager to bring both coaches’ onto the field.
 - (b) Teams are to be taken to opposite ends of the field and spoken to by their respective coaches.
 - (c) The referee will then dismiss from the field offending players under these regulations (3.2).
 - (d) The ground manager and referees will decide when play will resume.
- 4.4 A repeat “Melee” will result in the match automatically being abandoned.
- 4.5 If a match is abandoned after a time out period, the respective coaches from the offending teams will be charged under the NRL VIC Code of Conduct by the NRL VIC General Manager.
- 4.6 Additional Code of Conduct charges and Penalties applied to teams, players, coaches and/or clubs for abandoned games will be at the discretion of NRL VIC.
- 4.7 Any matches abandoned as a result of these regulations will not be replayed and the result of the match shall be determined at the discretion of NRL VIC.
- 4.8 Any team that has had more than two abandoned matches in a season will be automatically disqualified from that competition for that season.

2020 TOUGH LOVE REGULATIONS

- 4.9 Any player who runs onto the field of play from the team “bench” area (including “Sin Bin”) during a match, irrespective of making physical contact with another player, will be automatically sent from the field and incur a **MINIMUM six game suspension** if found guilty.

5. Zero Tolerance of Match Official Abuse

- 5.1 NRL VIC adopts a zero tolerance policy of abuse of match officials.
- 5.2 Any player or official found guilty of touching a referee, touch judge or appointed match official in an aggressive or inappropriate manner will be **disqualified from the game for a MINIMUM period of 12 months**.
- 5.2 Any player or team/club official who verbally abuses or intimidates a referee or match official will be dismissed from the field. If that person is subsequently determined to be guilty the offence, **the MINIMUM penalty will be a one game suspension**.
- 5.3 Any player or team/club official found guilty of verbally abusing or intimidating a referee or match official for the third time in a season will incur an **automatic MINIMUM 12 month’s suspension**.

6. Trainers, Coaches and Managers

- 6.1 If a Trainer, Coach or Manager touches an opposition player during a “Melee” an automatic **MINIMUM six game suspension** will apply if that person is found guilty of such an offence.

7. Spectators

- 7.1 Any spectator who is found guilty of entering the Playing Area with intent will automatically be banned from attending any NRL VIC fixtures for a **MINIMUM period of twelve months** and will be liable to pay a fine under the NRL VIC Code of Conduct.
- 7.2 In addition, the team and/or club that the person offending 7.1 is associated with will be charged the NRL VIC Code of Conduct.

8. Exceptions for Dismissals

- 8.1 Exceptions for Dismissals shall only apply to Players in Mini and Mod matches (ie. matches for age groups Under 12s and below where players shall be “replaced”). All other participants such as coaches, trainers, spectators, etc. dismissals shall apply. All other aspects of these regulations shall still apply to Mini and Mod matches.

2020 SCOPE OF SANCTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS POLICY

1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 This document outlines NRL Victoria's policy regarding the scope of sanctions and suspensions imposed under any of its Codes, Policies, rules and regulations relating to restriction on attendance and participation in Rugby League activities.
- 1.2 The purpose of the policy is to ensure consistency in the enforcement of any penalties and ensure clarity about what sanctioned/suspended participants are entitled or not entitled to do under these penalties.
- 1.3 Reciprocal arrangements with other sports are defined under NRL VIC's Sanctions and Suspensions in Other Sports Policy.

2. Definitions

'Playing Area' shall mean the area enclosed by the fence, or other such line of demarcation, which prevents the encroachment of spectators to the Playing Field at a Rugby League match.

'Match Day Venue' shall mean the venue being used to host a Rugby League match under the auspices of NRL Victoria. The boundary of the venue shall be defined by any feature, natural or otherwise, that is ordinarily accepted as the venue boundary containing all open areas, facilities, buildings and car parks used for the purpose of hosting a match.

'Rugby League Facility or Venue' shall mean any facility or venue that is used for any purpose by NRL Victoria and/or any of its affiliated Leagues or Clubs. This includes, but not limited to, activities such as matches, training, meetings, functions, or any social gathering. The boundary of the facility or venue shall be defined by any feature, natural or otherwise, that is ordinarily accepted as the facility or venue boundary containing all open areas, facilities, buildings and car parks used within or at the facility or venue.

3. Judiciary Sanctions and Suspensions

- 3.1 Penalties under NRL Victoria Judiciary Procedures and Penalties only apply to players dismissed from the Playing Area by the match referee.
- 3.2 A person sanctioned under NRL Victoria Judiciary Procedures and Penalties resulting in any length of match suspension shall observe the following:
 - a) NOT PERMITTED
A sanctioned person is not permitted to enter the Playing Area of any NRL Victoria sanctioned match day until the suspension is served.

Sanction applies to any duty on match day, including, but not limited to coaching, sports trainer, water runner, team management, match refereeing or touch judging, or any other

2020 SCOPE OF SANCTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS POLICY

duties requiring access to Playing Area, irrespective if these duties are carried out in a different competition or for a different club.

b) PERMITTED

A sanctioned person is permitted to attend matches and carry out duties outside the Playing Area on match day, including access to club rooms. Playing Area access is only permitted for the purposes of assisting in setting up or packing down the field and only when Playing Area is clear of match participants.

Sanctions do not apply to any activity outside of match day and a sanctioned person is permitted to attend and participate in Rugby League training, functions or any other activity.

4. **Sanctions and Suspension Under NRL Victoria Code of Conduct or Other NRL Victoria Policies, Rules and Regulations**

4.1 A person sanctioned or suspended by NRL Victoria under its Code of Conduct or any other NRL Victoria Policy, Rules and Regulations will have the scope of their penalty relating to restriction of participation defined by the following. This does not preclude any other form of penalty being applied (such as fines, deregistration, cancellation of accreditation, etc.).

a) RESTRICTED ACCESS TO PLAYING AREA

A sanctioned person is permitted to enter the Playing Area of any NRL Victoria sanctioned match day with restrictions defined within notified sanction until the suspension is served.

b) NO ACCESS TO PLAYING AREA

A sanctioned person is not permitted to enter the Playing Area of any NRL Victoria sanctioned match day until the suspension is served.

Sanction applies to any duty on match day, including, but not limited to, coaching, sports trainer, water runner, team management, match refereeing or touch judging, or any other duties requiring access to Playing Area, irrespective if these duties are carried out in a different competition or for a different club.

