



## PART 5

RULES, REGULATIONS AND BY-LAWS OF QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL  
LEAGUE LIMITED RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION  
OF

## TRIBUNALS

QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

ACN 009 878 013



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## 5.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF TRIBUNALS AND MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEES

The following Tribunals, Match Review Committees and Disciplinary Review Committees shall be appointed annually by the directorate of each relevant Administration Unit, as set out below, at its first meeting after the Annual General meeting or such later date as the QRL may determine/approve (but in any event prior to the commencement of any Rugby League Competition for that year):

### QRL Board

- a) Disputes Tribunals; and
- b) Drug Judiciary Tribunal.

### Regional Board of Delegates

- a) Disciplinary Tribunals;
- b) Disputes Tribunal; and
- c) Appeals Tribunals.

### Local Leagues

- a) Match Review Committees;
- b) Judiciary Tribunals;
- c) Disciplinary Review Committees; and
- d) Disciplinary Tribunals

### 5.1.1 MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRIBUNALS

Each of the above Tribunals shall be made up of at least three (3) members and may include employees of an Administration Unit, the ARLC, or the NRL and their affiliated bodies. The Match Review Committee (MRC) and Disciplinary Review Committee (DRC) shall be made up of at least one (1) member with a discretion in the Chairperson of the League to appoint further members.

However, where any of those members have been involved directly or indirectly or are in a position to give evidence in respect of an incident which gives rise to a referral to a Tribunal, Match Review Committee or Disciplinary Review Committee then that member shall be deemed to have a conflict of interest and must be disqualified from the Tribunal or Committee for that particular incident.

In such circumstances the relevant Local League, Regional Board of Delegates shall appoint a replacement member for the hearing. Such further appointment shall also occur where a member of



the relevant Tribunal or Committee is temporarily unable to sit. It is noted that members of the local league DRC can also be appointed to the local league MRC and vice versa.

A member of a Tribunal referred to above shall be ineligible to sit as a member of any other Tribunal for a particular matter where a potential conflict of interest may arise. By way example - A Person appointed as a member of a Judiciary Tribunal shall not sit on an Appeal from that Tribunal. Similarly, a Match Review Committee or Disciplinary Review Committee member shall not sit on a Judiciary Tribunal hearing or Disciplinary Tribunal Hearing or any appeal from that hearing in respect of the original decision of the Match Review Committee or Disciplinary Tribunal Hearing.

Notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment or continuance in the role of any of such Tribunal/Match Review Committee Member/Disciplinary Review Committee or persons acting as aforesaid or that any of them were disqualified or had vacated the position of Tribunal/Match Review Committee Member/Disciplinary Review Committee, all acts done at a meeting of a Tribunal, Match Review Committee convened in accordance with these Rules or by any person acting bona fide as a Tribunal Member or Match Review Committee member shall be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed or had duly continued in their role as Tribunal/Match Review Committee Member and was qualified and had continued to be a Tribunal/Match Review Committee Member.

#### 5.1.2 CONVENING OF THE TRIBUNALS

Tribunal/Match Review Committee/Disciplinary Review Committee members may meet together in person or by electronic device provided that at all times the members shall be able to hear and may be heard by all other members at the meeting, for the determination of matters referred to that Tribunal/Match Review Committee/Disciplinary Review Committee. They may also adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they see fit.

Where the members are not all in attendance at one place and are holding a meeting using an electronic device and each member can hear and be heard by all other members at the meeting then:

- a) The participating members shall, for the purposes of every provision of these Rules concerning meetings of Tribunals/Match Review Committees, be taken to have assembled together at a meeting and be present at that meeting.
- b) The chairman shall ensure that any member participating electronically has received all reports and other evidence which may be relied upon or referred to at the meeting.
- c) All proceedings of those Tribunals/Match Review Committees conducted in that manner shall be as valid and effective as if conducted at a meeting at which all of them were present.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Part 5 relating to Disciplinary charges, in the case of alleged offences which do not fall within a literal interpretation of Off-field Disciplinary charges and in the event of a Local League or a Region not taking appropriate action, the supervising Region or the QRL may at their absolute discretion take action to address the alleged offence.

All acts done at a meeting of the Committee Members, including all Tribunals, or by any person acting bona fide as a Committee or Tribunal member shall be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed or had duly continued in office and was qualified and had continued to be a Committee or



Tribunal Member, notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment or continuance in office of any of such persons acting as aforesaid or that any of them were disqualified or had vacated office.

## **SECTION A – Playing participants only**

### **5.2 MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

#### **Background**

The purpose of the following Background is to assist Local Leagues (noting that State-wide Competitions apply the adopted NRL Judiciary Code of Procedure) with an understanding of the role of the Match Review Committee and shall not be used in substitution of any Rule. In the event of any inconsistency occurring between the background and the Rules, the Rules prevail.

A Match Review Committee of a Local League has delegated authority to deal at first instance with the alleged misconduct of a player involved in an on-field incident in a match under that Local League's control.

To avoid any uncertainty, the provisions of this Part 5 relating to player misconduct do not apply to Junior players participating in mini and mod football who are dealt with by the referee directly by way of rotation rather than send off. If further action is required, this will be taken at the discretion of the match's controlling body.

All Match Review Committees must apply the description of player misconduct as set out in the NRL Rugby League Laws of the Game relating to on-field incidents (as published from time to time on [www.qrl.com.au](http://www.qrl.com.au)) in all proceedings before them.

All Match Review Committees must ensure that allegations of player misconduct are dealt with expeditiously and in accordance with the Rules set out below.

