

Canberra Region Rugby League

(Canberra Region Junior Rugby League Inc.)

Senior Competition Rules and Playing Conditions

2025

The appendices at the end of this document will override the local CRRL rules as previously agreed. In the case where the rules are not covered, the NSWRL rules will apply.

Introduction

1. These Rules and conditions shall govern the entry to and conduct of Competitions conducted by Canberra Region Rugby League (CRRL).
2. Each club desirous of entering a team or teams in the Competition conducted by the CRRL shall lodge an application with the General Manager of the CRRL by such date as shall be prescribed by the CRRL Committee.
3. Such applications shall be in the form and shall be supported by such information including information as to the financial affairs of the club, as may be prescribed from time to time by the CRRL Committee.
4. A Club which enters a team or teams in a Competition conducted by the League in one season shall not be entitled as of right to enter a team or teams in the Competition in the following Season and the CRRL Committee shall be entitled to refuse the application of any Club to enter a team or teams in any Competition conducted by the League.
5. The CRRL Committee shall be entitled to approve the application of a Club on specified terms and conditions and may by resolution cancel such approval if, in the opinion of the League, the Club or any member thereof has not complied with any of such terms and conditions. Provided always that at least seven (7) days before the meeting of the Committee at which a resolution pursuant to this Rule is proposed to be put, the Secretary of such Club shall have been given notice in writing of such meeting and such intended resolution and he/she shall before the passing of such resolution have had the opportunity to give either orally or in writing an explanation or produce such evidence as may be relevant.
6. Each Club admitted into the Competition agrees to abide by the Constitution, Competition Rules and Playing Conditions of the League and decisions of the Committee of the League and any Committee of the League made pursuant thereto and any terms and conditions imposed upon its admission to the Competition.
7. If a Club wishes to appeal a decision of the CRRL committee relating to Rule 5, then that appeal must be in writing, within seven days, from the CRRL committee's notification

of the decision to the Canberra District Rugby League (CDRL) whose decision will be final.

8. Canberra Raiders Cup clubs and clubs participating in the George Tooke Shield must have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) if they wish to have the ability to move/select players from a Canberra Raiders Cup/ Under 19 club to a George Tooke Shield team or the promotion of a George Tooke Shield player to Canberra Raiders Cup. The MOU must be registered with the CRRL. Any second affiliation agreement between clubs must be approved by the CRRL before any selection movement can occur.

Grades

9. Competitions shall be conducted once a year between such Clubs as the League shall from time to time determine.
10. (a) Grades for each Competition shall be advised to all clubs after the February meeting of the CRRL committee. As a guide, the grades from the previous season will be the starting point for the following season.

(b) Club applications for entry into the respective competitions need to be with the General manager of the CRRL by January 31 each year with formal notification after the February meeting of the CRRL committee.

For 2025 season competitions will be:

Canberra Raiders Cup:	A Grade	
	B Grade	
	C Grade (will be an Under 19 competition)	
	Ladies League Tag	
George Tooke Shield:	Open Age (B1 Grade)	
	Under 19 (in conjunction with CRC)	
	Ladies League Tag	
Katrina Fanning Shield:	Open Age Women's	
11. Playing times are:	A Grade	40 minutes each half
	B Grade	35 minutes each half
	C Grade	30 minutes each half.
	Ladies League Tag	25 minutes each half
	Tier 1 – CRC	30 minutes each half
	Tier 2 – GTS	25 minutes each half