A sanctioned person is permitted to participate or attend any other activity outside the Playing Area on match day, including training.

Sanction does not apply to non-match day.

c) NO ACCESS TO MATCH DAY VENUE

A sanctioned person is not permitted to access any NRL Victoria venue on match day.

2020 SCOPE OF SANCTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS POLICY

This restriction applies to any defined boundary of the match day venue, including car parks within this boundary, which may be demarcated by a fence or where there is no fence, any other feature, natural or otherwise, which ordinarily would be accepted as the venue boundary.

A sanctioned person is permitted to participate or attend any other activity on a non-match day, including training.

d) NO ACCESS TO ANY RUGBY LEAGUE FACILITY OR VENUE

A sanctioned person is not permitted to enter any facility or venue of NRL Victoria or its affiliated members at any time.

This restriction includes, and is not limited to, a sanctioned person not being permitted to attend training, meetings, functions or any other activity of NRL Victoria or its affiliated members.

4.2 A person receiving a sanction by NRL Victoria shall be notified formally of their penalty, including restriction on participation based on 4.1.

4.3 Application of penalty regarding restriction on participation shall use the following as a guide, which shall not be used to limit scope of penalty.

a) RESTRICTED ACCESS TO PLAYING AREA

To be applied at NRL Victoria General Manager's discretion.

b) NO ACCESS TO PLAYING AREA

To be applied for an infringement that occurs within the Playing Area.

c) NO ACCESS TO MATCH DAY VENUE

To be applied to any infringement outside of the Playing Area, regardless if that infringement occurred on a non-match day.

To be applied if the presence of a sanctioned person at a venue on match day is likely to cause intimidation of any other person, or is likely to cause detrimental damage to the game.

d) NO ACCESS TO ANY RUGBY LEAGUE FACILITY OR VENUE

To be applied for any infringement that involves physical contact, assault, threat of assault, harassment or bullying.

2020 SCOPE OF SANCTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS POLICY

To be applied if the presence of a sanctioned person at any facility or venue is likely to cause intimidation of any other person, or perceived fear of assault (physical or otherwise), or is likely to cause detrimental damage to the game.

5. Appeal

- 5.1 Any sanctioned person shall be entitled to appeal severity of penalties in the process as prescribed within the relevant NRL Victoria Code, Policy, Rule, Regulation or Procedure under which that person has been sanctioned. This appeal process will be advised to the sanctioned person within the notification of penalty.

2020 SCOPE OF SANCTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS IN OTHER SPORTS POLICY

1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 This document outlines NRL VIC's policy of recognising sanctions and suspensions of other sports and enforcing them within NRL Victoria administered competitions.
- 1.2 This policy applies to all players, coaches, officials, spectators and clubs participating or attending in NRL VIC administered competitions.
- 1.3 The purpose of the policy is to ensure that participants sanctioned/suspended in other sports do not avoid the effect of that sanctions/suspension by participating in Rugby League before penalty has been fully served.
- 1.4 This policy will only apply to suspension in other sports where there are reciprocal arrangements have been made with other sports governing bodies.

2. Reciprocal Arrangements

- 2.1 Reciprocal arrangements have been confirmed by NRL VIC with the following:
 - Victorian Rugby Union (VRU)
 - Touch Football Victoria (TFV)

3. Recognition of Suspension

- 3.1 NRL Victoria will enforce in any sanction or suspension from an organisation identified in 2.1, for any of the following:
 - a) Player sanctioned/suspended for on field Foul Play (or equivalent in respective sport)
 - b) Player, Coach, Official or Spectator sanctioned/suspended for any type of abuse of a match official
 - c) Any person sanctioned/suspended for off field misconduct at a match or event
- 3.2 No retrospective recognition shall be made for sanctions or suspensions imposed prior to implementation of this policy in April 2013.

4. Communication

- 4.1 NRL Victoria will immediately communicate any sanction or suspension it imposes under any of its codes, rules, regulations or policies as per items 3.1 a, b, and c, to any organisation in 2.1.
- 4.2 NRL Victoria will immediately communicate directly to any affected persons of any notification it receives of sanctions or suspensions from any organisation in 2.1 and shall formally confirm imposition of sanction or suspension by NRL VIC under this policy.

2020 REPRESENTATIVE PLAYER POLICY

1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 This document outlines the NRL VIC'S policy for obligations of players within the NRL VIC representative program and when they are required to stand down and participate in club matches when playing in representative matches for NRL VIC in 2020.
- 1.2 This policy applies to all registered players under NRL VIC and to any club (junior, senior or affiliate) affiliated to NRL Victoria.

2. Definitions

'Representative Team' shall mean any of the following teams*:

- Victorian Senior Men's Squad and Team
- Victorian Senior Women's Squad and Team
- Victorian Women's League Tag Squad and Team
- Combined Affiliated States (CAS) Senior Men's Squad and Team
- Victorian Boys 18 Years Squad and Team
- Victorian Girls 18 Years Squad and Team
- Combined Affiliated States (CAS) Boys 18 Years Squad and Team
- Victorian 16 Years Squad and Team
- Victorian 15 Years Squad and Team
- Victorian 14 Years Squad and Team
- School Sports Victoria (SSV) 12 Years & Under Squad and Team
- NRL VIC Academy Squad and Team for any Age Group, Male or Female
- Any other squad and team NRL VIC determines that is applicable under this policy and is advised in writing prior to selection of squad and team

* For avoidance of any doubt, this does NOT include as part of this policy the Victorian Thunderbolts junior representative teams that participate in NSWRL competitions.

'Representative Player' shall mean any player selected in any Representative Team.

'Representative Team Curtain Raiser': Any game played by a Representative Team on the day of a Melbourne Storm home game.

'Representative Team Championships' shall mean the Affiliated States Championships, National Women's Championships, Australian Secondary Schools Rugby League (ASSRL) 15's and 18's Championships, or U12 School Sports Australia National Championship.

'Club Competition' shall mean any club competition under the operation of NRL VIC and/or affiliate leagues of NRL VIC.

'Club Team' shall mean any team participating in any NRL VIC Club Competition.

2020 REPRESENTATIVE PLAYER POLICY

3 Representative Team Curtain Raiser

- 3.1 All Representative Players selected to play in Representative Team Curtain Raiser games that are scheduled on the same day as Club Competition games will be required to stand down from playing for their club team on that day.

