



23 February 2023

COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE MEMO

RE: 2023 QRL Rules Changes
TO: All Regions, Clubs and Leagues
FOR: URGENT DISTRIBUTION

The QRL Rules have been updated following the annual review process and are currently available on the [Clubhouse](#).

Attached is a summary of all changes approved by the QRL Board.

Included in this is a significant change that is currently being communicated through League Education sessions specifically related to the adoption of the Judicial Code of Procedure of State-wide Competitions administered in the 2022 season, which in turn aligned to the current NRL Judicial Code of Procedure.

The Junior Representative competitions will also adopt this process for their respective 2023 seasons which includes the Harvey Norman U19's, Auswide Bank Mal Meninga Cup and the Cyril Connell Challenge.

In 2022 the NRL made some changes to the gradings and subsequent charging of players. In some cases, these are impractical for semi-professional and local league competitions as fines are imposed and as such the QRL has made the below amendments which will act as the grading chart for all QRL Competitions.

There are several relevant differences:

- The number of offences has been streamlined into 8 categories.
- An early plea will allow a player to reduce their penalty by one week.
- Offences are either similar or non-similar.
- A player's record will now re-set on a rolling 12-month period since their last offence.
- Offences will be cumulative in all Related Competitions **except NRL**.
- All players will commence this season with a clear record. However, suspensions that have carried over from the 2022 season will still need to be served.
- The points system and carry over points are no longer applicable.

- Once current suspensions have been served, players records will re-set as above.
- The QRL Rules Part 5 have been updated with these processes as well as the below penalty schedule.

The changes will be effective from Round 1 of local league senior and junior competitions in 2023:

Yours Sincerely,

Glenn Ottaway
General Manager of Community & Competitions



Amended Rule Changes for 2023

Existing Rule	Amended Rule	Rationale for Change
<p>4.1.5 – Finals Qualification A player that is primary registered to a Major Competitions Club is eligible to participate in finals series matches of a local competition, provided they have participated in at least 1 game previously in the current season and contingent on the Major Competition team for which they have played most matches in the relevant season still being active in the competition. Once the team becomes inactive in the Major Competition the player must have played the required number of games prescribed in the local league by-laws to participate in finals matches</p>	<p>4.1.5 – Finals Qualification A player that is primary registered to a Major Competitions Club is eligible to participate in finals series matches of a local competition, provided they have participated in at least 3 games previously in the current season and contingent on the Major Competition team for which they have played most matches in the relevant season still being active in the competition. Once the team becomes inactive in the Major Competition the player must have played in three fixture games to qualify for finals in their relevant league. (Applicable to all local leagues State-wide).</p>	<p>Remove Rule to ensure a player qualifies under local league rules Change rule to be three fixture games to qualify for finals - across all leagues state-wide</p> <p>Remove 'local league' (Level 3) from major comps Minimum of three</p> <p>E.g Player plays in Rd1 for Local, then plays rest of the season for Major Comps. Player is able to return in local finals series – making them eligible for the whole finals series (making them eligible for the whole Local finals series). Player could play 3 local games all year (Rd1 Local, Semi Final, GF)</p>
Part 5		
<p>5.2.1 Procedures for Match Review Committees</p> <p>c) Referral by Chairperson of Local League – Where a written complaint is received by the Chairperson of the Local League relating to an alleged incident involving On-field player misconduct, the Chairperson of the Local League must refer a copy of the complaint and any such further evidence provided (e.g., video evidence of the incident). The report and supporting video evidence must be provided to the relevant Match Review Committee within two (2) business days of the player’s alleged misconduct.</p>	<p>5.2.3 Matters referred to the Match Review Committee for adjudication</p> <p>c) Referral by Chairperson of Local League – Where a written complaint is received by the Chairperson of the Local League relating to an alleged incident involving On-field player misconduct, the Chairperson of the Local League must refer a copy of the complaint and any such further evidence provided (e.g., video evidence of the incident). The report and supporting video evidence must be provided to the relevant Match Review Committee in accordance with the Local League MRC timelines or within two (2) business days of the player’s alleged misconduct</p>	<p>Allow for Local League operational dependencies</p> <p>Allow for Local League operational dependencies</p>



