



## CODE OF CONDUCT TRIBUNAL COMMITTEE | PENALTIES REFERENCE GUIDE

### QRL Rules Part 5, 5.5.1 Jurisdiction of the Code of Conduct Review Committee and Code of Conduct Tribunal

**A Code of Conduct Review Committee and Code of Conduct Tribunal has jurisdiction to deal with the following conduct of a Person or Club: -**

- a)** Failure to comply with any Rule, policies, procedures or directions of the QRL or an Administration Unit (including the NRL Code of Conduct);
- b)** Offering or receiving a bonus or inducement to win, lose or draw a match;
- c)** Conduct which is or is likely to bring the Game into disrepute;
- d)** Using any form of media including social media, radio broadcasts, newspapers and otherwise to publish a personal opinion which is detrimental to the Game, players, officials or any other "Sub Ordinate" (as defined in these Rules).
- e)** Disorderly, insulting or objectionable conduct by a club member, coach, team official, spectator or member of the public generally at a match under the control of an Administration Unit, including on-field incidents involving such persons e.g., an on-field coach who is sent from the field by the referee for disorderly conduct or a spectator/parent who enters the field of play;
- f)** Allowing any player not registered or under suspension or disqualification to take part in any match;
- g)** Arranging or taking part in any match with any Club, team, representative team or Region not affiliated with the QRL without the QRL's written consent;
- h)** Knowingly allowing an unqualified Person or an unregistered player to take part in an Administration Unit's competition without the necessary approval;
- i)** Action considered to be in breach of any endorsed positive behaviour program; or
- j)** Breaching any material terms of the NRL Code of Conduct



## **QRL Rules Part 5, 5.5.7 Decisions of Code of Conduct Tribunal**

### **Penalties may include, but are not limited to:**

- Suspension of a match and/or
- Termination of a match (including potential forfeiture of competition points and/or
- Monetary Fines and/or
- Suspension of a participant on a temporary or permanent basis and/or
- Suspension of a Club, League or Association on a temporary or permanent basis
- Revocation or suspension of an accreditation issued by the National Rugby League (NRL) or relevant governing body.
- Education programs
  - Cultural awareness
  - Match Official online training
  - Child Protection
  - Anger management
  - Positive Environment Program
  - Other

These penalties are in addition to any penalty which may be imposed by the relevant governing League bodies.



This guide references multiple levels of potential consequences and each carry the corresponding PEP demerit points if found guilty:

Proven Breach	Demerit points	Guide
Disciplinary low charge	1	Abusive
Disciplinary medium charge	2	Threatening
Disciplinary high charge	3	Physical
Competition rule breach	1	Any

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is a Reference Guide to assist our Tribunal Members and to let the Rugby League community know the recommended consequences and parameters for inappropriate behaviour in our game. The Tribunal may apply the below examples to any incident.



	Offence	Rec. on-field action	Rec. min penalty	Rec. 2nd offence penalty	Recommended Team / club penalty (tracked by QRL)
1	Striking (to make deliberate, forceful contact with someone)	Send off	Grade 1 striking		<b>**NORMAL MATCH REVIEW AND JUDICIAL PROCESS APPLIES FOR STRIKING CHARGES**</b>
2	Participant (player, official or any participant) entering the playing area during an incident or melee	Send off	5 weeks		Loss of competition points that is equal to a win (2 or 3) and the match may be classed as a forfeit.
3	Player, official or any participant leaving the playing area during an incident or melee	Send off	6 weeks		Loss of competition points that is equal to a win (2 or 3) and the match may be classed as a forfeit.
4	Spectator field intrusion		12 months		The match may be classed as a forfeit by the offending team.
5	Abandoned games	Two or more players from the same team are deemed to be involved in an on-field fight, the match to be abandoned and that team may be deemed to have forfeited the match. If both teams are deemed responsible for the abandonment of the game, no competition or for / against points will be awarded for the match.			
6	Referee / match official abuse - Touching	Send off	12 months		Loss of competition points that is equal to a win (2 or 3).
7	Referee / match official abuse	Send off	2 weeks		
8	Referee / match official abuse - from spectator / team official		4 weeks	12 months	
9	Suspended persons breaching their sanction				Fine \$1000 and team ineligible to play finals. QRL may deregister dependants or family members of that person.
10	Suspended players breaching their sanction		12 months		If a suspended player takes the field whilst serving a suspension a further 12 months will be added after the current suspension ends.
11	Child Safety- social media posts of children without parental consent		6-8 weeks	12 months	Posting of images or videos of children without parental consent is a breach of the NRL safe code of behaviour and will be referred to Code of Conduct Review Committee for a sanction to be determined
12	On-field discriminatory based offensive language used to demean, insult, or belittle individuals based on their race, sexuality, religion or ethnicity	Send off	2 weeks to 12 months		Where evidence is inconclusive eg. not verified by Match Official report or conflicting accounts – Team will be issued with a concerning act notice.
13	Discriminatory language by spectators	Game suspended -spectator asked to leave the venue (police to be call if necessary)	2 weeks to 12 months		
14	Referee / Match Official Abuse – from a spectator / team official	Game suspended / abandoned	2-52 weeks		

## CODE OF CONDUCT BREACHES –

### In relation to the Positive Environment Program

This table provides the RECOMMENDED minimum penalty to be applied for each offence. Normal Match Review, Judiciary and Code of Conduct process applies as per the QRL rules for an offender to be found guilty.