4. Representative Team Championships

- 4.1 All Representative Players are required to stand down from and are not permitted to play in Club Team games the NRL VIC competition round in the week preceding Representative Squad Championships. In 2020, Representative players will not be permitted to play for their Club Team for the following NRL VIC competition rounds:

Victorian Senior Men's Squad: Saturday 30th May 2020*

Victorian Senior Women's Squad: Saturday 23rd May 2020*

Victorian Boys 18 Years Squad: Saturday 30th May 2020*

Victorian Girls 18 Years Squad: Saturday 30th May 2020*

CAS U18 Squad: Saturday 27th June 2020*

Victorian 15 Years Squad: Saturday 27th June 2020*

SSV 12 Years & Under Squad Saturday 25th July 2020*

* Dates are scheduled dates for that Round and players will not be permitted to play in any matches for the respective Round if they are played on other dates.

- 4.2 All Representative Players are required to be available for their Club Team to participate in Club Competition games in the week following their return from their respective Representative Squad Championships. In 2020, the dates when Representative Players will be required to be available for their Club Team:

Victorian Senior Men's Squad: Saturday 13th June 2020 *

Victorian Senior Women's Squad: Saturday 13th June 2020 *

Victorian Boys 18 Years Squad: Saturday 13th June 2020 *

Victorian Girls 18 Years Squad: Saturday 13th June 2020 *

CAS U18 Squad: Saturday 18th July 2020*



2020 REPRESENTATIVE PLAYER POLICY

Victorian 15 Years Squad:

Saturday 18th July 2020*

SSV 12 Years & Under Squad:

Saturday 15th August 2020*

* Dates are scheduled dates for that Round and players will be required to play in any matches for the respective Round if they are played on other dates.

2020 AGE GROUPS

AGE GROUP *	BORN BETWEEN
Under 6 **	01/01/2014 – 31/12/2015 **
Under 7	01/01/2013 – 31/12/2013
Under 8	01/01/2012 – 31/12/2012
Under 9	01/01/2011 – 31/12/2011
Under 10	01/01/2010 – 31/12/2010
Under 11	01/01/2009 – 31/12/2009
Under 12	01/01/2008 – 31/12/2008
Under 13	01/01/2007 – 31/12/2007
Under 14	01/01/2006 – 31/12/2006
Under 15	01/01/2005 – 31/12/2005
Under 16	01/01/2004 – 31/12/2004
Under 17	01/01/2003 – 31/12/2003
Under 20s ***	01/01/2000 – 31/12/2002 ***
Girls Under 13	01/01/2007 – 31/12/2009 ^
Girls Under 15	01/01/2005 – 31/12/2007 ^
Girls Under 17	01/01/2003 – 31/12/2005 ^
Girls Under 19	01/01/2001 – 31/12/2003 ^
Girls' Under 13 (League Tag)	01/01/2007 – 31/12/2009 ^
Girls Under 15 (League Tag)	01/01/2005 – 31/12/2007 ^
Girls' Under 17 (League Tag)	01/01/2003 – 31/12/2005 ^

* There may not be a competition for every age group listed in 2020.

** Players born after 31/12/2015 are permitted to play in the Under 6 Age Group ONLY once they have passed their 4th birthday (eg. if a player's date of birth is 26 July 2016, they turn 4 years of age on 26 July 2020 and cannot play prior to 26 July 2020).

*** This competition allows for three year age groups combined. No parental consent provided for players outside this Age Group.

^ Players born in these years only can participate, no parent consent will be considered outside of this.

* 18 Month Registration

Players may play in Age Group below nominal Age Group based on birth date range above if they qualify for 18-month registration, complete the specific NRL 18-month registration process as per NRL requirements AND registration is approved in writing by NRL Victoria. A player does not automatically qualify for 18-Month registration and is not permitted to play in Age Group below their own until approval in writing is provided by NRL Victoria.

2020 AGE DISPENSATION POLICY

1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 This document outlines NRL Victoria's policy on dispensation for a player to participate in an Age Group competition of a younger age than their nominal age group (ie. play in competition below their own age), as determined in the NRL VIC Age Group list.
- 1.2 This policy is applicable to all registered junior players under NRL Victoria and to any club (including affiliate clubs) affiliated to NRL VIC.

2. Dispensation

- 2.1 Dispensation shall only be provided to play in the age group immediately below the nominal age group for that player.
- 2.2 Dispensation shall only be provided for the competition season that approval has been made. Dispensation shall be required to be applied for at the commencement of each competition season regardless of approved dispensation in previous seasons/years.
- 2.3 Dispensation under this Policy shall **only** be provided to a player on the following basis:

- (a) The player has a legitimate physical and/or intellectual disability; and
- (b) The physical and/or intellectual disability has impacted on their physical and/or intellectual development relative to players of their own age; and
- (c) Sufficient medical documentation supporting the player's application is provided.

OR

- (d) For tackle/contact competitions only, player's weight falls below Lower Weight Limit for their age based on approximate 15th percentile:

U7	21kg or under may play U6
U8	23kg or under may play U7
U9	26kg or under may play U8
U10	29kg or under may play U9
U11	33kg or under may play U10
U12	37kg or under may play U11
U13	42kg or under may play U12
U14	48kg or under may play U13
U15	53kg or under may play U14
U16	57kg or under may play U15
U17	61kg or under may play U16
U18	65kg or under may play U17

2020 AGE DISPENSATION POLICY

- U14 Girls Players turning 13 in the current year and 38kg or under may play in U12 female only competitions; or 42kg or under may play in U12 mixed competitions
- U16 Girls Players turning 15 in current year and 44kg or under may play in U14 female competitions
- U18 Girls Players turning 17 in the current year and 48kg or under may play in U16 female competitions

2.4 Dispensation shall **NOT** be granted for the following:

- A player is physically smaller than the other players in their age group (unless qualifies under 2.3 [d] above)
- A player who has been approved to play down an Age Group already under 18 month registration
- A player is new to the game
- A player wants to play with friends in a lower age group
- The club does not have a team or the league does not offer a competition for the nominal age group of that player
- A female player does not want to play league tag and wishes to play Mod football

2.5 Any match where a player that plays at an age group below their nominal age group without having prior approval under the NRL VIC Age Dispensation Policy will be automatically determined a Forfeit by that player's team which shall then be subject to the terms of Forfeits under the NRL VIC Competition Rules and Regulations.

