



## PART 4

RULES OF QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL  
LEAGUE LIMITED RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION  
OF

## PLAYERS AND COACHES

QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED  
ACN 009 878 013

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Without limiting the application of the NRL Code of Conduct, all Persons interested, involved or concerned in Rugby League within a Region (including spectators and the public generally) shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the relevant Region in which their interest, involvement or concern is to be found.

## 4.0 PLAYERS

### 4.1.1 CLASSIFICATION OF PLAYERS

In each Football Year, players will be classified as Junior players or Senior players.

### 4.1.2 COMPETITIONS

Competitions will be classified in each Region in accordance with the decision of the Regional Council from time to time as Junior grade and Senior grade.

- a) Unless otherwise determined a Junior grade covers under six (6) years to under eighteen (18) years competitions inclusive.
- b) A Senior grade covers under nineteen (19) years and above competitions.

It is acknowledged that across Leagues under eighteen (18) competitions may be administered by Senior Local Leagues. For the purpose of these Rules any participation in this grade is considered a Junior competition.

### 4.1.3 AGE ELIGIBILITY

A Junior player who will be turning the age of five (5) in the calendar year, in the current year of competition, that player may with the written consent his or her Parent or Primary Care Provider, register in any under six (6) age group competition. This player would remain in the u6 competition in the following year.

A Junior Player is a player who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years and is not otherwise entitled to register under these Rules as a Senior Player.

Any entitlement for a player who has attained the age of 17 years to register as a Senior Player is subject to the following consents, unless they qualify for exemption via rule 4.1.3 (c). Exemption must be obtained at the time of registration and prior to participating in a Senior Competition:

A Junior player is only permitted to register in QRL sanctioned competitions (including Senior Competitions and trial matches) as a Senior Player once the following have been obtained;



- a) Confirmation by the Club that the Junior Player has fulfilled all commitments or is not required to fulfil prior commitments to their Junior Grade competitions,
- b) Written consent to the registration by the Coach, Regional Manager and Parents or Primary Car Provider.
- c) Where a Junior player has attained the age of seventeen (17) years, prior to one (1) July, that player may with the consent of the Club and a Parent or Primary Care Provider, register and play in any Senior grade competition in that year notwithstanding there is no under eighteen (18) competition in that league.

A Senior player is a player who is eligible to complete the standard Senior registration requirements and play in any Senior grade competition.

For the purpose of determining the eligibility of players to play in Junior and Senior grades in a Football Year, the age of the player as at first (1) of January of any given year, shall be the determining factor.

Examples include;

#### **For players 13, 14 and 15**

A player that is turning fourteen (14) during any calendar year where there is a fifteen (15) group is eligible to play in any under fourteen (14) or under fifteen (15) Junior competitions but not the sixteen (16) age group.

A player that is turning fourteen (14) during any calendar year where there is no under fifteen (15) age group is eligible to play in any under fourteen (14) age group competition.

A player that has turned fourteen (14) in the calendar year where there is no under fifteen (15) age group is eligible to play in any under sixteen (16) age group competition.

#### **For players turning 16, 17 and 18**

A player turning sixteen (16) during any calendar year is eligible to play in any under sixteen (16) or eighteen (18) Junior competitions providing there is no seventeen (17) age group.

#### **Tag Age Competitions**

The same age considerations apply for Tag competitions eg for registered u7 League Tag participants - Players are not eligible to play in the u8 Tackle competition



For eligibility outside these guidelines, approval can be sought from the Region Manager.

Where a junior player plays Junior grade and Senior grade in a Football Year, the player must fulfil the appropriate Junior and/or Senior grades finals qualifying Rules of the Region and/or the Local League to play in the finals.

Players in competitions offering participation across all junior age groups may be eligible to apply for an 18 Month Registration Window following the prescribed process established by the Local League or Region.

Players in competitions offering participation in every second age group (e.g. U/6, U/8, U/10, U/12) may be eligible to apply for a 15 Month Registration Window following the prescribed process established by the Local League or Region.

#### 4.1.4 REGISTRATION

Subject to the following provisions of this Part 4, a Club shall be able to deal with registration of players (both Junior and Senior players) by way of Online Registration or by any other form that is approved by the QRL.