The role of a Match Review Committee is to consider and impose charge/s against a player who has been either placed on report by a referee or sent from the field by a referee. A Match Review Committee may, however, have a case referred to it by the Chairperson of the Local League or a Club Chairperson through the Chairperson of the local League. For example, a complaint may be lodged with the Local League Chairperson regarding the On-field behaviour of any player. The Chairperson of the Local League will forward the complaint to the Match Review Committee for decision making. It is advisable for a Local League to state clearly in its Local League competition rules if it permits the citing of a player on the basis of video evidence.

A player who has been reported for player misconduct shall not be required to appear before a Match Review Committee.

All Match Review Committee decisions shall be based on one of the following: -

- a) the written On-Field Incident Report;



- b) a written complaint received by the Match Review Committee from the Chairperson of the Local League relating to an alleged incident and also any such further evidence (e.g. video evidence of the incident) as determined by the Match Review Committee; or
- c) a written complaint received by the Match Review Committee from the Chairperson of an affected player's Club which is supported by video evidence (noting that this may include a fee prescribed in Local League Rules or published by the Local League from time to time)

***for further information in regarding the process please refer to flow chart 1***

### 5.2.1 PROCEDURES FOR MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEES

All Match Review Committees are required to apply the penalty judicial system set out in the Schedules to this Part and/or published on the website [www.qrl.com.au](http://www.qrl.com.au) from time to time and in so doing shall adhere to those principles set out below.

### 5.2.2 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS OF MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEES

For purposes of this Part 5 of the Rules: -

- a) a reference to an "On-Field Incident Report form" means the form published on the website [www.qrl.com.au](http://www.qrl.com.au) from time to time (the On-field Incident Report);
- b) a reference to player misconduct means such conduct as is set out in the NRL Rugby League Laws of the Game International Level relating to On-field Incidents (as published from time to time on the website [www.qrl.com.au](http://www.qrl.com.au)).

### 5.2.3 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR ADJUDICATION

- a) Player misconduct - All allegations of player misconduct relating to On-field Incidents including those resulting in dismissal from the field of play must be reported in writing in a Referees On-field Incident Report by the referee.
- b) In cases where a player has been dismissed from the field or placed on report video evidence may be considered by the match review committee to charge to the player in the absence of the On-field incident report.
- 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 may reject the complaint or advise that the complaint should be submitted via the relevant club Chairperson as per Part 5.2.1 d) or 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.
- 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

- e) Charging a player not referred to in Referees On-field Incident Report - Based on information before it, the Match Review Committee may charge a player/s not named in the referees On-field Incident Report or in the referral by the Chairperson of a Local League with alleged misconduct and shall then apply the appropriate reporting and referral procedure referred to above in respect of the player charged.

**By way of example** - Video evidence provided to the Match Review Committee in respect of a particular On-field Incident identifies another unreported player involved in that On-field Incident or a separate On-field Incident involving another player which the Match Review Committee deems to be player misconduct.

#### 5.2.4 DECISION OF MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE

The written report of the Incident and other evidence shall be considered by the Match Review Committee. The Match Review Committee shall then determine whether the charge has been made out and if so apply the appropriate sanction as per the Base Penalty Schedule to this Part 5.

If the Match Review Committee is of the opinion that a charge should be referred to the Judiciary for the determination of an appropriate penalty whether because the Match Review Committee 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 Match Review Committee will advise the Chairperson of the Local League or competing club accordingly for subsequent referral to a Judiciary Tribunal.

Alternatively, where in the opinion of the Match Review Committee the sending off of the player during the match is deemed sufficient penalty then no suspension will apply.

Decisions of the Match Review Committee may be made by simple majority and where a player is found to have a case to answer then their Club is to be notified in writing of the decision by way of the Match Review Summary Sheet sent to all competing clubs, 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 Match Review Committee. The Club shall be responsible for formally notifying the player of the forgoing within the time specified.

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) Elect to plead 'no contest' in which case the base penalty for the offence is applied without the early plea incentive referenced in Rule 5.2.1.6
- c) 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 or the charge applied





then the Local League shall refer the matter to a Judiciary Tribunal before which the Player can contest the charge and/or the severity of the grading.

**In the event that the player does not adopt either of the options set out above, then the player shall be deemed to have adopted option a) above and the early guilty plea discount applies. In such cases the Club is authorised in writing on behalf of the player.**

#### 5.2.5 CORRESPONDENCE TIMELINES FOR THE MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE

- a) Written notification from the Local League of the outcome of either option above shall be given to the Club within two (2) business days of receipt of the player's election via a Judiciary Result Summary Sheet.
- b) Where a player is found not to have a case to answer he or she shall be notified accordingly of that decision by the Match Review Committee. The player's Club shall be notified also.
- c) Notwithstanding the above timelines, all relevant parties must ensure that the process referred to above is completed within any specific timelines referenced in Local League Rules or as published by the Local League from time to time.
- 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.

#### 5.2.6 PENALTIES

- a) One (1) match suspension and shall be calculated as one (1) fixture match of the regular competition. This is to include representative matches, including QRL State-wide competitions or other QRL sanctioned matches. However, this does not include where a team has a bye as indicated by the Local League draw, or the forfeiture of a match or when the team for which the player plays has not qualified for the Final Series.
- b) The only penalty which may be imposed on a player for the commission of an offence is the allocation to that Player of suspended matches and the consequences flowing from that allocation as provided for by the provisions of this Part 5 and the Base Penalty Schedule.
- c) Matches suspended allocated to a player shall be taken to be allocated on the day when the offence was committed and subject to any reduction arising out of serving a suspension, shall remain so allocated for one (1) year from that day.
- d) The allocation of matches suspended to a player shall automatically have the consequences set forth in the Base Penalty Schedule with the player suspended from playing until the number of matches have expired in accordance with the decision of the Match Review Committee.



### 5.2.7 GRADING'S

For the purposes of determining penalty, offences can be similar or non-similar therefore consideration of any previous offence must be undertaken to determine the correct penalty i.e. whether that the offence is 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In addition the offences set forth in the Penalty Schedule are each divided into three (3) grading's with Grade one (1) representing the lower end on the scale of seriousness and for the offence and Grade three (3) representing the higher end on the scale of seriousness for the offence.