## LOW CHARGE (Abusive)

- **1 – 8 Weeks Suspension.**

Action	Example	Recommended Penalty/Suspension
Verbal Abuse	A Sports Trainer had a verbal altercation with another Leaguesafe.	6 Weeks suspension with an additional 1-year suspended sentence.
Verbal Abuse	A Coach has verbally abused another Coach during and/or after a game.	1 Year suspended sentence.
Social Media – Verbal	A spectator has made degrading comments towards a match official on their social media page.	6 – 8 weeks
Referee/Match Official Abuse – from a spectator/team official.	A Coach has verbally abused the touch judge. The touch judge has informed the referee, and the Coach was ejected from the playing area.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offence: 4 Weeks 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offence: 12 Months
Referee/Match Official Abuse – from a spectator/team official.	A Spectator has shouted abuse at the referee and verbally degraded him. He was removed from the grounds by the Game Day Manager.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offence: 4 Weeks 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offence: 12 Months
Participant (player or official) entering the playing area during an incident or melee.	A Leaguesafe registered to the team has entered the field in the attempt to break down and diffuse a physical altercation between players.	Entered – 5 weeks Physical – refer to “High Range Charge”



### MEDIUM CHARGE (Threatening)

- Penalties may vary from 2-month suspension / exclusion to 2 years, applied only to the Region where the incident occurs.

Action	Example	Recommended Penalty/Suspension
Player or official leaving the playing area during incident or melee.	A player has jumped the fence out of a playing area to confront a spectator. The player was punched by the spectator and then returned to the playing field. This was considered as threatening as he was attempting to intimidate the spectator.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offence: 6 weeks
Match Official Abuse – from a spectator/team official.	A Leaguesafe has verbally abused a touch judge while tending to his team, after he was then asked to leave the playing area, he made a remark of a threatening nature.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offence: 6 weeks
Social Media	A spectator has created a post utilising a video/photograph of a victim and proceeded to degrade the person on a digital platform.	12 months
	A player has uploaded/posted video/photographs on social media without consent providing threats and inciting violence.	12 months plus
Entering field of play	A melee-type situation has erupted on the field, and the parents of some players have entered the field of play in an attempt to stop it from escalating further.	12 Months
Threatening	A Coach has threatened and intimidated another Coach at the conclusion of a game.	Suspension – 1 year with another 1 suspended sentence.
Threatening	Abuse of a threatening nature by an office bearer of a club to another office bearer.	1.5-year suspension from the game of Rugby League.
Harassment	A charged and sanctioned person has personally contacted multiple witnesses who had provided evidence on the allegations against them by way of email.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offence: Additional 1-year full exclusion.



## HIGH CHARGE (Physical)

- Penalties vary from 2 years to 10 years suspension/expulsion from the game of Rugby League, can be applied State-wide.

Action	Example	Recommended Penalty/Suspension
Referee/Match Official abuse - Touching	A player ran up to the Match Official and grabbed him by the shirt. The player was subsequently sent off.	Minimum 12 Month Suspension
Striking – Aggressor (attacks another first by striking)	A player has come out of a high tackle and punched the opposing player making contact.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offence: Grade 3 Striking 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offence: 12 Month Suspension
Physical	A spectator who initiated and had a serious physical altercation with another spectator was warned off for 10 years – criminal charges were also initiated	10 years suspension
Entering field of play	A coach has entered the field of play and physically assaulted a player.	15 years
Physical	Spectators have engaged in altercation of a verbal and physical nature at a QRL sanctioned venue/event. The group were all charged with a range of offences based on the level and nature of their involvement.	Ranging from 8 Months to 3 Years. (Dependant on the specific charge)



## RACIAL VILIFICATION

- Penalties vary from 6 weeks to Life Ban based on the severity of the incident

Action	Example	Recommended Penalty/Suspension
Racial vilification against another player, by a player on the opposing team.	A playing group has been referred to another player as an animal in a derogatory and offensive manner.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offence: 12 Months Exclusion
Racial vilification against a player by Spectators	A player has been abused by spectators who used references to his race, colour and included a tirade of vulgar and derogatory language including profanities.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offence: 10 Years Exclusion