#### 4.1.5 PLAYER PERMITS

Players requesting a Permit to play across multiple competitions in Queensland must seek the following approvals:

- a) Obtain approval to permit to another Club from their 'Primary Club' and 'Primary League.'
- b) Obtain approval to permit with the 'Secondary League.' That is, the League responsible for the competition in which the player desires to play.

*Note that for State-wide Competitions, 'Secondary League' approval is provided at the discretion of the QRL State-wide Competition Manager.*

- c) Players that are approved for a permit must meet the minimum requirement for Finals Qualification as prescribed in the relevant Local League Rules or State-wide Competition Manual prior to participating in any Finals Series.
- d) All permit requests and approvals are administered through the My Sideline Database and are at the sole discretion of the 'Primary Club', 'Primary League' and 'Secondary League' with no appeal process available via QRL.
- e) Permitted players are eligible to participate in both competitions in the same weekend and both matches will count to finals qualifications.



- f) Permitted players who meet the minimum requirement for finals qualification must select to participate in either of the primary and secondary clubs competition final series. However the relevant Regional Managers' may grant an exemption at their discretion to allow players to participate in both primary and secondary competitions final series.

#### 4.1.6 FINALS QUALIFICATION

A player that is primary registered to a State-Wide 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 or as per the final qualification rules of the local league.

#### 4.1.7 JUNIOR REGISTRATION

A Junior player who is eligible or exempt and desires to play in a Senior grade will, prior to participation, complete and sign a Senior Player Registration which must contain the signed consent of the player's Parent or Sole Primary Care Provider.

Any player who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years shall complete the necessary registration process approved by the QRL and applied by the relevant Administration Unit.

When a junior player:

- a) initially registers to play with a Club; or
- b) transfers from one Club to another Club; or
- c) has not registered with a Club for an entire season or was not registered with a QRL Registered Club for the preceding season; or
- d) changes name;
- e) changes Primary Care Provider

The player must complete the registration process approved by the QRL including a Parent or Primary Care Provider's consent to play in Junior grade matches and/or Senior grade matches if applicable and produce evidence of date of birth.

A junior player's Parent or Primary Care Provider who consented to the most recent registration or who can provide evidence that of being the player's Primary Care Provider or Parent may terminate the registration of the player. Where a dispute has arisen between Parents or Primary Care Providers relating to the Players registration, then the relevant Region Manager may cause the registration application to be terminated. Alternatively, the Region Manager



may require both Primary Care Providers or Parents to consent to a modified form of registration.

Where an eligible Junior player desires to play in a Junior grade from under seventeen (17) years and above for a team which is controlled by a Senior Rugby League Football Club, the Junior player must register to play via a process approved by the QRL.

Where an eligible Junior player desires to play in a Senior grade, the Junior player shall be required to register to play via a process approved by the QRL.

#### 4.1.8 TRANSFER OF JUNIOR REGISTRATION

In any Football Year, a Club participating in a QRL Competition shall not register more than five (5) Junior players in any one Junior age group or Senior grade who in the preceding Football Year were registered to play rugby league with another QRL affiliated Club. Of these five (5) Junior players, no more than two (2) shall be from any one (1) Junior Rugby League Football Club.

For players aged 17 - 19, a Junior Representative player as defined in these rules is a player who has played in a QRL performance program delivered by a State-Wide Competitions Club or equivalent. These players shall not be eligible to apply for a transfer of registration in the Football season following the participation as a Junior Representative player unless otherwise determined by the relevant Regional Manager.

Rules relating to the transfer of Junior registration for players aged 13-15 must be defined in the accepted rules of the relevant Local League.

Administration of these rules is at the discretion of the Local League via a competitions committee with no avenue for appeal via the relevant Region.

#### 4.1.9 SENIOR PLAYER REGISTRATION

All Senior players shall complete the registration process as approved by the QRL and administered by the relevant Administration Unit for each Football Year in which the player desires to play. QRL existing Player Agreements made before the adoption of these Part 4 Rules shall not be affected by these Rules.