Clocks to be stopped when referees indicate time in all grades

12. Any Club wishing to enter the CRRL Canberra Raiders Cup must field, as a minimum, a First and Reserve Grade side.

Registration and Clearance of Players

13. A player shall not play for any Club in the Competition, or any other Competition conducted by the League unless they are registered by the League as a player with that Club.
14. The League shall not register a player with a Club for the purposes of their playing in the Competition or any other Competition conducted by it and a player shall not be eligible to play in any such Competition unless:
 - (a) They are a member of the Club.
 - (b) All player and volunteer registrations must be completed using the My Sideline online database.
 - (c) They are not contracted to play for any other Club or Rugby League body.
 - (d) In the case of a player who prior to joining the Club was registered with another Club, Body or League, they submit a clearance from that Club, Body or League.
 - (e) In the case of a player who was under the age of 18 years at midnight on the 31st day of December in the preceding year, the application for registration is accompanied by a Certificate of Birth provided that where an application for registration of a player in this category is made during the course of a season and such evidence is not available at the date of application it is produced with fourteen (14) days of that date.
 - (f) The CRRL will recognise any suspension imposed upon a player by ACT (or other affiliated bodies) sports codes and that a player may not play in any CRRL competition until their rugby union suspension is completed whereby, they would then be eligible to register and play. (*Sports Codes like, but not limited to; AFL, soccer, rugby union, basketball, gridiron etc).
15. The League will not register a player to play with a Club in the Competition after 30 June in any year.
16. Any Club playing an unregistered player shall lose any Competition points gained in a match of the Competition or any other Competition conducted by the League in which that player has taken part and the Committee may impose a fine on the Club.
17. All players must be registered and insured prior to the first training, trial, or competition match in which the player takes part.

18. Any player that has played any representative Rugby League (as categorised by the NSWRL PPIS categories C,D or E – regardless of game minimums) shall play that season and the following season at the club at which they were selected.
19. Where a player has completed three (3) seasons with a Club in the League's Junior competition in age groups Under 13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 16, Under 17, they must play their first season in a CRRL competition with their Affiliated Club unless given a clearance by their Affiliated Club to play with another Club. (CDRL Resolution 758 of 7 February 1994.)
20. Any player playing under an assumed name must register their correct name with the General Manager, CRRL. Players committing a breach of this rule are to be treated as unqualified players.
21. A player under suspension or disqualification may be granted a clearance and allowed to register prior to 30 June, but must complete their term of suspension or disqualification before being permitted to play.
22. There will be no restriction on the number of players registered to any one club in any of the male or female competitions.
23. A club which plays, in an under age competition match (U19s), a player who is ineligible to participate in that competition will automatically forfeit any competition points which may otherwise have been awarded to the Club for that match and the Committee of the CRRL may impose a fine on the Club.
24.
 - (a) To be eligible to play in a match for an underage competition, a player must have been under the specified age at midnight on 31st day of December in the preceding year.
 - (b) A player participating in a match in either A, B or B1 or Open Age Women's grade must be a minimum age of 17 years on the day of that match.
 - (c) A player participating in a Ladies League Tag match must be a minimum of 16 years on the day of the match unless prior approval has been granted by the NSWRL.
 - (d) A player participating in an U19s match must be turning 17 in the current calendar year. (Please refer to Under 19s competition in appendices)
25. When a player is registered by a Club and that player is later deregistered, the registration and insurance fees are not returnable to the Club, unless the CRRL has received written notification from the club of the player's deregistration prior to June 30.
26. Lodgement of a completed registration online renders the player's Club liable to payment of appropriate fees whether the player actually competes in a Match.

Sponsorship

27. Club Secretaries are to advise the League in writing, requesting approval of the Committee, of all Club sponsorships. All details are to be supplied as to the requirements of the sponsor and the Club.