To clarify when

In referencing the Penalty Schedule all offences considered by the Match Review Committee to be higher than Grade 3 should be referred to the Judiciary Tribunal.

### 5.2.8 EARLY PLEA INCENTIVE

A player shall receive a one (1) week reduction of the Base Penalty applicable to the charge and grading when calculating the Early Plea Incentive. This will also apply where the original charge has been agreed but the severity of the grading of the offence has been lessened by the Judiciary Tribunal to the grading nominated by the player. The player will be entitled to the Early Guilty Plea discount for this lesser charge accepted by the Judiciary Tribunal.

If the Early Plea notice is NOT received by the Match Review Committee within two (2) business days following notification of the decision by the Match Review Committee, then the Player shall be deemed to have accepted the decision of the Match Review Committee.

### 5.2.9 INCREASE FOR OTHER CASES INVOLVING ONE OR MORE PREVIOUS OFFENCES

- a) Subject to Rule 5.2.8 where a player charged with an offence has been previously convicted of all similar and non-similar offences in a one (1) year period immediately preceding the incident giving rise to the charge. The offence will be determined the 1st, 2nd or 3rd offence in accordance with the penalty schedule
- b) For the purposes of this provision, a player that has committed a similar and non-similar offence in the same match these offences will be determined in chronological order in determining the offence in accordance with the penalty schedule.

### 5.2.10 SERVICE OF THE PERIOD OF SUSPENSION

Where a player has been suspended from playing in a forthcoming Match or Matches, his or her period of suspension shall be calculated in accordance with the following:

- a) The player is suspended from playing until after the forthcoming match or matches have each been played and concluded;



- b) When each forthcoming Match has been played and concluded, the player's allocated or accumulated demerit points shall reduce by one week for each such Match;
- c) The period of suspension shall be taken to have been served when the player's allocated have expired;
- d) If the player had been actually selected to play in a Representative Match or Touring Team at the time when the suspension was imposed, the Representative Match in which he would have participated but for his suspension shall be taken into account and once played and concluded, shall reduce the player's allocated penalty by one (1) week;
- e) A maximum of two (2) weeks can be reduced in any calendar week with sufficient evidence that competition fixtures or representative fixtures have been missed. This can only be accumulated across both Local League and Representative Fixtures not two (2) Local League fixtures in the same weekend.
- f) In cases where a player is suspended, they are prohibited from playing in any QRL sanctioned competition or event with the exception of trial matches as per 5.2.11 c).
- 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.
- h) Players charged with Grade 3 or higher offences are prohibited from participating in any capacity at a QRL sanctioned competition or event.
- 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 day.
- 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 offence occurred.

#### 5.2.11 PARTICIPATION IN THE GAME OF RUGBY LEAGUE

- a) Any registered player participating in any competition under the jurisdiction of the QRL (including those Games sanctioned by the QRL) who is suspended by a Match Review Committee or Judiciary Tribunal must serve out the number of fixture Games imposed upon that player/s in accordance with the Base Penalty Schedule.
- b) Any suspensions not completed within their current season will carry over to the following season and in this case any player who is suspended or disqualified from playing Rugby League.
- c) A player serving a suspension for Grade 1 or 2 offences can participate in preseason club trials and must serve their suspension in competition fixtures only.
- d) A player serving a suspension for Grade 3 or higher offences cannot participate pre-season club trials and must serve their suspension in competition fixtures only.
- e) Any residual suspension that carries over to the next season will commence once the player has registered in that subsequent season.



#### 5.2.12 SUSPENSION -FIXTURES MATCHES / WEEKS

- a) A player's suspension shall be served in any QRL competition where they play the majority of games in which the player is eligible
- b) If a player is sent off during any match the player is provisionally suspended and cannot participate in further matches until the match review has considered and graded the incident.
- c) Suspensions imposed by Local League Match Review Committees can only be applied in competitions governed by the relevant Administration Unit.
- d) These Rules are not applicable to suspensions imposed by Schools or School Sport Bodies.

#### 5.2.13 DECISION FINAL AND BINDING

Subject to any rights of appeal or review all decisions of the Match Review Committee shall be final and conclusive and shall be given effect to by the parties and the proceedings of the Match Review Committee into that particular incident are thereby concluded.

### 5.3 JUDICIARY TRIBUNALS

If the Judiciary Tribunal becomes aware of any other misconduct by that player, then it shall notify the player accordingly and convene a further hearing in accordance with these Rules to determine that further charge.

The Judiciary Tribunal will determine the player's guilt or otherwise and will then determine the appropriate penalty for the offence/s based on the evidence presented at the hearing and shall apply the penalties set out in the Judiciary Charge in accordance with these Rules.

By way of example - In the case of a high tackle, a player may enter a plea of guilty to the charge and take the suspension as detailed on the early plea sheet. However, should the player successfully argue the severity of the grading of the charge before the Judiciary Tribunal, then the suspension will be based on those listed on the Base Penalty Schedule with the early plea incentive applied. If, however, the Tribunal reduces the grading but not to the player's nomination then the suspension will be based on those listed in the Base Penalty Schedule without the early plea incentive applied.

The following Background does not form part of the Rules and is for the purpose of assisting an understanding of the Judiciary Rules and shall not be used in substitution of any Rule. In the event of any inconsistency occurring between the Background and the Rules, the Rules prevail.

#### Background

A Judiciary Tribunal of an Administration Unit has delegated authority to deal with findings of player Misconduct and applicable penalties as set out in the Schedules to this part including any grading's relating to such player misconduct. Where there is no opportunity for a player to be offered or accept an Early Plea then the matter must be referred to a Judiciary Tribunal.