#### 4.1.10 SENIOR PLAYER AGREEMENT

All other terms and conditions negotiated between a Club or Local League and a Senior player covering any form of payment or some other inducement must be reduced to writing and included as an annexure to the completed and signed:



- a) State-Wide Competitions Player Agreement; or
- b) Local League Player Agreement before it will be recognised by the QRL.

All players receiving any form of payment or some other inducement that are in breach of their player agreement must be noted on the national database as a defaulter prior to October 31.

All teams, Clubs, Local Leagues or Regions that are party to a Player Agreement must adhere to and comply with the provisions of these Rules.

By entering into a Player Agreement, the player acknowledges and agrees to adhere to and comply with the provisions of these Rules.

If there is a discrepancy between the player and the club who are party to any Player Agreement, such dispute must be referred to the Region Manager in accordance with the provisions defined by Clause 4.1.12 of these Rules.

The QRL and its Administration Units accept no responsibility for the improper implementation or supervision of these Rules (other than in the case of fraud or gross negligence).

#### 4.1.11 CONDITIONS

A player is entitled to enter into a Player Agreement with any Club, Local League or Region for a minimum period of one (1) Football Year, providing the player does not have an existing Player Agreement or existing player registration or has failed to fulfil any financial obligations to any Club, Local League or Region.

#### 4.1.12 RENEWAL OF SENIOR PLAYER AGREEMENTS

The Player Agreement may contain an option or options for the renewal of the Player Agreement by the Club or Local League, if it has been agreed upon with the player, provided that:-

- a) the conditions of the option/s are laid down clearly; and
- b) the original term of any Player Agreement will be for a minimum period of one (1) Football Year.

#### 4.1.13 INTERPRETATION OF PLAYER AGREEMENT

All Player Agreements will be considered binding for the period unless this agreement is breached by either the Club or the player.





All differences between a Club (other than a Club involved in the State-Wide Competition) or Local League and the player with regard to any condition of any Player Agreement will be interpreted by the Region Manager. The Region Manager will request the applicable signed copies of the Player Agreement and determine any interpretation on this basis, with advice accordingly of the decision to both parties. This decision by a Region Manager in turn will be subject to a right of appeal to the QRL if the QRL agrees, at its absolute discretion, to entertain such an appeal.

#### 4.1.14 PLAYER PAYMENT PROVISIONS

- a) All monies payable to or on behalf of a player for a Football Year in which the player participate under a Player Agreement, must be paid by thirty-one (31) December following that Football Year unless a later date is agreed to, in writing, by all parties in that Agreement.
- b) The total of all monies payable under a) of this Rule must be included in the audited Profit and Loss Statement of the Club or the Local League for that Financial Year operation.
- c) If there is a dispute between the Player and the Club or the Local League as to monies payable, the Player must be paid all monies other than those in dispute which shall be treated as outlined in a) & b) of this Rule.
- d) Where a player has not been paid all monies owing by a Club or a Local League as outlined in this Rule 4.1.12 and that player has an Agreement with the Club or the Local League for the following Football Year, this Agreement may be terminated by the player notifying the Club or the Local League in writing of his or her decision to terminate the Agreement by fifteenth (15) January of the following Football Year.
- e) In the event of termination by the player in the manner set out above, the player will be at liberty to recover money owing under the Agreement and/or seek damages for breach of contract through the appropriate legal process.
- f) If a Club or a Local League is in default under this Rule, the QRL, the Region or the Local League may refuse to accept an affiliation agreement from the Club or the Local League and/or may preclude the Club or the Local League from participating in a competition under the control of the QRL, the Region or the Local League.

#### 4.1.15 REFUSAL OF REGISTRATIONS

- a) Any player lodging a Junior or Senior Player registration online or who has completed and signed a Player Agreement with a Team, Club or Local League whilst the player has a current Player registration or a Player Agreement with any other Team, Club or Local League will be in breach of these rules and the latter Player registration or the latter



Player Agreement will be null and void. If there is any dispute as to the time of registration/execution of the foregoing details, the Region Manager shall make an appropriate ruling as to which is the latter and such decision will be final and binding.