2.6 Dispensation maybe withdrawn by NRL Victoria based on review of player's capabilities having significant impact on age group they have received dispensation for.

3. Application Process for Dispensation

- 3.1 The Age Dispensation Policy is to be initially administered by the club. However, final approval regarding the application of this policy will be provided by NRL VIC.
- 3.2 A parent/guardian makes a request to the player's club seeking Age Dispensation for their child to play in a grade below their nominal age group.
- 3.3 The club provides the parent/guardian with an "**Age Dispensation Application Form**" to complete.
- 3.4 The club will make a decision to either deny or support the player's application for Age Dispensation based on the requirements of this Policy.
- 3.5 If the club denies the request for Age Dispensation the club shall advise the parent/guardian of the decision and reason(s).

2020 AGE DISPENSATION POLICY

- 3.6 If the club supports the request for age dispensation the application is forwarded to the NRL VIC General Manager on the prescribed Age Dispensation application form.
- 3.7 Any application to the NRL VIC **must** be accompanied with supporting documentation such as statement / verification of medical condition and recommendation from a doctor (or equivalent based on nature of physical / intellectual condition).
- 3.8 NRL VIC will make a decision to either approve or reject the application and advise the Club accordingly. In doing so, NRL VIC may request that the player be sighted at training or other appropriate means to assess the application.
- 4. Appeal**
- 4.1 The Club and/or Player may appeal any decision made under 2.6 or 3.8 within 3 working days, and in this case the application is presented to the NRL VIC Appeals Panel.
- 4.2 A player is **NOT** permitted to play in age group below their own nominal age group until decision of NRL VIC Appeals Panel is completed.
- 5. Approvals**
- 5.1 If an application under this policy is approved for Age Dispensation, NRL VIC will advise the Club in writing of approval.
- 5.2 A letter of approval will be provided by the NRL VIC General Manager and copy of which must be provided upon sighting of player registration prior to the commencement of any match that player plays in.



2020 AGE DISPENSATION APPLICATION FORM

This form is to be completed by the parents/guardian of children who are participating in NRL Victoria competitions that would like to apply for dispensation to participate in **immediate competition available below the players designated age group**.

For 18 Month Registration application do NOT use this form. Application is via the NRL 18 Month Registration process.

DO NOT USE THIS FORM TO PLAY IN AGE GROUPS ABOVE PLAYERS AGE (use Parental/Guardian Consent Form).

Note: Player is not permitted to play in requested Age Group until signed approval by NRL Victoria is provided.

PLAYER DETAILS SEEKING AGE DISPENSATION

Player's Name (print) :Date of Birth :

Club:

Address :

.....

Age :

Weight (kg):

Height (cm):

Nominal Age Group (without dispensation):

Age Group Below Players Age Requested to Play:



2020 AGE DISPENSATION APPLICATION FORM

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN APPLICATION

Parental/Guardian would like to apply for dispensation for their child to participate in a competition **BELOW** the player's designated age group.

I, Parent/Guardian (circle one)

of (Players Name)

would like to apply for dispensation for my child to participate in the (Age Group)

during the (Year) Season.

I am applying for dispensation for the following reason(s): Please provide details below

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

NB: Appropriate medical documentation must be provided and attached to this application.

Signature of Parent/Guardian :

Signature of Club Secretary/President :

Signature of NRL VIC General Manager :

Please return this form to NRLVIC and copies will be forwarded to the Club and Parent/Guardian



2020 PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM

This form is to be completed by the parent/guardian of children who are participating in NRL Victoria competitions that would like to participate in **Men's or Women's competition OR in age group two (2) years ABOVE their child's designated age group (eg. 12 year old playing in Under 14 competition).**

Note: Player is NOT permitted to play in requested Age Group until signed approval by NRL Victoria.

NO approval will be provided for players who have NOT turned 17 years of age to participate in Men's or Women's competitions.

PLAYER DETAILS

Player's Name (print) : Date of Birth :

Address :
.....

Age : Age Group:

Club :

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN DECLARATION

Parental/Guardian authorisation of participation in NRL Victoria Competition that is two years above player's designated age group.

I, Parent/Guardian (circle one)

of (Players Name)

fully understand that Rugby League is a contact sport and authorise that my child participates in the

..... (Competition Age Group – eg Under 7, 9 etc) during the

..... (Year) Season.

In signing this form I am aware my child is participating in a competition that is two years above their nominal age group and acknowledge the risks that are associated with participation in a contact sport.

Signature of Parent/Guardian :

Signature of Club Secretary/President :

Signature of NRL VIC General Manager :

Please return this form to NRL VIC and copies will be forwarded to the Club and Parent/Guardian.

2020 CLUB ON FIELD UNIFORM DESIGN AND COLOUR POLICY

1. Policy Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to maintain standards within NRL VIC competitions regarding the uniforms worn on field by participating clubs, including the use of only approved and licensed suppliers, the regulation of colours to avoid clashes, and the manner in which changes in design by clubs are managed.

Note: This policy relates only to the design and colour of on field playing uniforms (shirts, shorts and socks) and not other on field apparel and equipment which may be subject to the Laws of the game or other policies such as, but not limited to, the NRL Compression Garment Policy or NRL On-Field Policy, and also does not apply to any off field club apparel and merchandise.

2. Breaches of Policy, Penalties and Costs

- 2.1 Clubs are not permitted to wear or use On Field Uniforms that have not had their design and colours approved by NRL VIC as per rules and processes defined within this policy.
- 2.2 Breach of this policy may be subject to penalty which may include fines, loss of points by team, loss of points by club, suspension of team and/or suspension of club.
- 2.3 Clubs should not commence production or commit to production of any On Field Uniforms until written approval has been provided of the design and colours of these Uniforms by NRL VIC as per rules and processes defined within this policy. Any costs resulting from not conforming to the requirements of this policy or any costs to make changes to conform to the requirements of this policy are solely the club's responsibility and the club shall have no claim on NRL VIC.