<p>d) Referral by Chairperson of competing Club – Where a chairperson of a competing Club considers that a Player is guilty of On-field player misconduct then that Chairperson can refer the incident to the local league Match Review Committee direct by way of a written report of the incident together with supporting video evidence. The Match Review Committee considers if there may be a case to answer, then the report and supporting video evidence must be provided to the relevant Match Review Committee in within one (1) business day of the player’s alleged misconduct.</p>	<p>d) Referral by Chairperson of competing Club – Where a chairperson of a competing Club considers that a Player is guilty of On-field player misconduct then that Chairperson can refer the incident to the local league Match Review Committee direct by way of a written report of the incident together with supporting video evidence. The Match Review Committee considers if there may be a case to answer, then the report and supporting video evidence must be provided to the relevant Match Review Committee in accordance with the Local League MRC timelines or in within one (1) business day of the player’s alleged misconduct.</p>	
<p>5.2.1.1 Decision of Match Review Committee</p> <p>If the On-field Incident Report is NOT received by the Match Review Committee by 3:30pm on the first business day following the Game, then the player shall be deemed to have no case to answer. Extenuating circumstances will be at the discretion of the Local League Chairperson.</p>	<p>5.2.5 correspondence timelines for the Match Review Committee</p> <p>d) If the On-field Incident Report is NOT received by the Match Review Committee by 3:30pm on the first business day following the Game (unless other timelines are stipulated by Local League rules), then the player shall be deemed to have no case to answer. Extenuating circumstances will be at the discretion of the Local League Chairperson</p>	<p>Allows for Local League dependencies in this process</p>
<p>5.2.1.2 to 5.2.1.10 Explain memo is for MRC Penalty schedule To be reviewed (see attached Memo and penalty schedule)</p>	<p>(see attached Memo and penalty schedule)</p>	<p>Allows alignment to SWC and simplifies the sanction calculation process</p>
<p>5.2.1.11 - Service of the Period of Suspension</p> <p>h) Players charged for Grade 1 or 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.</p> <p>Adding additional i) and j)</p>	<p>5.2.10 Service of the Period of Suspension</p> <p>g) Players charged for Grade 1 or 2 offences (excluding any changes relating to Contrary Conduct or Striking) may 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</p> <p>i) A player may serve a current suspension at a Carnival at the rate of 1 day = 1 match regardless of the number of games played at the carnival on that</p>	<p>Alignment PEP program</p> <p>Clarification of serving suspensions at Carnivals</p>



	<p>day.</p> <p>j) A player currently serving a suspension relating to a charge of Grade 3 or higher cannot serve this suspension at a Carnival and must serve this in the Competition where the offense occurred.</p>	
<p>5.2.1.12 Suspensions – Fixtures Matches/weeks</p> <p>A player’s suspension shall be served in any QRL competition in which the player is eligible. However, for a player to serve a suspension in a specific Grade or Age Group that the offence did not occur, they must have previously played in that Grade or Age Group within the current football season.</p>	<p>5.2.12 Suspension -Fixtures Matches / weeks</p> <p>A player’s suspension shall be served in any QRL competition where they play the majority of games in which the player is eligible</p>	<p>Delete rule / change to majority of games played in competition Consider in season serving suspension equals majority of games Combine 5.2.1.10 & 5.2.1.12 (ABC)</p> <p>It allows players to serve a match from 1x game earlier in a year.</p>
<p>5.3.1 Referral to Judiciary Tribunal</p> <p>d) The Manager or Chairperson of a relevant Region decides that the matter warrants a referral to a Judiciary Tribunal for determination;</p> <p>If the Judiciary Tribunal is of the opinion that the offence charged is more serious than the maximum grading for that offence in the Base Penalty Schedule or otherwise, then the Judiciary Tribunal will allocate what it deems to be an appropriate penalty including an extended period of suspension, disqualification or expulsion.</p>	<p>5.3.1 Referral to Judiciary Tribunal</p> <p>d) The Area Manager, Region Manager or Chairperson of a relevant Region decides that the matter warrants a referral to a Judiciary Tribunal for determination;</p> <p>(h) If the Judiciary Tribunal is of the opinion that the offence charged is more serious than the maximum grading for that offence in the Base Penalty Schedule or otherwise, then the Judiciary Tribunal will allocate what it deems to be an appropriate penalty which may include an extended period of suspension, participation of an education program or the issue of a show cause notice as to why the participant should not be disqualified or expelled.</p>	<p>AM’s should have this discretion as they are the first point of contact.</p> <p>Adding in education is a consideration for the Tribunal</p>
5.3.2 Procedure for Judiciary Tribunal Hearings	5.3.4 Procedure for Judiciary Tribunal Hearings	