- b) An exemption to this Rule may be approved by the relevant Region where the Manager (or Competitions Manager in the case of the State-Wide Competitions) considers in absolute discretion that the player's circumstances comply with the QRL's policy on dual registration as circulated in writing from time to time.
- c) A Junior player who is eligible or exempt and desires to play in a Senior grade will, prior to participation, complete and sign a Senior Player Registration which must contain the signed consent of the player's Parent or Sole Primary Care Provider.
- d) If a player is under eighteen (18) years of age at the date of signing the Player Agreement the Player's Parent or Sole Primary Care Provider shall also sign the Player Agreement.

#### 4.1.16 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The QRL and Local Leagues specifically reserve the right to a) refuse to register any Player b) cancel any existing registration (whether Junior or Senior) where any one or more of the following circumstances apply:-

- a) the player has failed to complete all compulsory fields in the Player Registration procedure,
- b) the player has been suspended from playing in a competition under the administration of the QRL for a period of not less than twelve (12) months,
- c) the player is currently serving a suspension or has been refused registration from within rugby league or a recognised governing body of any other sport,
- d) the player has been suspended from playing in a competition for a period of more than eight (8) weeks on more than two (2) occasions in any three (3) consecutive Football Years,
- e) the player's Parent, Primary Care Provider or other family members are sanctioned for breaching the NRL Code of Conduct or any endorsed positive behaviour program,
- f) the player has struck a Referee or any other Official either on or off the field of play,
- g) the player has been convicted of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under the NRL anti-doping rules,



- h) the player has been convicted of a criminal offence punishable at law to a period of imprisonment of more than twelve (12) months,
- i) any player that has been charged with a criminal offence can be refused registration until the outcome of the charges has been finalised,
- j) the player has committed a material breach of the QRL Rules and / or QRL Code of Conduct,
- k) the player has not completed the necessary process for initiating a clearance or release from a previous Club, including international clearance requirements, or
- l) the player, at the sole discretion of the QRL, is deemed to not adhere to the beliefs of the QRL.

Any decision to refuse to register a player pursuant to the provisions of this Rule shall be reviewable as a disciplinary matter under Part 5 of these Rules.

#### 4.1.17 MEDICAL CLEARANCE (Aged Players)

A Person who is reaching the age of forty (40) years or is at the age of 40 in that Football Year and desires to participate in a Game under these Rules must provide to the relevant Registration Unit a certificate or report prior to participating in any Game, training session or carnival each year.

The certificate or report must be issued by a Medical Practitioner registered in Queensland stating:

- a) that the Person is medically fit to participate in Rugby League; and
- b) such other qualifications, terms and conditions as may be required by the QRL's insurance provider as part of the registration process.

#### 4.1.18 REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY LEAGUE

- a) If a player is called up or selected to play with any Australian, Queensland, Region, Local League, Representative or State-wide Competition team, the player's services will be lent temporarily by the Club to the NRL, QRL or the Administration Unit using the player registration system approved by the QRL.
- b) If the player's name is included in the official list of representative players selected to train or play, this will be sufficient notice to the player, team, Club or Local League concerned that the player's services are needed.



- c) If any player, after being selected or called up to train or play with any Australian, Queensland, Region, Local League, Representative or Trial Football team, refuses without just cause acceptable to the QRL or the Administration Unit as defined by these Rules, the player will be suspended immediately for two (2) Club competition matches for and may be further suspended, fined, disqualified or dealt with by the QRL or the Administration Unit.

## 4.2 COACHES

### 4.2.1 QUALIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION

A person appointed by a Club to any coaching position with a team/s in that club must at the time of appointment hold a current minimum NRL Coach Accreditation Certificate for that applicable age /grade.

Where, at the time of appointment, the person appointed does not hold an Accreditation Certificate then they must, prior to being permitted by the club to actively supervise any coaching sessions:

- a) register via the approved registration platform as a volunteer coach,
- b) complete the age-appropriate online learning modules via the approved platform,
- c) register and pay for the relevant face to face coaching course as required and prior to June 30, and
- d) attend and successfully participate in a face-to-face component of the relevant coaching course within that Football Year.
- e) hold a current Blue or Exemption Card in relation to working with children in accordance with the provisions of the State legislation where this role is being performed.