3. NRL VIC Logo and Use Only by Approved and Licensed Suppliers

- 3.1 All Club On Field Jerseys and club On Field Shorts must bear the NRL VIC Logo.
- 3.2 The size of the NRL VIC Logo shall not be of smaller size than the club logo.
- 3.3 The placement of the NRL VIC Logo must be on right hand breast of jersey.
- 3.4 Any club, manufacturer or sponsor logo should not be placed within reasonable vicinity of the NRL VIC Logo (opposite breast, sternum or across midriff are acceptable).
- 3.5 Only NRL VIC approved and licensed suppliers are permitted to use the NRL VIC Logo for club On Field Jerseys and club On Field Shorts.
- 3.6 No club shall be permitted to place an order for On Field Jerseys, Shorts or Socks with a supplier who does not have an NRL VIC License.

2020 CLUB ON FIELD UNIFORM DESIGN AND COLOUR POLICY

4. On Field Uniform Design

Main Design

- 4.1 A club must maintain its Main Jersey design for the entirety of one whole season before it may submit to NRL VIC to change it.
- 4.2 Changes to design elements (eg. panels, piping, contrasting colour of sleeves or collars, or colour of numbers, etc.) or sponsor logos are considered changes to the design and are subject to 4.1.
- 4.3 Main Shorts and Socks are not subject to any conditions other than that the entire team must be uniform (ie. wearing the same) when participating.

Alternate Designs

- 4.4 A club is permitted to have an Alternate Jersey to its Main Jersey subject to the design being of different colour or significantly contrasting colour (ie. one light, one dark).
- 4.5 An Alternate Jersey may be changed at any time subject to approval of the NRL VIC before production.
- 4.6 A club is permitted to have more than one Alternate Jersey subject to each design being of different colour or significantly contrasting colour.

5. Design Approval

- 5.1 All applications for approval must be submitted in writing using the form under this policy and when required accompanying designs provided in full colour.
- 5.2 No design shall be considered approved by NRL VIC without written confirmation AND full colour designs have been signed by NRL VIC General Manager.
- 5.3 Approval of any designs and colours will be given preference to clubs over other clubs based on the following in order:
 - 5.3.1 Incumbent design and colour of clubs.
 - 5.3.2 Predominant colour (irrespective of design or design elements) is not that of another approved predominant colour used by another club. See 6.
 - 5.3.3 Colours of On Field Uniform are as per club colours designated annually on form prescribed by NRL VIC.

2020 CLUB ON FIELD UNIFORM DESIGN AND COLOUR POLICY

5.3.4 Club traditional or historical colours or where significant heritage to design or clubs can be reasonably proven

5.3.5 Registered application date of design and colour by clubs.

Note: Priority will not be given to club sponsor requirements to ensure sponsorship based on guaranteeing particular design and/or colour of club On Field Jersey over any of the above. Clubs should not make any guarantee to any sponsor or potential sponsor without first obtaining approval of design under this policy and are not permitted to make claim against NRL VIC should any sponsorship not be realised as a result of non-approval.

5.4 Submissions may be submitted to NRL VIC at any time (please note 5.3 and in particular 5.3.4). However, approval must be received by NRL VIC no later than 31 March for design and colours to be used in that year's season. Any submission or approval finalised after this date may not be used until the following year's season.

5.5 It shall be the club's responsibility to ensure that sufficient and reasonable time is considered for approval process to be completed. No club shall make any claim on NRL VIC for any approval not provided or not provided in time for use in any season due to delays.

6. Jersey Clashes

6.1 A Jersey Clash is defined where design of a Jersey is of a similar colour of another team.

6.2 The following are NOT considered to avoid a Jersey being determined to have a Jersey Clash with another team:

6.2.1 Variance in colour shade (except significant contrast of light and dark)

6.2.2 Differing design elements (such patterns, panels, piping, contrasting sleeve colour, collar colour, number colour, sponsor logos, etc.)

6.2.3 Different colour and/or design of club Shorts and Socks.

6.3 The NRL VIC General Manager shall have sole responsibility to determine a Jersey Clash in their opinion and shall be final arbiter of a Jersey Clash.

6.4 Clubs shall not be permitted to play another team within NRL VIC controlled matches where a Jersey Clash exists with the other team, subject to 7.

6.5 When two Clubs are scheduled to play each other the Home Team will be entitled to wear the playing Jersey of their choice.

2020 CLUB ON FIELD UNIFORM DESIGN AND COLOUR POLICY

- 6.6 Where there is a Jersey Clash the Away Team must wear a Jersey approved by NRL VIC that does not clash with the Home team, subject to 7.
- 6.7 Where a match is played at a “neutral” venue or is played during the Finals Series of any NRL VIC competition, the NRL VIC General Manager shall determine and advise the clubs in writing the playing Jersey the participating teams must wear.
- 6.8 Where two teams from same club play against each other the club must have one of the teams wear an Alternate Jersey, subject to 7.

7. Embargo

- 7.1 There is an embargo for club Jerseys designs that are in use by NRL VIC clubs prior to the commencement of the 2012 NRL VIC (VRL) season. The Jerseys are permitted to be used by clubs until the club next elects to change Jersey design.
- 7.2 Where a club at the commencement of the 2012 NRL VIC (VRL) season has an Alternate Jersey and has a Jersey Clash with another club for their Main Design they shall be subject to the requirements of 6. Home clubs are encouraged to use, if available, an Alternate Jersey if visiting club does not have an Alternate Jersey.

8. Appeal

- 8.1 NRL VIC shall be final arbiters on any approval or complaints about approval. An appeal to the NRL VIC Appeal Panel is permitted subject to additional evidence being submitted in order for appeal to be granted. Particular note should be made to 5.5.

NRL VICTORIA

2020 TOURING TEAM POLICY

1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 This document outlines NRL Victoria's policy on teams from NRL VIC Affiliated Clubs or Leagues touring and playing outside Victoria and Rugby League teams touring and playing in Victoria.

2. Tours by NRL VIC Teams

- 2.1 Applications by NRL VIC Affiliated Clubs or Leagues to participate in Rugby League fixtures outside Victoria must be lodged with NRL VIC by the following deadline before date of departure:

(a)	Interstate fixtures	Four (4) weeks
(b)	Overseas fixtures expression of interest	Six (6) months
	Overseas fixtures formal application	Three (3) months

Note: Overseas fixture will only be considered for teams 13 years or over.