<p><i>Please note that a Person that has participated in a Judiciary Tribunal is unable to advocate for a player charged and appearing before any Judiciary Tribunal in the same football year</i></p>	<p><i>“Please note that a Person that has been found guilty by the MRC, DRC, Judiciary or Disciplinary Tribunal (“the Tribunal Panels”), regardless of the penalty, or has participated as a member of the Tribunal Panels is unable to advocate for a player charged and appearing before any Judiciary or Disciplinary Tribunal in the same football year.</i></p>	<p>Provide clarity regarding “participated in a Judiciary Tribunal”.</p>
<p>5.5 Disciplinary Review Committee</p> <p>A local league shall establish a disciplinary review committee to deal with matters of complaint which do not involve on field player misconduct. This committee shall be delegated authority to suspend an individual to a maximum of eight weeks on evidence available without convening a disciplinary tribunal of a local league. In issuing a suspension the league must provide the charge person/s with all evidence consider by the committee.</p> <p>In applying suspensions, the Local League Disciplinary Tribunal should reference the QRL Disciplinary Review Guide and also apply penalty consistent with any endorsed positive behaviour program. Timelines for completing Disciplinary Review Committee processes in seven (7) business days. A League may grant an extension to these timelines in extenuating circumstances provided they provide written notice to the charged person.</p>	<p>SECTION B – non playing participants 5.4 Disciplinary Review Committee</p> <p>(a) A local league shall establish a disciplinary review committee to deal with matters of complaint which do not involve on field player misconduct. This committee shall be delegated authority to suspend an individual to a maximum of eight weeks on evidence available without convening a disciplinary tribunal of a local league. In issuing a suspension the league must provide the charge person/s with all evidence consider by the committee</p> <p>(b) Alternatively, where in the opinion of the Disciplinary Review Committee where the Club or Association has taken disciplinary action against one their members in relation to the incident the Disciplinary Review Committee may deem this a sufficient penalty then no further suspension will apply.</p> <p>(c) In applying suspensions, the Local League Disciplinary Review Committee should reference</p>	<p>Details of how the DRC refers matter to a Disciplinary Tribunal and align to MRC process</p> <p>Flow chart Added</p>



	<p>the QRL Disciplinary Review Guide and also apply penalty consistent with any endorsed positive behaviour program. Timelines for completing Disciplinary Review Committee processes in seven (7) business days. A League may grant an extension to these timelines in extenuating circumstances provided they provide written notice to the charged person.</p> <p>(d) If the Disciplinary Review Committee is of the opinion that a charge should be referred to the Disciplinary Tribunal for the determination of an appropriate penalty because the Disciplinary Review Committee is of the opinion that the offence charged is more serious than the incidents identified in the QRL Disciplinary Review Guide, then the Disciplinary Review Committee will advise the Chairperson of the Local League or competing club accordingly for subsequent referral to a Disciplinary Tribunal.</p> <p>(e) Decisions of the Disciplinary Tribunal may be made by simple majority and where a person is found to have a case to answer then their Club is to be notified in writing of the decision by way of the Disciplinary Tribunal Summary Sheet sent to all parties, the findings upon which the decision is based and the penalty imposed within two (2) business days of the making of the decision by the Disciplinary Tribunal.</p> <p>(f) The League shall be responsible for formally notifying the person of the forgoing within the time specified. Within the next business day of receipt of the committee's decision the player shall, either: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Elect to accept the decision of the Disciplinary Tribunal in which case the person must notify the League of this decision and sign and submit this in writing;ii. Elect to plead 'no contest' in which case the penalty for the offence is applied notify the Local	
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	<p>League that he or she does not accept the decision of the Disciplinary Tribunal and/or wishes to challenge the length of the suspension or the charge applied then the matter will be heard by a Disciplinary Tribunal</p> <p>(g) Written notification from the Local League of the outcome of either option above shall be given to the person within two (2) business days of receipt of the player's election via a Disciplinary Review Committee Result Summary Sheet.</p> <p>Referral to Disciplinary Tribunal (for suspension greater than 8 weeks)</p> <p>In applying suspensions, the Local League Disciplinary Tribunal should reference the QRL Disciplinary Review Guide and also apply a penalty consistent with any endorsed positive behaviour program. Please refer to flow chart 2 for further information in relation to this process</p>	
<p>5.6 Disciplinary Tribunal</p> <p>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;</p> <p>f) Allowing any player not registered or under suspension or disqualification to take part in any match;</p> <p>h) Knowingly allowing an unqualified Person or an unregistered player to take part in an Administration Unit's competition without the necessary approval;</p>	<p>5.5.1 Jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Review Committee and Disciplinary Tribunal</p> <p>e) Disorderly, insulting or objectionable conduct by a club member, coach, team official, spectator or member of the public (e.g., generally at a match or event under the control of an Administration Unit, including on-field incidents involving such persons)</p> <p>f) Allowing any player or team official not registered or under suspension or disqualification to take part in any match;</p> <p>h) Knowingly allowing a not accredited Person or an unregistered player to take part in an Administration Unit's competition without the necessary approval;</p>	<p>A spectator or club official should be in the same category as the already listed positions. For example if a spectator has allegedly abused a match official for example</p>