**(No team is to participate in trial games, competition fixtures or training without a coach identified on the National Database and compliant with the above.)**

An NRL Coach Accreditation Certificate must be lodged with the club to confirm completion of the on-line modules noting that an exception to the above timeframes can be provided at the discretion of the relevant Region Manager.

A person appointed by a club to any coaching position must complete or maintain current accreditation requirements in each Football Year. Failure to complete or maintain current accreditation will result in automatic withdrawal of appointment to the coaching position and the QRL insurance cover will lapse.



#### 4.2.2 COACH AGREEMENT

All other terms and conditions negotiated between a Club or Local League and a Coach covering any form of payment or some other inducement must be reduced to writing and included as an annexure to the completed and signed senior Coach Agreement before it will be recognised by the QRL.

Failure to comply with the above provisions of this clause by **thirty (30) September** in a Football Year in which the coach participated, will result in those separate terms and conditions being excluded from any interpretation or enforcement by the QRL.

Such agreement will be in the approved format published by the QRL and amended from time to time or in any other format which is acceptable to both the coach and the club, and this is duly executed by both parties.

All teams, Clubs, Local Leagues or Regions that are party to a coach agreement must adhere to and comply with the provisions of these Rules.

By entering into a coach agreement, the coach acknowledges and agrees to adhere to and comply with provisions of these Rules.

If there is a discrepancy between the coach and the club who are party to any Coach Agreement, such dispute must be referred to the Region Manager in accordance with the provisions defined by Clause 4.2.4 of these Rules.

The QRL and its Administration Units accept no responsibility for the improper implementation or supervision of these coach's Rules (other than in the case of fraud or gross negligence).

A coach is entitled to enter into an Agreement with any Club, Local League or Region for a minimum period of one (1) Football Year, providing the coach does not have: -

- a) an existing coach's agreement,
- b) an existing coach's registration,
- c) has failed to fulfil any financial obligations to any Club, Local League or Region,
- d) an exemption at the discretion of the Region Manager may be available where a coach is registered to coach across multiple grades or across senior and junior clubs and/or representative programs, or
- e) a current suspension from within rugby league or a recognised governing body of any other sport.



Any coach signing a Coach's Agreement with a team, Club or Local League whilst the coach has a coach's agreement with any other team, Club or Local League will be in breach of these Rules and the latter coach's agreement will be null and void.

If a coach is under eighteen (18) years of age at the date of signing the Coach's Agreement the Coach's Parent or Primary Care Provider shall also sign the Coach's Agreement.

The QRL and Local Leagues have the right to refuse to register any Coach's Agreement which has not been correctly completed and signed.

***An exception at the discretion of the Region Manager may be available where a coach is registered across multiple grades or across senior and junior clubs and/or representative programs.***

4.2.3 REFUSAL OF COACH REGISTRATION (including Sports Trainers, LeagueSafe, Assistant Coaches and any other team related staff).

The QRL together with the Regions and Local Leagues specifically reserve the right to refuse to register any Coach where any one or more of the following circumstances apply:-

- a) the coach has failed to complete all compulsory fields in the Coach Registration procedure,
- b) the coach has been suspended from coaching in a QRL administered competition for a period of not less than twelve (12) months,
- c) the coach is currently serving a suspension from any other sport under the control of a recognised governing body,
- d) the coach has struck a Referee or any other Official either on or off the field of play,
- e) the coach has been convicted of drug use under the NRL anti-doping rules,
- f) the coach has been convicted of a criminal offence punishable at law to a period of imprisonment of more than twelve (12) months,or
- g) the coach has committed a material breach of the QRL Code of Conduct.

Any coach that has criminal charges pending against them can be refused registration until the outcome of the charges has been finalised.



Any decision to refuse to register a coach pursuant to the provisions of this Rule 4.2.3 shall be reviewable as a disciplinary matter under Part 5 of these Rules.