General Conditions

28. In all matches in all grades in the competition Clubs may use up to seventeen (17) players:
- (a) During the course of a match a Club may effect unlimited replacements, except for teams playing in the A grade competition, who may only use a limit of 8 interchanges.
 - (b) A player who is bleeding profusely and is directed by the Referee to leave the field for attention may return to the field at any time as a replacement. The player who replaced such a player must be one of the seventeen (17) players listed on the sign on sheet. This is to be listed as 'BB' on the interchange record. Provided the player who replaced the affected player is in turn replaced by the Blood Bin player when he returns to the field, it will not be counted as an interchange for First Grade (It will be a Free Interchange). Only a Referee can determine whether a player should be put in the blood bin. If a player is taken off for bleeding without the Referees knowledge it shall be deemed as an interchange.
 - (c) All grades (excluding first grade) may nominate and play up to 20 players in a match regardless of how many players their opponents have signed on in any given match.
 - (d) In accordance with the NRL Laws of the Game, each team is permitted a maximum of 13 players on the field at any one time. If a team has more than 13 players on the field at any one time, as a result of a substitute player entering the field of play prior to the player he is replacing leaving the field of play, then any points scored by that team, while more than 13 players are on the field, are voided. Also, that team may have competition points deducted that are equal to the amount of points awarded for a competition win. This also applies to Ladies League Tag where a maximum of 11 players are allowed on the field at any one time and more than 11 will attract the same penalty as outlined for the 13 player game.
 - (e) The minimum number of players per team that must be on the field is 9. If one team's numbers fall below 9 (with the exception of sin-binned players), then the match shall be stopped and a forfeit awarded against the team with less than 9 players. For Ladies League tag 8 is the minimum.
29. In all matches two (2) competition points shall be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw and zero (0) points for a Bye. In the event of a washout round the games will be transferred to the allocated round (if applicable). If no allocated round is available, then all teams (including the Bye team) will receive 0 points.

30. Non-playing coaches are to always remain inside the designated Officials area.
31. (a) A maximum of three (3) trainers per team are allowed to enter the official's area. Each of these trainers must be appropriately qualified and wear a coloured shirt according to their level of accreditation as set out below:
- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Orange shirt | Minimum Level 2 Sports Trainer |
| Blue shirt | Minimum Level 1 Sports Trainer |
| Yellow shirt | Minimum League Safe |
- (d) Trainers are not to take boxes, containers, or buckets onto the playing area to attend to players, however when the referee blows time off the trainer may take whatever is required.
- (e) Trainers who do not comply with the above conditions or are deemed to be "coaching" by the referee, can be removed from the field for the duration of the game by the referee informing the Ground Manager.
- (f) All trainers are to abide by the CRRL On-field guidelines at all times
- (g) Any Physiotherapists that are used as on field staff must RPL and have the appropriate Blue shirt qualifications. They must have accreditation on their profile to be allowed on the field.
32. A player sent to the sin-bin must proceed immediately to the dressing room (or a designated area if no dressing rooms).
33. A player dismissed from the field of play must proceed immediately to the dressing room, shower and dress. The offending player may not re-enter the field/playing area at all until all players, officials and Referees have left the field/playing area.
34. (a) Players are eligible to play in any grade at any time with the exception of semi-finals, finals, and grand finals. However, rules 24 (b), 24 (c) and 24 (d) still apply.
- (b) Canberra Raiders Cup Clubs must give permission (in writing or via email to the General Manager) before a player is permitted to play for their affiliated George Tooke Shield Club, however, normal qualification rules apply for finals series.
- (c) Canberra Raiders Cup clubs have the right to call upon players from their MOU agreed George Tooke Shield club/s to participate in A Grade at their discretion, and the player would be required to participate in the higher grade or stand down for the weekend of the selection.
35. (a) Clubs forfeiting matches must notify the League by 9:00pm on the Thursday preceding the match for a Saturday game or 9:00pm on the Friday preceding the match for a Sunday game. Clubs forfeiting matches without such notice may be fined \$500, plus bear the cost of referee's and touch judge fees (including travel) for the forfeited match.