The delegated authority vested in each Judiciary Tribunal pursuant to the Rules of this part must be rigorously applied and shall ensure that Match Review Committees act accordingly and do not conduct their own judicial proceedings or promulgate and adopt their own rules regarding player Misconduct.

The Directorate of each Administration Unit referred to above shall appoint three (3) persons to exercise the judiciary powers granted to that Unit under these Rules. Whenever the appointed persons are exercising that power, they shall be called a “Judiciary Tribunal”.

### 5.3.1 REFERRAL TO JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL

Where any of the following circumstances apply:

- a) The Match Review Committee elects to refer the matter to the Judiciary Tribunal; or
- b) The player elects to have the matter referred to the Judiciary Tribunal (i.e. enters a plea of not guilty to the charge); or
- c) The player accepts the charge but elects to refer the severity of the grading to the Judiciary Tribunal; or
- 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;
- e) The Player has previously been found guilty of a charge/s relating to three (3) similar offences within the same Football Year.
- f) All charges considered by Match Review Committee presiding over charges in a Senior Competition, to be higher than grade 3 are directly referred to Judiciary for determination
- g) All Judiciary Tribunals shall adopt the week-based penalty system set out in the Base Penalty Schedule to this Part and shall ensure that referrals from their associated Match Review Committees have adopted the same system.
- 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
- i) If the Judiciary Tribunal is of the opinion that the offence charged by the Match Review is not correct, they may find the player not guilty of the original charge but subsequently charge the player with an alternate offence. At this point, the charged player has the option to accept an Early Plea on the new charge
- j) The Match Review Committee shall provide the Judiciary Tribunal with the following documents:
  - i. a copy of its decision together with the information/evidence that it has relied upon in reaching its decision
  - ii. a copy of the player’s written notice to the Local League that he or she does not accept the decision and/or wishes to challenge the severity of the grading applied.



### 5.3.2 EVIDENCE PROVIDED TO A JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL

Where a player has entered a plea of not guilty or wishes to argue the severity of the grading of the charge then that player must submit to the Judiciary Tribunal, a brief outline of the grounds on which he or she wishes to rely together with such further evidence (e.g. video evidence of the original incident) which is directly relevant to the appeal and which has not been considered/available by or to the Match Review Committee.

This outline must be included with the written referral to the Judiciary Tribunal together with all further relevant evidence within the agreed timeframes of the Local League Match Review procedures for this evidence to be considered by the Judiciary Tribunal

- a) Where the player does not provide this outline and evidence within these timeframes then they may ask for an extension to allow further time to prepare the material for presentation to the Judiciary Tribunal. However, the player will not be able to play until the matter is heard or decision by the Judiciary Tribunal is made in relation to the incident, noting that this period prior to the hearing will be considered as time served in determining the penalty relating to the incident.

### 5.3.3 OFFENCES OCCURRING IN MATCHES PLAYED OUTSIDE REGULAR AFFILIATED COMPETITIONS

- a) Where a match (including a trial match) which has been sanctioned by the relevant Administration Unit is played between teams from different Local Leagues or Clubs within the same or different Regions the player remains excluded from further participation with the matter dealt with via the Administration Unit from which the player is registered.
- b) This rule does not apply to carnivals where an independent Match Review Committee and Judiciary should be established prior to games commencing to preside over all relevant on-field matters.
- c) A player who is required to appear before a Judiciary Tribunal shall not participate in a Game until the matter has been considered by that Judiciary Tribunal.
- d) A Junior player (as defined in Part 4) appearing before a Judiciary Tribunal (including a Junior player competing in a Senior Competition) who has been charged with an offence occurring in a match which has been referred under Rugby League Rules must be accompanied at the Tribunal by a member of the player's Local League or Club who has the authorisation of the Local League or Club.

### 5.3.4 PROCEDURE FOR JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

Where a player has elected to contest a Match Review Committee decision then a Judiciary Tribunal will be convened.

Judiciary Tribunal hearings will be held at a venue, time and place as determined by the relevant Administration Unit for all contested offences. At the discretion of the Administration Unit a hearing



may be conducted by electronic device provided that at all times the participants shall be able to hear and may be heard by all other participants at the hearing.

At the Judiciary Tribunal hearing the player charged: -

- a) must appear in person or by electronic device, where determined prior to the hearing;
- b) may be accompanied by either: -
  - i. a non-legally qualified Person appointed by the player charged e.g. coach/manager/club representative; or
  - ii. a Person who is legally qualified if in his or her absolute discretion the Chairperson of the Judiciary Tribunal considers it appropriate to represent the player charged before the Tribunal.

***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.***

#### 5.3.5 FAILING TO APPEAR BEFORE JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

In the event that the player charged fails to appear at the hearing without the prior written consent of the Tribunal to an adjournment of the hearing then the Tribunal may either: -

- a) proceed with the hearing in the absence of the player charged; or
- b) at its absolute discretion adjourn the hearing until such time as the player charged does appear.

#### 5.3.6 JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL ADJOURNING PROCEEDINGS

- a) In the event of the Judiciary Tribunal adjourning the proceedings under these circumstances above the player shall be suspended automatically from participating in any sanctioned match until such time as the adjourned hearing is held.
- b) Where any adjournment arises as a result of the inability of the Tribunal to convene a Hearing e.g. members of the Committee are unavailable then the player charged shall be entitled to participate in sanctioned matches until such time as the adjourned Hearing is held.
- c) An adjourned Judiciary Tribunal hearing must be reconvened no longer than seven (7) business days from the original hearing date.