#### 4.2.4 COACH PAYMENT PROVISIONS

- a) All monies payable to a coach for a Football Year in which the coach performed duties under a coach's agreement must be paid by thirty-one (31) December of that Football Year unless a later date is agreed to, in writing, by all parties in that agreement.
- b) The total of all monies payable under paragraph a) of this Rule must be included in the audited financial statements of the Club or the Local League for that Financial Year's operation.
- c) If there is a genuine dispute between the coach and the Club or the Local League as to monies payable, the coach must be paid all monies other than those in dispute which shall be treated as outlined in paragraphs a) & b) of this Rule 4.2.4.
- d) Where a coach has not been paid all monies owing by a Club or a Local League as outlined in this Rule and that coach has a coach's agreement with the Club or the Local League for the following Football Year, this agreement may be terminated by the coach notifying the Club or the Local League in writing of the decision to terminate the agreement by the fifteen (15) January of the following Football Year.
- e) In the event of termination by the coach in the manner set out above, the coach will also be at liberty to institute proceedings to recover money owing under the agreement and/or seek damages for breach of contract.
- f) If a Club or a Local League is in default under this Rule, the QRL, the Region or the Local League may refuse to accept an affiliation agreement from the Club or the Local League and/or may preclude the Club or the Local League from participating in a competition under the control of the QRL, the Region or the Local League.

#### 4.2.5 INTERPRETATION OF COACH AGREEMENT

All differences between a Club (other than a Club involved in the State-Wide Competition) or Local League and the coach with regard to any condition of a coach agreement (where such written agreement exists) will be interpreted by the Region Manager. The Region Manager will request the applicable signed copies of the coach agreement and determine any interpretation on this basis, with advice accordingly of the decision to both parties. This decision by a Region Manager in turn will be subject to a right of appeal to the QRL if the QRL agrees, at its absolute discretion, to entertain such an appeal.



#### 4.3 STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR COACHES AND PLAYERS

All coaches and players must;

- a) wear and use only approved clothing and equipment at training and in matches and at such times as directed by the team management,
- b) not wear or display any unauthorised commercial logo on any article of clothing or equipment whilst at training, in matches or at any other such time as directed by the team managements,
- c) maintain their personal appearance and dress in public at a standard determined by the QRL when representing the administration unit for which the coach or player has been selected or appointed,
- d) accept all reasonable direction of the relevant team management,
- e) not, without the approval of the relevant Region Manager or nominee, write a column for publication in any newspaper or publish statements through any media source. Provided that such approval shall not at any time be unreasonably withheld and shall be deemed to continue until withdrawn by the relevant Region Manager or nominee,
- f) not at any time, make any comment, in any publication whether written, televised or broadcast through social medium, which is determined to be detrimental to the interests, welfare or image of the Game,
- g) not during the course of or after a match under the jurisdiction of the QRL, a Region or a Local League, breach the National Code of Conduct adopted by the QRL and published from time to time at [www.qrl.com.au](http://www.qrl.com.au), nor abuse or address a referee, a touch judge or other match officials in insulting terms or act in a provocative manner towards such persons,
- h) not engage in any conduct detrimental to the spirit or image of the Game,
- i) at all times behave in public in a professional manner and must not engage in any public acts of misconduct or unruly behaviour whilst representing the QRL, a Region, a Local League, Club or otherwise, and
- j) not vilify any other person whilst representing the QRL, a Region, a Local League or Club. Vilification includes acting or speaking in a manner which is intended to offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify another person on the basis of the person's race, religion, colour, sex or sexual preferences, impairment or national or ethnic origin.





#### 4.4 DRUG TESTING

It is a strict requirement for registration or appointment as a Sub-ordinate in any Game administered by the QRL that the Sub-ordinate subjects to the NRL Leagues Anti-Doping Policy (2023) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Policy as may be amended from time to time and published from time to time at [www.qrl.com.au](http://www.qrl.com.au).

All Sub-ordinates must make themselves familiar with the Anti-Doping Rules and all club secretaries must make available a copy of such Anti-Doping Rules to any Sub-ordinate upon demand.

All relevant Sub-ordinates must submit to all drug and performance enhancing testing as required by the Anti-Doping Rules.

In the event that the Sub-ordinate has committed an offence as provided by the Anti-Doping Rules, that Sub-ordinate will be subject to those penalties determined to apply by the QRL Drugs Tribunal.