<p>5.6 Disciplinary Tribunal</p> <p>If the Person charged is a registered referee/ match official, Junior player, Senior player, Junior coach, Senior coach, sports trainers, League safe officer or other team official the Person is not allowed to participate in a Game until the Person appears before the Disciplinary Tribunal.</p>	<p>5.5.4 Complaint process and required documentation</p> <p>d)If the Person charged is a registered referee/match official, Player, Coach or staff, Club Official or the Person is not allowed to attend Affiliated QRL Club venues in a Game (unless granted special permission) until the Person appears before the Disciplinary Tribunal.</p>	
<p>5.8 Appeal procedures from Disciplinary Tribunal and Disciplinary Decisions</p> <p>Any statement of fresh evidence by a witness shall be made by way of a Statutory Declaration and shall be lodged with the relevant Appeals Tribunal with the Notice of Appeal within ten (10) business days</p>	<p>5.7 Appeal procedures from judiciary and disciplinary decisions</p> <p>(b) Any statement of fresh evidence by a witness shall be made by way of a Statutory Declaration and shall be lodged with the relevant Appeals Tribunal with the Notice of Appeal within ten (10) business days noting that any notices received outside period will be considered invalid.</p>	<p>Highlight require timelines for submission of additional evidence</p>
<p>5.8.1 - Affected Person</p> <p>A natural Person adversely affected (hereinafter called the "Affected Person") by the actions of the guilty Person shall be entitled to obtain the findings of the Disciplinary Tribunal/Disciplinary Tribunal decision as soon as practicable after the decision is made known and may, within two (2) business days of receipt of such findings, appeal against the gross inadequacy of the Tribunal's findings only when all the following related circumstances occur</p>	<p>5.7.1 Affected persons</p> <p>(a) A natural Person adversely affected (hereinafter called the "Affected Person") by the actions of the guilty Person shall be entitled to obtain the findings of the Disciplinary Tribunal/Disciplinary Tribunal decision as soon as practicable after the decision is made known and may, within two (2) business days of receipt of such findings, appeal against the gross inadequacy of the Tribunal's findings only when all the following related circumstances occur.</p> <p>(c) If the natural person indicates they wish to appeal the decision, the Tribunal will provide the reasons for the decision to the appellant noting that any</p>	<p>Needs to be clearer on what is to be provided, and when. Is it after the appeal deadline has been exhausted from initial outcome, or immediately once know. Not sure on naming the individuals</p>

	appeal notice received after the 2 business days deadline will be considered invalid.	
New Part 8	Add as a separate Part 8 to QRL Rules noting that these Circulars are under review with only current Circulars to be included Circulate 'current' circulars	Enable greater accessibility to this information





Revised NRL Penalties table with aligned Amalgamated Penalties

Offence	Grade	1st Offence (early plea in brackets)	2nd Offence (early plea in brackets)	3rd & Subsequent Offence (early plea in brackets)
High Tackle - Careless	1	1 match (Warning)	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)
	2	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)
	3	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)
High Tackle – Reckless	1 (4) #	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)	6 matches (5)
	2 (5)	5 matches (4)	6 matches (5)	7 matches (6)
	3 (6)	6 matches (5)	7 matches (6)	8 matches (7)
Dangerous Contact	1	1 match (Warning)	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)
	2	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)
	3	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)
Dangerous Throw	1	1 match (Warning)	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)
	2	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)
	3	5 matches (4)	6 matches (5)	7 matches (6)
Striking	1	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)
	2	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)
	3	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)	6 matches (5)
Crusher Tackle	1	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)
	2	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)
	3	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)	6 matches (5)
Contrary Conduct	1	1 match (Warning)	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)
	2	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)
	3	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)
Shoulder Charge	1	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)
	2	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)
	3	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)	6 matches (5)

High Tackle Reckless is effectively treated as a grade up from High Tackle Careless.