#### 5.3.7 RECORDING OF JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL PROCEEDINGS

- a) No Person may record Judiciary Tribunal hearing proceedings by any recording device without the permission of the Chairperson of the Tribunal;



- b) It is a condition of the granting of permission to record Judiciary Tribunal hearing proceedings that the use of any information recorded is limited to the following purposes: -
  - i. Appeals pursuant to these Rules;
  - ii. Court proceedings; or
  - iii. The provision of legal advice
- c) If a person records Tribunal hearing proceedings or uses a recording of same for other than the abovementioned purposes the relevant Administration Unit may institute appropriate disciplinary proceedings against that Person.

#### 5.3.8 DECISIONS OF THE JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL

- a) The Judiciary Tribunal will determine the player's guilt or otherwise and will then determine the appropriate penalty for the offence/s based on the evidence presented at the hearing and shall apply the penalties set out in the Judiciary Charge (No Early Plea) Form as published from time to time on the QRL website [www.qrl.com.au](http://www.qrl.com.au).
- b) Decisions of the Judiciary Tribunal may be made by simple majority
- c) Where a player is found guilty of a charge/s then the following parties are to be notified in writing by way of Judiciary Result Summary Sheet of the decision, 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 Tribunal
  - i..the player;
  - ii. the players' Club;
  - iii. the Local League; and
  - iv. any third party who initiated the referral (if any)
- d) Where a player is found not guilty of a charge/s he or she those parties referred to above shall be notified accordingly within two (2) business days of the making of the decision by the Tribunal

#### 5.3.9 EVIDENCE BY PLAYER FROM OPPOSING TEAM

If a player (A) seeks to have another player, player (B), give evidence on his or her behalf then the Chairperson of player A's Club must seek the prior written approval of the Chairperson of player B's Club.

There is however no obligation that compels player (B) to give such evidence.

If player (B) is contacted by player (A) by any medium including a direct approach, then player (A) may be charged with contrary conduct. If found guilty, a penalty of up to twelve (12) weeks may be imposed.





#### 5.3.10 CONDUCT OF JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

The conduct of the parties to any hearings convened by Judiciary Tribunals shall be determined by the Chairperson of that Tribunal at his or her absolute discretion.

In making its decision, a Judiciary Tribunal shall be entitled to accept the material and findings of fact of the Match Review Committee and admit or reject any other relevant material at its discretion. Each Judiciary Tribunal shall determine, at its absolute discretion, whether and to what extent it shall have regard to the rules of evidence applicable in the State of Queensland.

#### 5.3.11 DECISIONS FINAL AND BINDING

Subject to any rights of appeal or review all decisions of the Judiciary Tribunal shall be final and conclusive. All such decisions shall be binding and shall be given effect to by the parties and the proceedings of the Judiciary Tribunal into that particular incident are thereby concluded.

## SECTION B – non-playing participants

### 5.4 DISCIPLINARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

- 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
- 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.
- c) In applying suspensions, the Local League Disciplinary Review Committee 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
- 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.
- 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.

- 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: -
  - 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 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
- 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.

Referral to Disciplinary Tribunal (for suspension greater than 8 weeks)

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***

## 5.5 DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL

The following Background does not form part of the Rules and is for the purpose of assisting with the understanding of the disciplinary Rules only and shall not be used in substitution of any Rule. In the event of any inconsistency occurring between the background and the Rules, the Rules prevail.

### Background

In general terms a Disciplinary Review Committee and Disciplinary Tribunal is established to hear matters in respect of the Game of Rugby League which do not involve on-field player misconduct. Accordingly, complaints received in respect of Clubs, players, team officials, referees, spectators and the public generally which relate to off-field incidents received by an Administration Unit shall be investigated by that Unit via the Disciplinary Review Committee and if considered appropriate a notice of charge shall be issued to the Person involved and referred to a Disciplinary Tribunal. In these circumstances, the Administration Unit will then convene a hearing of a Disciplinary Tribunal to determine the matter in accordance with these rules.

The delegated authority vested in each Disciplinary Tribunal must be rigorously applied by all such Tribunals to the exclusion of any other bodies established by an Administration Unit.



For example - A Disciplinary Tribunal established by a Local League must comply strictly with the Rules and Regulations set out in this Part 5 and has no authority to act otherwise or promulgate their own rules and regulations in respect of Disciplinary matters.

The directorate of each Administration Unit referred to above shall appoint three (3) Persons, to exercise the disciplinary powers granted to that Unit under these Rules. Whenever the appointed Persons are exercising that power, they shall be called a “Disciplinary Tribunal”.

#### 5.5.1 JURISDICTION OF THE DISCIPLINARY REVIEW COMMITTEE AND DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL

A Disciplinary Review Committee and Disciplinary 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 (e.g., generally at a match or event under the control of an Administration Unit, including on-field incidents involving such persons)
- f) Allowing any player or team official 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 a not accredited 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.

#### 5.5.2 DISCIPLINARY ACTION OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS

For purposes of this Rule 5.5, Person includes but is not limited to natural Persons, incorporated and unincorporated bodies, Clubs (including their members and teams), representative teams, coaches and managers and such other like parties as the relevant Disciplinary Tribunal may determine from time to time.



The Disciplinary Tribunal of a Region, on behalf of the QRL may take disciplinary action at their discretion, in respect of the conduct of a Sub-ordinate of a Local League where the Local League/Club has failed to do so or if a written request is made by the Local League to the relevant Region.

Notwithstanding any other Rules in this Part, a Disciplinary Tribunal of the QRL :

- i. may take disciplinary action in respect of the conduct of a Sub-ordinate of any other Administration Unit of the QRL where no other Administration Unit has taken disciplinary action or further disciplinary action;
- ii. has exclusive jurisdiction to deal with the conduct of a referee in respect of a match under the control of an Administration Unit.

