



2026 STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS

OPERATIONS MANUAL



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1. ADMISSION PRICES

- 1.1. Each club shall be responsible for assigning ticket prices for their home matches. Such fees shall be subject to a maximum fee for general admission. Higher fees can be charged for Premium Seating & Corporate.
 - Hostplus Cup and BMD Premiership matches a maximum fee of \$15.00
 - Harvey Norman u19s / Mal Meninga Cup / Cyril Connell Cup / Harvey Norman u17s stand-alone matches a maximum fee of \$10.00
 - Where a Harvey Norman u19s / Mal Meninga Cup and or Cyril Connell Cup / Harvey Norman u17s match is held in conjunction with a Hostplus Cup and/or BMD Premiership match, entry fee shall be subject to a maximum fee of \$15.00 for general admission tickets.
- 1.2. Aged, invalid and service pensions (concessions) shall be recognised by all clubs. Such fees shall be subject to a maximum fee for a general admission ticket for those persons eligible for an aged, invalid or service pension.
 - Hostplus Cup and BMD Premiership matches a maximum fee of \$7.00
 - Harvey Norman u19s / Mal Meninga Cup and or Cyril Connell Cup / Harvey Norman u17s stand-alone matches a maximum fee of \$5.00
 - Where a Harvey Norman u19s / Mal Meninga Cup and or Cyril Connell Cup / Harvey Norman u17s match is held in conjunction with a Hostplus Cup and/or BMD Premiership match, entry fee for concessions shall be subject to a maximum fee of \$7.00 for general admission tickets.
- 1.3. Children under the age of 15 years shall be permitted entry into general admission areas for all matches free of charge.
- 1.4. QRL season passes shall be recognised by all clubs during premiership rounds and finals series matches (excluding Grand Finals). Entry shall be subject to the terms and conditions printed on the passes.

2. BALL PERSONS

- 2.1. Ball persons must be a minimum of 10 years of age and be registered via the National Registration database as a volunteer to be covered under the club's insurance.
- 2.2. Clubs must ensure appropriate supervision of all ball persons under the age of 18 at all times on match days.
- 2.3. A maximum of four (4) ball persons may be used during each match. Each club shall be entitled to appoint two (2) each.
- 2.4. The visiting club may request the home team to make available a maximum of two (2) persons to act for the visiting club in the role of ball persons.
- 2.5. Ball persons must place and leave the ball on the touchline at the point where the ball crossed the line and next to the touch judge. Ball persons MUST NOT under any circumstances, throw the ball into the field of play or to a Player close to the touch line.
- 2.6. Ball persons who enter the field of play to deliver kicking tees may only do so at a stoppage of play and must leave the field of play immediately after its delivery. After the kick has been taken, a trainer must remove it from the field.
- 2.7. Trainers, rather than ball persons, must retrieve the kicking tee after any kick off to restart play.
- 2.8. Minimum clothing requirements for ball persons are two (2) set of shorts, socks and shirts / jerseys in colours that do not clash with either team's playing attire. In wet weather, clear plastic coats should be provided by the home team.
- 2.9. The club's sponsor's logos may be displayed on the shirt / jersey except for alcohol product logos.

USE OF MOTORISED VEHICLES

- 2.10. Upon written application, the Competitions Manager (or their nominee) may approve the use of motor bikes or similar motorised vehicles for the purpose of conveying kicking tees and/or sand onto the field of play.



The following provisions for the use of these vehicles must always be strictly adhered to:

- 2.11. The vehicles may only be taken onto the field when the ball is out of play for an attempt at conversion following a try, a penalty kick at goal, and starts of play from the 50-metre line but must immediately return to outside the field of play.
- 2.12. The vehicles may not enter the field of play in any other circumstances (e.g. a penalty place kick for touch, or a 20-metre restart).
- 2.13. The vehicles may only deliver the kicking tee to the kicker. They must immediately leave the field and return to the approved position where these vehicles must be parked when not in use, as outlined in [2.19](#).
- 2.14. Under no circumstances are the vehicles to stay on the field until the kick has been taken (i.e. a trainer must retrieve the tee after the kick).
- 2.15. The riders or drivers must always be mature and competent enough to operate the vehicles safely.
- 2.16. The operation of the vehicle is to be under the constant management and supervision of a club official.
- 2.17. The vehicles are not to be used in any manner that could potentially pose a risk of injury to players or on-field officials.
- 2.18. The vehicles must always be operated responsibly and take the most direct route on and off the field.
- 2.19. When not on the field, the vehicles must be kept at a safe distance from the touch line and not impede the access or movement of other officials (e.g. touch judges, trainers, media etc.)
- 2.20. The vehicles must be well maintained and not cause any excessive noise or visual pollution when in use.
- 2.21. The QRL reserves the right to withdraw approval for the use of such vehicles, without cause, at any time.

3. BLEEDING PLAYERS & HYGIENE

BLEEDING PLAYER PROCEDURE

- 3.1. The following procedure will apply in all cases where a player is bleeding on their person, clothing or equipment has been contaminated by blood.
 - i. If the referee notices a bleeding or blood contaminated player, they will immediately stop play and call 'time-out' and signal to the team trainer to attend to the player.
 - ii. The team trainer will immediately enter the field of play to assess whether the player can be quickly treated on the field or whether the player will require treatment off the field.
 - iii. If the trainer advises that the player can be treated on the field, the referee will instruct the player to drop out behind play for that purpose and the match will immediately recommence.
 - iv. If the trainer advises the referee that they will have to treat the player off the field, the match will not restart until the player has left the field. The player may be interchanged, or alternatively the team can elect to temporarily play with 12 players. (Note: other than for the initial assessment, the match will not be held up while the bleeding player receives treatment or is interchanged).
 - v. If the referee stops play twice for the same player and the same wound, the player must be taken from the field for treatment and either interchanged or the team may elect to play on with 12 players until the bleeding player returns.
 - vi. The referee will hold the game up to replace a bleeding player, but a trainer must first advise the referee that an interchange is going to take place.
 - vii. If a bleeding player has left the field for treatment and is not interchanged, the player may return to the field of play at any time provided the player does so from an on-side position. If the bleeding player has been interchanged, the player may only return to the field through the interchange official as a normal interchange player.
 - viii. A bleeding player returning to the field of play who has not been interchanged, is not to be regarded as a replacement / interchange player and therefore may take a kick for goal. Conversely, a bleeding player returning to the field of play who has been interchanged may not take a kick for goal at that time.



STITCHING / STAPLING

- 3.2. Any player who is bleeding and requires treatment by way of either stitches, stapling or otherwise, must be taken to the team dressing room or shared medical facility so this procedure can be conducted out of the view of the general public.
- 3.3. After the treatment, the wound must be bandaged or covered to protect the injury, to eliminate the risk of further bleeding and to prevent the potential risk of transmission of blood-borne infectious diseases.

CONTAMINATED CLOTHING

- 3.4. In any case where a player's person, clothing or equipment has been contaminated by blood, whether through a wound to himself or through contact with a wounded player, the referee shall direct the team trainer to enter the field of play to attend to that player by taking immediate steps to ensure that the player is free of any blood contamination before that player shall be permitted by the referee to re-join play. Until those steps have been taken, the player shall, at the minimum, drop out behind play.
- 3.5. Minor occasions of contaminated clothing and/or equipment should be treated with a solution of 15mls of household detergent and 17mls of household bleach.
- 3.6. All but minor occasions of contaminated clothing or equipment will require the replacement of such clothing or equipment prior to the player re-entering the field of play.

HYGIENE

- 3.7. Players should be made aware of the potential danger of transferring infectious diseases, e.g. Hepatitis A, B and C and HIV.
- 3.8. Spitting is not permitted, except in specified controlled areas.
- 3.9. Contaminated and blood-stained articles and dressings are to be placed in appropriate 'contaminated waste' disposal bags.
- 3.10. Dressing room floors should be cleaned and swept prior to the team leaving the room after every match.
- 3.11. Players must not share drink containers. Each player should have their own drink container. Shared drink containers may transmit disease.