- (b) i In the George Tooke Shield and Under 19s if a team forfeits a match more than three times, they may be disqualified from the competition for the remainder of the season.
 - (b) ii That all clubs receive a written notice after their 2nd forfeit advising of the '3 forfeit rule'
When receiving a 3rd forfeit notice a reply requesting 'show cause' be forwarded by CRRL to the club concerned
 - 35 (c) i for the purpose of points scores in respect of a forfeited match, the team receiving the forfeit shall receive the competition points for a win.
 - 35 (c) ii If a forfeit occurs, a score will not be awarded until all teams have played each other once. The score to be awarded to the team forfeited to will either be 20 points or the average points difference of every losing game played (by the team forfeiting, whichever is greater) in the first half of the competition. The score awarded to the team forfeiting shall be 0.
 - (d) If a side forfeits a game in the last 3 rounds of the competition, then that side will be deemed ineligible to participate in the Finals Series, unless exceptional circumstances are deemed to apply. In this instance, the team (or teams) sitting below them on the ladder at the completion of the competition rounds shall participate in the Finals Series.
 - (e) In the George Tooke Shield and under 19s the team forfeiting any away game will be penalised by the way of losing the advantage of the next home game against the team they forfeited against, be it the same year of the forfeit or the first home game against that side the following year.
 - (f) For the purposes of finals qualifications, a team receiving a forfeit may lodge a team list on My Sideline by the designated match kick off time.
 - (g) For the purposes of suspensions being served, the team receiving the forfeit can highlight to the CRRL that the forfeited match may serve as one match for a player who is serving a suspension in that grade.
36. The fitness of grounds to be played upon shall be determined by the two ground managers, two captains and the referee. In the ACT the ACT Sportsgrounds Office shall determine the fitness of grounds.
- (a) If matches need to be rescheduled then these matches will be replayed at the home ground of the team that was originally hosting the match at a time/date set by the League. Only if the home team cannot host will the General Manager look for an alternate venue.
 - (b) If matches cannot be rescheduled for any reason then both teams will receive one point each. (Scores will be entered as 0-0)
37. (a) The Secretary of the home team (or an appointed Ground Manager) is responsible for outfitting the ground (goal post pads, corner posts, markers, clocks and hooters) the appointment of timekeepers (including a sin-bin timekeeper), the protection of

referees, the starting time of matches, the notification of results and the general cleaning of the grounds and facilities after the game.

- (b) The Home club must mark a “designated area” for each team. The only persons allowed inside the designated area shall be the Players, Leaguesafe Officers, First Aid Officers, Coach/s and Manager/s. The Coach/s and Manager/s must remain within the designated area (or outside the enclosed field) at all times during the game.

Rules Relating To Graded Players

- 38. Any graded or contracted player of the District Club (Raiders) is not eligible to play with the League until a permit is granted online by the District club has been received by the CRRL General Manager.
- 39. (a) Any player who is graded and under contract with the Canberra District Club (Raiders) who is no longer required in Grade may return to the CRRL Competition (in accordance with Rule 38). The allocation of such players is to be determined by the CRRL General Manager in conjunction with the District Club’s coaching staff, taking into account the best interests of the player, the District Club, the CRRL and its clubs. The restriction does not apply to local juniors who have played five (5) matches with their local Club. *(CDRL resolution 1709 of 28 May 1997.)*

For 2025 this will be done by Canberra Raiders Cup teams submitting their positions of need before the season commences (on a designated date by the League) and the allocation of any graded players will be based on allocating to positions of the clubs that require that type of player based on Rule 39 (a). (as discussed between Raiders management and clubs)

- (b) Any Rugby League player allocated to a CRRL team by the Canberra Raiders is done so on a one season term only and is free to negotiate further season’s arrangements thereafter.

General Condition: Where able, players who were allocated to clubs in the immediate previous season will remain allocated to that club except where circumstances and positions may be affected. It is generally agreed that players coming from the District club (Raiders) will be expected to be playing First Grade and allocation may be adjusted on that basis by the District club. Generally, players will be allocated from the lowest positioned club in the season immediately preceding noting the flexibility in rule 39 (a).

- 40. District Club players will not be permitted to return to Junior football after the District Clubs have finished their competition unless such players are qualified under the rules governing the conditions of such players.
- 41. When the junior representative matches are completed, players must return to the club with which they were playing when selected for the representative team and play the remainder of the season and the following season with that Club. This rule shall cover players selected in the District Club (Raiders) representative teams and all Monaro representative teams.