### 5.5.3 COMPLAINTS

- a) A complaint under this Rule must be made with the relevant Administration Unit within seven (7) days of the incident which is the subject of the complaint occurring or within seven (7) days of the identity of the alleged perpetrator being ascertained by the relevant Administration Unit, whichever is the later. A complaint may be made orally but must be confirmed in writing within forty-eight (48) hours thereafter.
- b) If the identity or contact details of the perpetrator is unknown at the time of the incident the Administration Unit will be allowed a maximum of ninety (90) days to identify the alleged perpetrator and take immediate Disciplinary Action under these Rules.
- c) Clubs that refuse to provide contact details of the identity of the perpetrator may be sanctioned.
- d) Upon receipt of a complaint under this Rule by the relevant Administration Unit, it shall make all enquiries it deems necessary to determine whether or not the alleged perpetrator should be the subject of a disciplinary charge. Written notification of the outcome of the enquiries shall be given as soon as practicable and notice of any hearing shall be given within seven (7) business days of the date set for the hearing.

### 5.5.4 COMPLAINT PROCESS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- a) Whenever the relevant Administration Unit decides to charge an alleged perpetrator, it must provide that Person with a written notice ("the Notice") stating:
  - i. details of the nature of the complaint alleged;
  - ii. the evidence that the Administration Unit has had regard to in determining to charge the alleged perpetrator;
  - iii. the date, time and place of the Disciplinary Tribunal meeting to hear the charge;
  - iv. that the Person may present oral and/or photographic and/or video evidence and/or written submissions or any of them to the Tribunal at the hearing on the date specified;
  - v. that the Person, if a Junior (under eighteen (18) years of age), must have a Parent or Primary Care Provider or their Club representative accompany him or her at the hearing.



- b) Where a disciplinary charge relates to the failure to comply with any Rule, policies, procedures or directions of the QRL Board or any other Administration Unit then the Rule, policies, procedures or directions alleged to have been breached must be specified in the notice.
- c) The Person charged may seek and be granted an advancement of the hearing date if the Person so requests and the Disciplinary Tribunal so agrees.
- d) If the Person charged is a registered referee/match official, Player, Coach or staff, Club Official or Spectator 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.
- e) If at the Disciplinary Tribunal hearing evidence is produced of a complaint or complaints not previously disclosed in the Notice, or alternatively the identity of another alleged perpetrator is revealed, the Administration Unit may, within seven (7) days of such hearing, issue a further Notice to the original Person or to another Person. Requirements as to form, content, and period of notice for such further Notice shall be the same as the notice described in the Rule above.

#### 5.5.5 PROCEDURES BEFORE DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

At the Disciplinary Tribunal hearing the Person charged:

- a) must appear in Person unless otherwise determined by a Local League Chairperson having regard to distances to travel and severity of charge.
- b) May appear via electronic means with the prior approval of the tribunal
- c) may be accompanied by either:
  - (i) a non-legally qualified Person appointed by the Person charged e.g. Coach/Manager/Club Representative;
  - (ii) a Person who is legally qualified if in his or her absolute discretion the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Tribunal considers it appropriate to represent the Person charged before the Tribunal.
- d) may also lodge relevant written submissions with the Disciplinary Tribunal at or prior to the hearing.
- e) In the event that the Person charged fails to appear at the hearing without the prior written consent of the Tribunal to an adjournment of the hearing then the Tribunal may either: -
  - proceed with the hearing in the absence of the Person charged; or
  - at its absolute discretion adjourn the hearing until such time as the Person charged does appear.
- f) In the event of the Disciplinary Tribunal adjourning the proceedings under these circumstances the Person charged shall be suspended automatically from participating in the Game until such time as the adjourned hearing is held.



- g) An adjourned Disciplinary Tribunal hearing must be reconvened within seven (7) business days from the original hearing.

#### 5.5.6 RECORDING OF DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL PROCEEDINGS

- a) No Person may record Disciplinary Tribunal hearing proceedings by any recording device without the permission of the Chairperson of the Tribunal.
- b) It is a condition of the granting of permission to record Disciplinary Tribunal hearing proceedings that the use of any information recorded is restricted to the following purposes: -
  - i. Appeals pursuant to these Rules;
  - ii. Court proceedings; or
  - iii. The provision of legal advice.
- c) If a Person records Tribunal hearing proceedings or uses a recording of same for other than the abovementioned purposes the League may institute appropriate disciplinary proceedings against that Person.

#### 5.5.7 DECISIONS OF DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL

Where the Tribunal is satisfied that a charge is proven, the Person/s and/or Club shall be subject to one or more of the following:

- a) reprimand;
- b) a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) only where the Person involved is not a natural Person (fines shall not be applied to natural Persons nor should they apply to non-natural Persons other than in exceptional circumstances where no other penalty is considered appropriate);
- c) suspension from participating in the Game of Rugby League;
- d) De-registration of playing participants in circumstances where non-playing family members are charged.
- e) disqualification from participating in the Game of Rugby League;
- f) expulsion from an Administration Unit or any Sub-ordinate;
- g) loss of premiership points or forfeiture of premiership;
- h) making an order suspending a penalty (in whole or in part) imposed above for such a period of time and on such conditions as the Disciplinary Tribunal thinks fit; and
- i) such further orders or penalties as may be deemed appropriate by a Disciplinary Tribunal at its absolute discretion and inclusive of increased fines for repeat offences.
- j) Decisions of the Disciplinary Tribunal may be made by simple majority.



### 5.5.8 NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS OF THE DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL

- a) Where a Person is found guilty of a charge/s then the following parties are to be notified in writing of the decision, 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 Tribunal: -
  - i. the Person;
  - ii. the Club (where the Person involved is a natural Person);
  - iii. the Local League; and
  - iv. any third party who initiated the referral (if any).
- b) Where a Person is found not guilty of a charge/s those parties referred to above shall be notified accordingly within two (2) business days of the making of the decision by the Tribunal.
- c) Subject to any rights of appeal, all decisions of the Disciplinary Tribunal shall be final and conclusive, are binding on, and shall be given effect to by the parties.
- d) The procedures to be adopted and the conduct of the parties at any hearings convened by Disciplinary Tribunals shall be determined by the Chairperson of that Tribunal. In making its Decision, a Disciplinary Tribunal shall be entitled to admit or reject any evidence, submissions or other material submitted by the parties at the Tribunal's discretion.
- e) Each Disciplinary Tribunal shall determine, at its absolute discretion, whether and to what extent it shall have regard to the rules of evidence applicable in the State of Queensland.