- 2.2 Application to NRL VIC must include the following:

- (a) Tour Details:
 - (i) Destination
 - (ii) Host Club/Body
 - (iii) Full itinerary/game schedule for the proposed tour
 - (iv) Number of touring party
 - (v) Age group of touring party
 - (vi) Proposed budget of tour and explanation of how funds generated /raised
 - (vii) Purpose of tour
- (b) Copy of documentation from the inviting body.
- (c) Endorsement from the NRL VIC Affiliated Club or Club associated supporting the application to tour (if applicable) confirming all playing participants are registered players.
- (d) Written support from the League/District/State/National or other affiliated body that tour is taking place in.
- (d) Copy of Club/Team on field uniform design, colours and team logo (requires NRL VIC approval).
- (e) Accreditation and registration details of all touring Coaching and Training staff.

- 2.3 Touring teams must provide their own uniform/equipment.

- 2.4 All tour applications will be considered and approved/endorsed by NRL VIC on their own merits.

3. Tours Hosted by NRL VIC Teams

- 3.1 Applications by NRL VIC Affiliated Clubs or Leagues to host Rugby League teams from outside Victoria must be lodged with NRL VIC by the following deadline before arrival of teams:

NRL VICTORIA

2020 TOURING TEAM POLICY

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|------------------|
| (a) | Interstate visitors | Four (4) weeks |
| (b) | Overseas visitors | Three (3) months |

Note: Overseas visitors will only be considered for teams 13 years or over.

3.2 Application to NRL VIC must include the following:

- (a) Tour Details:
 - (i) Host Club/Body
 - (ii) Visiting club/Body
 - (iii) Full itinerary/game schedule for the proposed tour
 - (iv) Number of touring party
 - (v) Age group of touring party
- (b) Copy of invite to touring team.
- (c) Written support from the League/District/State/National or other affiliated body that touring team is affiliated from.
- (d) Accreditation and registration details of all touring Coaching and Training staff.

3.3 Touring teams must provide their own uniform/equipment.

3.4 All tour applications will be considered and approved/endorsed by NRL VIC on their own merits.

4. Approval

4.1 NRL VIC shall provide written response to applicants within 1 (one) week of receiving applications of approval or otherwise.

POLICY NAME	Child Safe Policy
DATE OF ISSUE	13/03/2018
POLICY COVERAGE	NRL Victoria Affiliated Clubs, Staff, Participants, Volunteers, Referees, Team Support Staff, Representative players and officials, Parents, Spectators, Contractors.
DATE OF REVIEW	Yearly
CONTROLLING BODY	ARLC VIC Limited (NRL Victoria)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. ARLC VIC Limited ("NRL Victoria") is committed to ensuring that children and young people who participate in its activities have a safe and happy experience. NRL Victoria supports and respects children, young people, staff, volunteers and participants.
- 1.2. The aim of NRL Victoria's Child Safe Policy (the Policy) is to protect the safety of children in our care and prevent abuse from occurring, and in the event that allegations are raised in relation to child abuse, to ensure that the allegations are properly addressed. All complaints will be treated seriously and fully investigated and handled with maximum confidentiality and discretion.
- 1.3. Should a person wish to make any enquiries in relation to this Policy, please contact NRL Victoria.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1. NRL Victoria is committed to providing the highest level of membership service. This includes protecting members' privacy, promoting positive behaviours and attitudes, protecting the health safety and wellbeing of members, particularly children and delivering the NRL Victoria's activities while acting in the best interests of children in the sport.
- 2.2. Specifically, NRL Victoria considers that the health, safety and well-being of children take priority over all other competing considerations. NRL Victoria considers that this is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all members and protect the image and reputation of the sport, NRL Victoria and its affiliate members.

- 2.3. NRL Victoria has a zero tolerance approach to child abuse and is committed to promoting and protecting children from abuse and neglect to the greatest extent possible. All children have equal rights to protection from child abuse, regardless of their sex, religion, disability or sexual orientation etc.
- 2.4. Child protection is a shared responsibility between NRL Victoria, its employees, workers, contractors, associates, parents/guardians, coaches, spectators, volunteers and members of the NRL Victoria community. Everyone that participates in NRL Victoria's activities is responsible for the care and protection of children, and reporting information about child abuse.
- 2.5. NRL Victoria supports the active participation of all children. It listens to their views, respects their views and involves them when making decisions, where appropriate, especially about matters that will directly affect them (including their safety).
- 2.6. NRL Victoria is also committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, and those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children living with a disability.
- 2.7. NRL Victoria promotes fairness and consideration for all staff, volunteers and participants. For further details please refer to the NRL Member Protection Policy.

3. SCOPE

- 3.1. This Policy applies to participants, parents, spectators, contractors, officials, coaches and staff throughout all NRL Victoria events and activities.
- 3.2. This Policy will continue to apply retrospectively to a person or Member following the cessation of their association or employment with NRL Victoria.
- 3.3. NRL Victoria is supported by a wide network of affiliated clubs across Victoria. Affiliation with NRL Victoria is conditional on an affiliated club implementing, and complying with this Policy. Failure to implement and comply with this Policy may cause NRL Victoria to end its affiliation with a club that is in breach of its obligations.

4. RELATED DOCUMENTS & LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1. This Policy must be read in conjunction with:
 - 4.1.1. the law of the Commonwealth and Victoria including but not limited to:
 - 4.1.1.1. Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)
 - 4.1.1.2. Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015 (Vic)

4.1.1.3. Crimes Act 1958 (Vic); and

4.1.1.4. Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic)

4.1.2. NRL Victoria policies and procedures, including but not limited to:

4.1.2.1. Constitution;

4.1.2.2. NRL Code of Conduct;

4.1.2.3. NRL Child & Vulnerable People Protection Policy

4.1.2.4. NRL Member Protection Policy;

4.1.2.5. NRL Privacy Policy; and

4.1.2.6. Photography Policy

4.1.2.7. NRL Registration Terms & Conditions

5. DEFINITIONS

5.1. **Child** means a person involved in the activities of NRL Victoria (including athletes) and under the age of 18 years unless otherwise stated under the law applicable to the child.

5.2. **Child protection** means any responsibility, measure or activity undertaken to safeguard children from harm.

5.3. **Sexual offence** means a criminal offence as defined within the Crimes Act of Victoria (and any related amendments) which include, but not limited to, involving sexual activity or actions of indecency or any act which exposes a child to, or involves a child in, sexual activity or matters beyond his or her understanding or contrary to accepted community standards. It includes child grooming, which includes actions deliberately undertaken with the aim of befriending and establishing an emotional connection with a child (or the child's carer, family or supervisor) to lower the child's inhibitions and prepare them for engagement in a sexual offence.