This rule shall only apply to the representative selection of a player in the third year of his 3 year registration and shall only apply to extend a player’s three (3) year registration with a

club, pursuant to Rule 18, for a further period of one year. At the end of a player's fourth year with his registered club he shall be entitled to transfer to and register with another club. (CDRL Resolution 1865 of 4 August 1998.)

42. (a) In 2025, All Clubs shall use the NSWRL PPIS (Player Points Index System) for all players playing in First Grade, Reserve Grade or George Tooke Shield.
- (b) Any Raiders allocated player shall be worth 1 point for the purposes of the PPIS.
- (c) In 2025 the KFS competition will run on a trial PPIS which will count points but the competition will not be point restricted as per Firsts, Reserves and GTS.

Semi Finals, Finals and Grand Finals

43. At the conclusion of matches provided for in the draw teams shall be ranked in order according to the number of competition points awarded to them.
43. (a) The CRRL committee will determine the number of teams to participate in the semi finals series before the season commences.

In season 2025

- i) All grades participating in the Canberra Raiders Cup will have a top four finals series
Under 19s will have a top 4 (1-4) aligned to the Canberra Raiders Cup
- ii) All grades participating in the George Tooke Shield will have a top five finals series
- iii) The Katrina Fanning Shield will have a top four finals series.
(All KFS and U19 finals series will be dependant on each competitions structure)
43. (b) Format for the four team finals series is as follows:
 - i) The four highest ranked teams, as determined under Rule 44 shall meet in the semi finals.
 - ii) The Major Semi final shall be played on the Saturday and the Minor Semi Final shall be played on the Sunday.
 - iii) In the first week of the finals series the (minor semi-final) The third and fourth highest ranked teams shall play with the loser eliminated.
 - iv) The (major semi-final) first and second highest ranked teams shall play. The winner shall advance to the grand final played in the third week of the finals series. The loser shall advance to the preliminary final, played in the second week of the finals series.
 - v) In the second week of the finals series (Preliminary Final) the winner of the of the minor semi final will play the loser of the major semi final, with the loser of the preliminary final eliminated. The winner of the preliminary final shall advance to the grand final, which shall be played in the third week of the finals series.
 - vi) In the third week of the finals series (grand final) the winner of the major semi final shall play the winner of the preliminary final in the grand final, with the winner of the grand final declared the winner of the competition.
43. (c) Format for the five team finals series is as follows:

- i) The five highest ranked teams, as determined under Rule 44 shall meet in the semi finals.
 - ii) The Major Qualifying Semi Final shall be played on the Saturday and the Elimination Semi Final shall be played on the Sunday.
 - iii) In the first week of the final's series the (Elimination semi final) fourth and fifth highest ranked teams shall play, with the loser eliminated, and the winner advancing to the minor semi final.
 - iv) The (major qualifying semi final) second and third highest ranked teams shall play. The winner shall advance to the major semi-final, and the loser shall advance to the minor semi final.
 - v) The Major Semi Final shall be played on the Saturday and the Minor Semi Final shall be played on the Sunday.
 - vi) In the second week of the final's series the (minor semi final) winner of the minor qualifying semi final shall play the loser of the major qualifying semi final, with the loser eliminated, and the winner advancing to the preliminary final.
 - vii) The (major semi final) first highest ranked team shall play the winner of the major qualifying semi final. The loser shall advance to the preliminary final. The winner shall advance to the grand final.
 - viii) In the third week of the finals series the (preliminary final) winner of the minor semi final shall play the loser of the major semi final. The loser shall be eliminated. The winner shall advance to the grand final.
 - ix) In the fourth week of the finals series, the winner of the major semi final shall play the winner of the preliminary final in the grand final, with the winner of the grand final declared the winner of the competition.
44. If at the conclusion of the matches provided for in the draw two or more teams are equal in competition points, then for the purpose of determining the order of placement of the teams for the Final Series, the teams will be ranked in order according to the difference between the number of points scored by the team and the number of points scored against the team with a team with the greater difference being ranked ahead of a team with the lesser.
45. If after the application of the above procedure (Rule 44) two or more teams are equal in competition points and equal in the difference between points scored for and against then the following formula will be used to separate the teams;
- a) greater percentage of points scored for and against, determined by the following formula:
$$\frac{(\text{points scored} \times 100)}{\text{points conceded} \times 1}; \text{ and if still equal}$$
 - b) most tries scored; if still equal
 - c) most goals kicked; if still equal
 - d) most field goals kicked; if still equal
 - e) a toss of a coin in the case of two teams; or some other method determined by the Member group.
46. In semi-finals, finals and grand finals, a player will be eligible for the grade they played the majority of their games in throughout the season. In the event they have played equal games in 2 grades then they shall be eligible for either grade. This qualification period shall