## 5.6 RIGHTS OF APPEAL

The QRL Regions shall appoint three (3) Persons to deal with appeals from decisions of Judiciary and Disciplinary Tribunals.

The QRL Board shall appoint three (3) Independent Persons to deal with Appeals and Disputes only in circumstances where the Appeal or Dispute is based on improper process as defined in these rules. All matters of referral are at the sole discretion of the QRL Chief Executive Officer.

### 5.6.1 JUDICIARY AND DISCIPLINARY DECISIONS

A Person who wishes to dispute a Tribunal Decision from a Judiciary/Disciplinary Tribunal of an

Administration Unit shall adopt the following appeal procedures: -

- a) from a decision of a Local League Judiciary/Disciplinary Tribunal to the Appeals Tribunal
- b) the Appeals Tribunal of the relevant Region grants leave to appeal from its decision because it considers, in its absolute discretion, that the subject of its decision is worthy of referral; and/or



- c) the Appeals Tribunal of the QRL Region has given its consent to hear the Appeal.

The only grounds upon which the Person who has been found guilty by a Local League Judiciary/Disciplinary Tribunal may appeal to the Appeals Tribunal of the relevant Region are:

- a) In the case of a Judiciary Tribunal decision: -

- (i) the player has obtained new or further evidence of which he/she did not know before the conclusion of the hearing before the Judiciary Tribunal, and
- (ii) he/she could not have become aware before the conclusion of the Judiciary/Disciplinary Tribunal hearing after having made all reasonable investigations and enquiries; or
- (iii) the penalty includes a suspension from playing outside the maximum penalties provided in the Base Penalty schedule and is considered by the player to be excessive.

- b) In the case of a Disciplinary Tribunal decision: -

- (i) the Person is dissatisfied with the decision and is able to provide written grounds of appeal which are neither frivolous nor vexatious.

An appeal is to be commenced by lodging a written notice with the relevant QRL Region within ten (10) business days of a Tribunal Decision. In all cases the Region Chairperson has the authority to extend the closing date for exceptional circumstances.

## 5.7 APPEAL PROCEDURES FROM JUDICIARY AND DISCIPLINARY DECISIONS

- a) A notice of appeal from a decision of a Judiciary/Disciplinary Tribunal Rules shall contain a statement of each and every ground upon which the appellant wishes to rely and any fresh evidence which the appellant proposes to call at the appeal.
- 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.
- c) Where the appeal relates to the severity of the sentence imposed upon a player then the appellant shall provide written reasons why the sentence is considered to be excessive
- d) In making its decision, an Appeals Tribunal shall be entitled to accept the material and findings of fact of the Judiciary/Disciplinary Tribunal, as the case may be, being appealed against and admit or reject any other relevant material at its discretion. Each Appeals Tribunal shall determine, at its absolute discretion, whether and to what extent it shall have regard to the rules of evidence applicable in the State of Queensland
- e) Any notice of appeal by a guilty Person shall be accompanied by the following appeal fee
  - i. in the case of an appeal to the relevant Region - \$1000.00





- ii. in the case of an appeal to and Independent QRL Disputes Tribunal - \$2000.00
- f) The Appeals Tribunal will determine whether the appeal fee stands in whole or in part in the event of the appeal being successful.
- g) No party who is subject to proceedings before a Judiciary/Disciplinary Tribunal shall be entitled to institute legal proceedings until such time as they have exhausted all avenues of appeal applicable under these Rules and the decision of the appellate body has been notified to all parties in writing.

#### 5.7.1 AFFECTED PERSONS

- 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. : -
  - i. The guilty Person has in accordance with the Rules of this Part 5 a right of appeal from a duly convened tribunal;
  - ii. The Affected Person has given written notice to the relevant Appeals Tribunal setting out the grounds under which the affected Person considers the punishment to be grossly inadequate; and
  - iii. The Chairperson of the relevant Appeals Tribunal, at his or her absolute discretion, advises in writing within seven (7) business days of receipt of such written notice, that he or she consents to such appeal being heard (hereinafter called "Consent to Appeal").
- b) If Consent to Appeal is given, then such appeal cannot be heard until any appeal lodged by the guilty Person is heard or the time for such appeal has expired.
- 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 appeal notice received after the 2 business days deadline will be considered invalid

In addition to the Consent to Appeal granted above, a further right of appeal by the guilty Person shall arise in the following circumstances: -

- i. The Appeals Tribunal imposes or increases a penalty following the appeal by an Affected Person; and
- ii. The guilty Person did not appeal against the original decision.

Such further appeal shall be heard by the relevant Region Appeals Tribunal unless the decision appealed against is made by a Region Appeals Tribunal in which the case the appeal will be heard by the QRL Appeals Tribunal, if it so consents.

A further appeal by the guilty Person under this Rule is to be commenced by lodging a written notice with the relevant Appeals Tribunal. Time for lodging further appeals and circumstances in which appeals are allowed are as set out above.



At the hearing, the guilty Person and the Affected Person are to be given the opportunity to make oral or written submissions or both.

The guilty person and the Affected Person may be represented at the hearing provided the representative shall not be a legally qualified Person, unless the Tribunal, in its absolute discretion, considers it appropriate.

## 5.8 DISPUTES TRIBUNAL

The QRL Regions shall appoint three (3) Persons to deal with disputes between Administration Units and/or Sub-ordinate Units.

