



February 19, 2021

## COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE MEMO

**RE:** 2021 QRL Rules Amendments  
**TO:** All Regions, Clubs and Leagues  
**FOR:** URGENT DISTRIBUTION

Following the QRL Board meeting in October 2020, the following QRL Rules have been amended for the 2021 season:

### 4.1.3 AGE ELIGIBILITY

#### RULE AMENDMENT

Players in competitions offering participation across all junior age groups may be eligible to apply for an 18-month registration window following the prescribed process established by the local league or region.

Players in competitions offering participation in every second age group (eg under 6, under 8, under 10, under 12) may be eligible to apply for a 15-month registration window following the prescribed process established by the local league or region.

#### THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE CHANGE

The change embeds existing practices from across the local league / region and therefore creates a more inclusive environment for junior participants.

### 4.1.6 JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE RULE

#### RULE AMENDMENT

For players deemed age eligible for under 16 and under 18 aged competitions, a junior representative player as defined in these rules is a player who has participated in a Queensland Rugby League performance academy program delivered by an Intrust Super Cup club or equivalent. These players shall not be eligible to apply for a transfer of registration in the football season following the participation as a junior representative player.

Rules relating to the transfer of junior registration for players aged 13-15 must be defined in the accepted rules of the relevant local league.

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Administration of these rules is at the discretion of the local league via a competitions committee with no avenue for appeal via the relevant region.

## THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE CHANGE

A re-alignment to the confirmed change of the pathways and performance age groups while supporting the leagues in maintaining balanced competitions.

### 4.11.1 ELIGIBILITY – FIXTURES AND FINALS

#### RULE AMENDMENT

There are four eligibility categories for finals series qualifications:

- Level one – NRL Telstra Premiership and NRLW
- Level two – Intrust Super Cup and BHP Premiership
- Level three – Hastings Deering Colts and local league open age competitions (exclusive to A Grade or Division 1)
- Level four – Underage competitions (Auswide Bank Mal Meninga Cup)

## THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE CHANGE

The Hastings Deering Colts has been elevated to a level three competition.

The rationale for this change was the competition moving to under 21 and consistency with the expected 'standard' when compared to local A Grade competitions.

### 5.2.1.1 DECISION OF MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE

#### RULE AMENDMENT

Within the next business day of receipt of the committee's decision; the player shall, through his or her club, either: -

- a) elect to accept the decision of the Match Review Committee in which case the player must notify the club of this decision and sign and submit via the club in writing;
- b) notify the local league via the club that he or she does not accept the decision of the Match Review Committee and / or wishes to challenge the severity of the grading applied.

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## THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE CHANGE

The timeframe has been reduced to within the next business day, adjusting to reflect the expected use of technology such as Hudl. It also tightens timelines to provide local leagues with additional time to administer subsequent process.

### 5.2.1.11 SERVICE OF THE PERIOD OF SUSPENSION

#### RULE AMENDMENT

In cases where a player is suspended, they are prohibited from playing in any QRL-sanctioned competition or event.

Players charged with grade 1 or grade 2 offences can continue to participate in a non-playing capacity for the duration of the suspension period, provided they were a registered volunteer with that league / club / team prior to the suspension.

Players charged with grade 3 or higher offences are prohibited from participating in any capacity at a QRL-sanctioned competition or event.

## THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE CHANGE

There is now provision for senior players charged with low grade offences to continue volunteering across the game.

### MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE BASE PENALTY SCHEDULE

#### RULE AMENDMENT

Removal of detrimental conduct and charging those offences as contrary conduct.

## THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE CHANGE

The removal of detrimental conduct removes confusion, as both offences are similar and have the identical base penalty points.

For all QRL Rules, visit [the Clubhouse](#).

Any questions about these changes can be directed to the relevant QRL staff member in your area.

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