5.4. **Mandatory reporter** means a person who is legally required to make a report to the Department of Human Services or the Police if they form a belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection. It includes teachers, principals, registered psychologists, nurses, doctors and midwives.

6. RECOGNISING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

- 6.1. A person may, in the course of participating in the sport or other activities of NRL Victoria or carrying out their work, form a belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection from child abuse.
- 6.2. If a person is concerned about an immediate risk to a child's safety, the person must phone "000" as soon as practicable.
- 6.3. **Child abuse** can be divided into four categories:
 - 6.3.1. **Physical abuse:** occurs when a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of a physical injury, such as a non-accidental physical injury.
 - 6.3.2. **Sexual abuse:** occurs when a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of sexual abuse, such as when a child is exploited, or used by another for his or her sexual gratification or sexual arousal, or for that of others.
 - 6.3.3. **Emotional and psychological abuse:** occurs when a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, emotional or psychological harm of such a kind that the child's emotional or intellectual development is or is likely to be significantly damaged; and
 - 6.3.4. **Neglect:** occurs when a child's physical development or health has been, or is likely to be significantly damaged. It refers to an omission, such as depriving a child of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, intellectual stimulation, supervision and safety, attachment to and affection from adults, or medical care.
- 6.4. Child abuse includes any actions that results in actual or potential harm to a child, in circumstances where the child's parents have not protected, or are unlikely to protect, the child.
- 6.5. **Mandatory Reporters**
 - 6.5.1. Select classes of people in the community (including teachers, nurses and doctors) are required by law to report to the Child Protection Unit of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) where they have formed a belief, on reasonable grounds, that a child is in need of protection because they have suffered (or are likely to suffer) significant harm due to physical or sexual abuse.
 - 6.5.2. This report must be made as soon as practicable, and after each occasion where he or she becomes aware of a further reasonable grounds for the belief.

6.6. Reasonable grounds for belief

6.6.1. A reasonable belief is formed if a reasonable person believes that:

- 6.6.1.1. the child is in need of protection;
- 6.6.1.2. the child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm as a result of physical or sexual injury; and
- 6.6.1.3. the child's parents are unable or unwilling to protect the child.

6.6.2. To form a reasonable belief, you should consider and objectively assess all the relevant facts, such as the source of the allegation and how it was communicated, the nature of and details of the allegation, and whether there is any other related matters known regarding the alleged perpetrator.

6.6.3. A 'reasonable belief' or a 'belief on reasonable grounds' is not the same as having proof, but is more than mere rumour or speculation.

6.6.4. You will have reasonable grounds to notify if:

- 6.6.4.1. a child states that they have been physically or sexually abused;
- 6.6.4.2. a child states that they know someone who has been physically or sexually abused (sometimes the child may be talking about themselves);
- 6.6.4.3. someone who knows a child states that the child has been physically or sexually abused;
- 6.6.4.4. professional observations of the child's behaviour or development leads a professional to form a belief that the child has been physically or sexually abused or is likely to be abused; or
- 6.6.4.5. signs of abuse lead to a belief that the child has been physically or sexually abused.

6.7. Voluntary Reporters

6.7.1. In addition to the mandatory reporting obligations above, any person who believes on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection from any form of child abuse, *may* disclose that information to the Police or DHHS.

6.8. Reporting Child Sexual Abuse

- 6.8.1. If a person receives information that leads them to form a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed in Victoria against a child (under the age of 16 years) by another person (of or over the age of 18 years), the person has a legal obligation to disclose that information to the Police as soon as it is practicable. Individuals who fail to comply with this obligation under the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic) may be subject to a penalty of 3 years imprisonment.

6.9. NRL Victoria Approach to Reports of Abuse

- 6.9.1. NRL Victoria supports and encourages a person to make a report to the Police or DHHS if they form a belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection, or they are concerned about the safety, health or wellbeing of a child.
- 6.9.2. Any person that makes a report in good faith in accordance with their reporting obligations (whether mandatory or discretionary) will be supported by NRL Victoria, and will not be penalised by NRL Victoria for making the report.
- 6.9.3. If a person is uncertain as to whether they should make a report to an external authority in relation to the safety of a child, they may speak to the NRL Victoria General Manager or NRL Victoria Operations Manager for guidance and information. If in doubt, ask for assistance.
- 6.9.4. If an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer, NRL Victoria will follow the reporting procedure outlined in the NRL Child & Vulnerable People Policy and take all steps to ensure that the safety of the child is paramount. An initial step will involve the withdrawal of the accused person from active duty, which could entail standing down, reassignment to a role without direct contact with children, working under closer supervision during an investigation, working from home, or any other measures deemed appropriate depending on the seriousness of the allegation.
- 6.9.5. NRL Victoria will investigate allegations of inappropriate conduct against a child in accordance with procedural fairness and will handle the allegations in a confidential manner to the greatest extent possible.
- 6.9.6. NRL Victoria will cooperate with the directions of the Police and/or DHHS in relation to any investigation conducted by these authorities.
- 6.9.7. NRL Victoria will keep a register of any allegations regarding inappropriate conduct.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PERSONNEL PROTECTING CHILDREN

7.1. Personnel involved in protecting children include the board, management, staff and volunteers within the Organisation. Those people have responsibilities in relation to protection of children and are expected to:

- 7.1.1. understand the rights of children, as appropriate to their role;
- 7.1.2. respect the cultural and religious practices of families who access NRL Victoria's services, programs or events;
- 7.1.3. understand and appropriately respond to the needs of children with developmental delays or disabilities;
- 7.1.4. appropriately act on any concerns raised by children;
- 7.1.5. understand the definitions, indicators and impact of child abuse;
- 7.1.6. know and follow regulations in relation to the care of children;
- 7.1.7. co-operate with police and/or other formal investigations to the best of their ability; and
- 7.1.8. not harm or exploit children who access NRL Victoria's services.

8. CHILD SAFE AND CHILD FRIENDLY GUIDELINES TO PREVENT AND MANAGE RISKS OF CHILD ABUSE

8.1. Change Rooms

- 8.1.1. Adult officials, regardless of gender, should only enter change rooms if accompanied by another adult. Prior to entering change rooms, officials should notify the people in the change room of their intended entrance. For the avoidance of doubt this requirement does not apply to parents/legal guardians when in a room with their child.