finish at the end of the competition rounds. Players who have played with the District Club (Canberra Raiders) during the season are exempt from this rule, but Rule 51 still applies.

47. Where a player participates in more than one grade on a particular day they are deemed for eligibility purposes to have played in the lowest grade. (if after playing C or B Grade player is included in the seventeen players for B or A Grade their eligibility is in the lower grade).
48. Where all teams of the same Club are competing in the same series of matches on the same day a player shall be eligible to play in any grade.
49. Where a team and an immediate subordinate team of the same Club in the Canberra Raiders Cup ie. A and B Grades or B and C Grades are competing in the same series of matches a player shall be eligible to play in the grade immediately subordinate to that in which he would otherwise be eligible to play in accordance with these Rules.

(If a Canberra Raiders Cup club also has a George Tooke team then the subordinate rule will not be used. Only players eligible under Rule 47 will be allowed to play)

50. In the case of an underage competition the player's eligibility is subject to meeting games played qualification as per Rule 46 and the age qualification, except where rule 52 applies.
51. A player who was called upon to play for the District Club (Raiders) in either a Senior or Junior Representative team, may only return and play in CRRL semi finals, finals, and grand finals provided he has played five (5) games for that Club during the season. This also applies to any player who has played for any NRL aligned Junior Representative team.
52. A player who has not played in three (3) competition matches, in the same grade (at separate fixtures) is not eligible to play in any finals series matches (excludes Under 16/17s). If an Under 16/17 has played three matches in the Under 16/17 grade, with that particular club or with an affiliated junior club, they are eligible to play in the Under 19s finals series matches. (This is premised on a player having turned 17 or holding a Playing in Higher Age Consent form).
53. The venues for the play offs, semi finals, finals, and grand finals, shall be decided by the CRRL Committee and the decision of the CRRL Committee shall be final.
54. (a) In all grades, in the event of a draw in a semi final, final or grand final, then 2 periods of 5 minutes extra time shall be played. If the match is still drawn after this extra time, then the game continues until one team scores.
(b) In A Grade matches that extend into extra time, an additional two (2) interchanges will be permitted for each team making a total of ten (10) interchanges in these matches. Any unused interchanges of the eight (8) permissible during ordinary time may also be utilised during extra time.

56. Where these rules are silent or in conflict on governance issues with those of the District Club (CDRL), the rules of the District Club shall prevail.
57. Where these playing rules are silent on any given issue then, the rules of the NSWRL and the NSWRL PPIS shall prevail.

ADOPTION OF RULES

58. The CRRL has determined to formally adopt the NRL League Tag Laws of the Game (as adopted by the NSWRL) and should be read in conjunction with the CRRL rules as appropriate.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

59. The respective Club Championships will be determined as follows:
- a) The Canberra Raiders Cup Club Championship shall be the combination of the points accumulated from all grades. First Grade shall be multiplied by a factor of 4; Reserve Grade and Katrina Fanning Shield by a factor of 3; Under 19s by a factor of 2 and Ladies League Tag by a factor of 2.

The club with the most cumulative points overall at the end of the regular season will be the Club Champions.

- b) The George Tooke Shield Club Championship shall be a combination of the points accumulated from all grades. George Tooke Shield shall be multiplied by a factor of 4; Women's League Tag and Katrina Fanning Shield by a factor of 3 and Under 19s by a factor of 2.