For the purposes of this section a dispute occurs when a Club, Local League or Region (hereinafter called “The Objector”) lodges to a Disputes Tribunal a valid written “Notice of Dispute”.

To be valid the Notice of Dispute must:

- a) be submitted to the relevant Disputes Tribunal within a period of seven (7) business days of the date on which the objector determines that the dispute cannot be resolved between the parties;
- b) provide details of the disagreement between The Objector and another Club, Local League or Region which the objector states cannot be resolved without the intervention of the relevant Disputes Tribunal;
- c) be accompanied by written submissions as to why it is considered the decision was wrong and detailing the relief sought;
- d) be accompanied by a disputes fee of \$1,000.00; and
- e) The Disputes Tribunal will determine whether the appeal fee stands in whole or in part in the event of the matter being found in favour of the Objector.

### 5.8.1 PROCEDURES FOR DISPUTES TRIBUNAL

- a) Upon receipt of a valid Notice of Dispute the Region Manager or the Managing Director of the QRL as the case may be shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, forward the Notice of Dispute to the Administration Unit who made the disputed decision (hereinafter called “the Decision Maker”) requesting a reply within seven (7) business days to the contents of the Notice of Dispute outlining the reasons why the initial decision was made.
- b) After receipt of the Decision Maker’s reply, or seven (7) business days after the request to the Decision Maker, whichever is the earlier, the Disputes Tribunal shall meet and either:
  - i. Rule on the dispute without further reference to any party; or
  - ii. Set a date, time and place for a meeting where the parties can attend in Person, without legal representation, to make further oral submissions to resolve the dispute.



- c) If the relevant Tribunal is satisfied that there is a genuine disagreement between the parties which is capable of resolution, it may refer the matter to an accredited mediator appointed by the Managing Director of the QRL to resolve the dispute by mediation. The costs of mediation shall be borne by the parties equally or as otherwise determined by the mediator.
- d) If mediation fails to resolve the dispute, the Disputes Tribunal is empowered to make a final and binding ruling and both parties to the dispute shall take whatever steps are necessary to give effect to that ruling and there shall be no further right of appeal against the decision of the Tribunal.

## 5.9 STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS

**Those Clubs participating in State-wide Competitions shall abide by the National Rugby League Judiciary Code of Procedure – QRL Edition and the State-wide Operations manual with the below penalty schedule and other documents only applicable to Local League Competitions.**

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## BASE PENALTY SCHEDULE

Revised NRL Penalties table with aligned Amalgamated Penalties

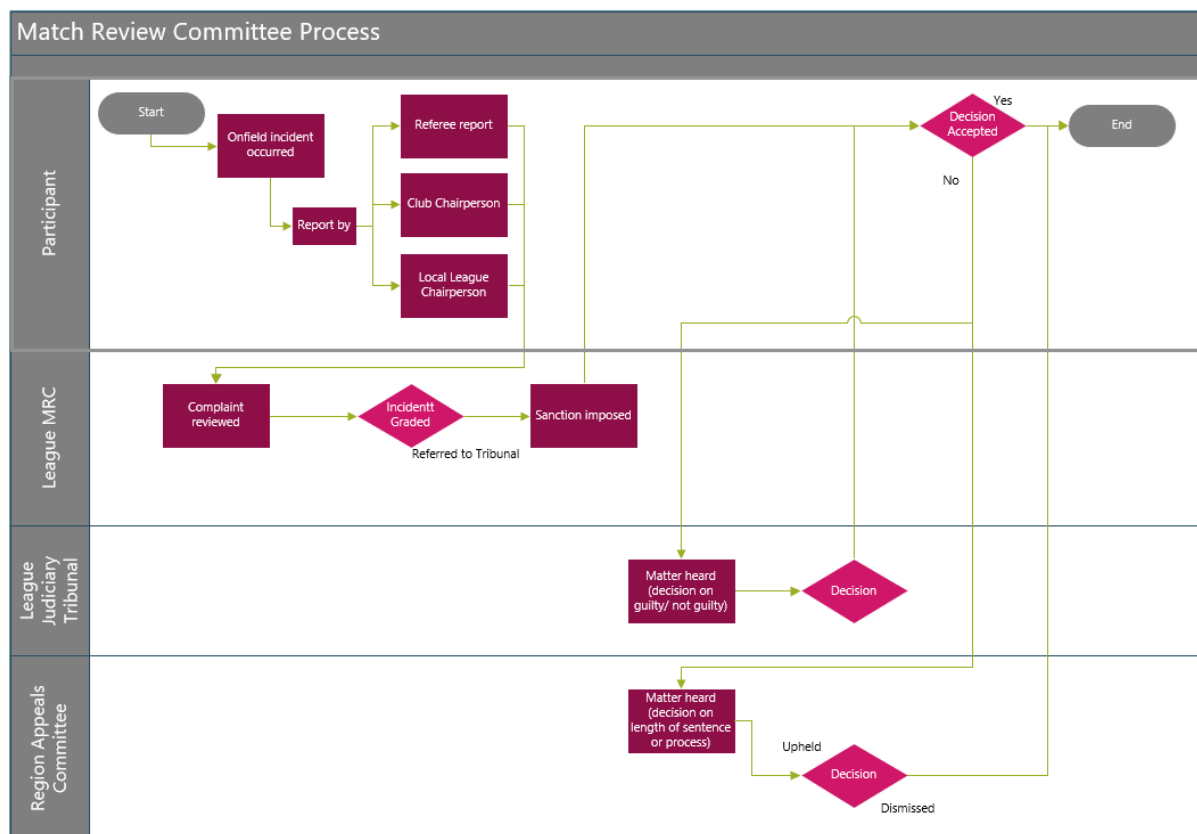
*Note – highlights shaded denote changes from NRL penalties.*

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*



Flow Chart 1





Flow chart 2