8.2. Hotel rooms and other accommodation

- 8.2.1. No official should be alone in the room of an athlete without the presence of another adult. The doors should always be open. Should it be necessary for an official to be alone in the room of an athlete, the Team Manager or other responsible official must be informed. For the avoidance of doubt this requirement does not apply to parents/legal guardians when in a room with their child.

8.3. Travel - General

8.3.1. All team members over 18 years of age retain an overriding responsibility for the welfare of all athletes they accompany during team travel activities. They have a 'duty of care' for athletes and they must meet that duty and avoid unaccompanied and unobserved activities with persons less than 18 years of age wherever possible. For the avoidance of doubt this requirement does not apply to parents/legal guardians when in a room with their child.

8.4. Sexual Relationships while on tour.

8.4.1. During all team travel activities officials must not, under any circumstances engage in conduct of a sexual nature with an athlete. Improper conduct of a sexual nature by an official towards an athlete includes any form of child sexual abuse (defined within the NRL Member Protection Policy) as well as but not limited to the following:

- 8.4.1.1. inappropriate conversations of a sexual nature;
- 8.4.1.2. obscene language of a sexual nature;
- 8.4.1.3. suggestive remarks or actions;
- 8.4.1.4. jokes of a sexual nature;
- 8.4.1.5. obscene gestures;
- 8.4.1.6. unwarranted and inappropriate touching;
- 8.4.1.7. sexual exhibitionism;
- 8.4.1.8. use of any device to show/watch offensive material; and
- 8.4.1.9. any other action that could lead to an athlete being physically, emotionally or psychologically harmed.

8.5. Adults under investigation

8.5.1. Adults under investigation in relation to a matter involving child abuse, or any matter which has the potential to jeopardise their Working With Children Check (WWCC) (or if based in another State the equivalent requirement) status may be prohibited, by the NRL Victoria Executive, from participating in NRL Victoria activities.

8.6. Coach Assistance

8.6.1. All coaches must ensure that all physical contact with athletes which occurs when coaching is appropriate for the situation and necessary for the athlete's safety. It is strongly recommended that:

- 8.6.1.1. coaches ensure that there are other adults present whenever coaching;
- 8.6.1.2. coaches take care to explain the procedure to the child prior to beginning any physical contact; and
- 8.6.1.3. coaches obtain consent from the athlete prior to beginning any physical contact.
- 8.6.1.4. coaches have the appropriate NRL accreditation for their role.

9. ENGAGING NEW PERSONNEL

9.1. The minimum standard for background checks of employees and volunteers of NRL Victoria and its members is the law as it applies in Victoria.

9.2. NRL Victoria undertakes a comprehensive recruitment and screening process for all staff and volunteers which aims to:

- 9.2.1. promote and protect the safety of all children who participate in the activities of NRL Victoria;
- 9.2.2. identify and recruit the safest and most suitable candidates who share NRL Victoria's values and commitment to protect children; and
- 9.2.3. prevent a person from working at NRL Victoria if they pose an unacceptable risk to children.

9.3. NRL Victoria requires staff and volunteers to pass the recruitment and screening process prior to commencing their engagement with NRL Victoria.

9.4. As part of the screening and recruitment process, an applicant must provide appropriate evidence (WWCC) to show that they are suitable to work with children and young people in a recreational setting.

9.4.1. all NRL Victoria staff and Board members require a WWCC; and

9.4.2. the following key event personnel must have a valid WWCC:

- 9.4.2.1. those paid by NRL Victoria for their services;

9.4.2.2. volunteers;

9.4.2.3. relevant contractors who may have unsupervised access to children; and

9.4.2.4. anyone else who NRL Victoria staff feel requires a WWCC due to the nature of the work that they are undertaking for NRL Victoria.

9.5. The type of evidence that an applicant is required to provide to NRL Victoria will vary depending on the type of position that they are applying for. However, an applicant will not be offered a position until they provide the required evidence to NRL Victoria.

9.6. NRL Victoria will exercise discretion and may require applicants to provide a Police check in accordance with the law and as appropriate, before they commence their engagement and during their time with NRL Victoria in regular intervals.

9.7. NRL Victoria will undertake thorough reference checks prior to engaging any personnel (depending on the role being applied for).

9.8. Once engaged, NRL Victoria will provide staff and volunteers with access to this policy and staff and volunteers must review and acknowledge their understanding of this policy.

9.9. NRL Victoria requires that affiliated clubs ensure all staff and volunteers (including coaches and any officials) likely to have contact with athletes (and other children) have a current WWCC, which needs to be signed off annually as part of the affiliation process. Clubs which do not comply with their legal obligations will be found to have not complied with the NRL Victoria affiliation requirements and will be disaffiliated.

9.10. NRL Victoria requires all affiliated club personnel including owners, Committee Members, Volunteers, Coaches and Judges and anyone else who has contact with children to possess a valid working with children check. Any costs associated with gaining a valid WWCC will be dealt with in a manner determined by that club.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT APPROACH

10.1. Child safety is a part of NRL Victoria's overall risk management approach.

11. POLICY BREACHES

11.1. It is a breach of this policy for any person or organisation to which this policy applies, to have been found to have done anything contrary to this policy. Any person who may breach this policy is subject to NRL Code of Conduct and/or NRL Member Protection Policy and/or additional discipline processes.

12. POLICY PROMOTION

- 12.1. This policy will be made available to all members via NRL Victoria website (www.nrlvic.com.au).
- 12.2. This policy will be communicated to all staff, Board, and Committee members via email, and is always accessible on the NRL Victoria website.
- 12.3. References to this policy will be included in documentation provided to all officials that represent NRL Victoria.

13. REVIEW PROCESS

- 13.1. This policy will be reviewed by the NRL Victoria Executive on an annual basis.
- 13.2. If you would like to provide NRL Victoria with any feedback or suggestions to improve this policy, please contact NRL Victoria on 03 8412 4956.
- 13.3. In addition to the regular review of this policy, recommendations for changes to the policy may be submitted to the Board for consideration at any time. In the event that changes are accepted, the policy will be updated, and circulated to all stakeholders via the webpage, email and other appropriate communication channels.