NOTE: Teams that are a joint venture between two clubs will have their points divided evenly between both clubs.

The club with the most cumulative points overall at the end of the regular season will be the Club Champions.

APPENDICES 2025

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS TABLE

CRC	Points	GTS	Points
First Grade	4	George Tooke Shield	4
Reserve Grade/KFS	3	League Tag	3
Under 19s	2	KFS	3
League Tag	2	Under 19s	2

FREE INTERCHANGE

A - If a player is fouled by an opponent, who is then dismissed from the field, sin-binned or placed on report and the fouled player is caused to leave the field as a direct result of an injury sustained in that incident, this interchange will not be included for the purposes of calculating the number of Interchanges, provided that it is made without delay and by the time the referee has acted on the incident.

B - If the fouled player subsequently returns to the field later in the match, that interchange will not be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges.

C - Interchanges may only occur during general play e.g. when the ball is in motion, after any scoring has been completed or if play has been temporarily suspended by the referee e.g. injury or caution

GATE ENTRY

Canberra Raiders Cup clubs may charge a maximum of \$8.00 entry fee and will receive cards/passes for 1 President, 1 Secretary, 5 officials per team and all Under 18 players (as they may still be at school)

George Tooke Shield Clubs may charge a maximum of \$5.00 across the competition (some clubs don't charge or cannot due to no enclosed field) and will receive cards/passes for 1 president, 1 Secretary, 5 officials per team and all players.

- Please note there are no 'digital cards/passes' sent out to players, there are physical cards/passes only.

UNDER 19S**Monaro Region Equalisation Policy**

1. Where any team has less than the maximum number (13), the coach from that team should approach the opposition coach, it is expected that the opposition coach will reduce his number to match the team with the lower number.
2. At no stage can a game commence if the Minimum number (9) of players is not present as required under the Laws of the Game. The Rule does not therefore replace any Laws of the Game.
3. If additional and eligible player/s for the lower numbered team arrive after the game has commenced the team that has equalised must be notified and additional players can then be added to the game at the first available stoppage in play.
4. In the event of an injury during the match, the teams are expected to equalise once again with numbers not allowed below the minimum (9).
5. Should a player be sinbinned the offending player cannot be replaced whilst they are still serving their sinbinned penalty period. In the event Teams are at the minimum number of 9 players per team if one player in a team is sinbinned the game will continue as per normal (reduced to 8 players) but if 2 players are sinbinned at the same team per team reducing it to 7 players the game will cease and the competition points be awarded to the other team.
6. Should a player be dismissed (sent off) the offending player cannot be replaced, and should the number drop below 9 as a result of the dismissal the game will cease and the NSWRL Rules and Laws of the Game will be applied to obtain a result.
7. All games will still be played under the "International" Laws of the game. Whilst it will be with played with reduced numbers the game duration will remain the same (i.e. 2 x 30 minute halves).

8. If a team would like to initiate the policy, the opposition team should receive prior warning as soon as possible but no later than 10am on the Friday before the game. Fail to comply will mean the match is declared a forfeit.

9. The rule will extend throughout the regular season only.

10. If a team has used the Equalisation policy on five (5) or more occasions during the regular season. They are not eligible to play finals.

Under 19s Competition (from Rule 24 (d))

- We have had confirmation from NSWRL that players who are 16 turning 17 can “Play up” in the Under 19s as the 19s is an age specific competition and not an open competition which means the previous interpretation of “having to be 17 years of age” is relaxed.

MERCY RULE

In season 2025 there will be no mercy rule for any senior competitions

COMPRESSION GARMENTS

In any senior competition match – Compression garments must not exceed past the knee, elbow or playing socks.

JUDICIARY AND SEND OFF PROCEDURES

In 2025, all Judiciary and Code of Conduct hearings may be held via video conferencing / zoom meetings or in person on the days and times specified by the Judiciary Committee. This applies for all Senior and Junior participants and will be dependent on NSWRL’s guidelines once released.