4. CANCELLATION, POSTPONEMENT, ABANDONMENT, FORFEIT

- 4.1. All Statewide Competition matches may only be cancelled, delayed, postponed or abandoned with the prior approval of the Competitions Manager.
- 4.2. If the referee suspends play and the match is cancelled or abandoned there shall be no replay.
- 4.3. If half or more of the match has been completed, the score at the time of the suspension of play in the match will be the result for the purpose of determining the Competition Points Table.
- 4.4. If less than half of the match has been completed, the match shall be declared drawn and one (1) point awarded to each of the teams. For Competition Points Table purposes, the score for the match will be recorded as 0-0.
- 4.5. If any team is unable to play a scheduled match, due to extenuating prior circumstances and it cannot be replayed, and with prior approval from the Competitions Manager, then that match will be declared drawn and one (1) point awarded to each of the teams. For Competition Points Table purposes, the score for the match will be recorded as 0-0.
- 4.6. If any team forfeits a match, the forfeiting team shall be allocated zero (0) points, and the team receiving the forfeit shall be allocated two (2) points. For Competition Points Table purposes, a score of 40-0 shall be awarded to the non-forfeiting team. The forfeiting club may be liable for any costs incurred from the fixture that cannot be recovered or credited. This may include flights, buses, accommodation and meals.



- 4.7. Preliminary matches such as Harvey Norman u19s / Mal Meninga Cup / Cyril Connell Cup / Harvey Norman u17s which, due to serious injury or other delay, encroach on the next scheduled game, may be abandoned after receiving authorisation from the Competitions Manager (or their nominee). The result of such match shall be determined by applying the procedures outlined in sections [4.3](#), [4.4](#) and [4.5](#).
- 4.8. Where preliminary matches are played under the jurisdiction of a Local League or other governing body the abandonment and procedures of such abandonment will be the responsibility of the Local League or other relevant governing body.
- 4.9. Emergency circumstances include:
- i. A natural disaster such as an earthquake, flood or fire.
 - ii. A situation where the safety of players or match officials is potentially or actually at risk such as lightning, or extreme heat.
 - iii. Where scheduled transport for one of the teams for the playing of the match is delayed or cancelled.
 - iv. Such other circumstances deemed to be an emergency by the Competitions Manager (or their nominee). This may include, but not limited to, Queensland Government COVID restrictions.
- 4.10. If any such occurrence arises, the procedure shall be as follows:
- i. The Competitions Manager (or their nominee), in conjunction with the referee and both team's management will make any decision on the postponing or cancelling of any scheduled game;
 - ii. After the commencement of a competition match, a referee may temporarily suspend play if, in their view, continuation of play would place the safety of Players and/or the Match Officials at risk.
 - iii. If a game is to be delayed due to severe weather conditions, a decision will be made on the length of delay.
 - iv. Where a game is in progress and is stopped due to an emergency, the following steps must be taken:
 - o As the emergency is a 'time out', a direction will be given by the referee regarding field position, possession and the number of the tackle, at the time of cessation of play;
 - o If the game re-commences within a reasonable time, play will continue as with any 'time out' – with the same field position, possession and the next tackle count.
 - o Alternatively, the current game and any subsequent games may be played with no time off until scheduled match times can be met.
 - o If the game cannot be continued, the circumstances shall be reported to the Competitions Manager (or their nominee).

5. CHILD SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD SAFETY COMMITMENT

- 5.1. Queensland Rugby League (QRL) is committed to promoting and protecting the safety, wellbeing and participation of all children and young people involved in Statewide Competitions. QRL has zero tolerance for child abuse, neglect, grooming or any form of harm and is recognised as a Child Safe Entity under the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024. This commitment applies to all players, coaches, officials, volunteers, staff and clubs across all competition environments including match days, training, travel, accommodation, change rooms and online platforms. All child safety concerns must be taken seriously and reported in accordance with QRL safeguarding policies and procedures.
- 5.2. For further reference [click here](#) (currently being finalised)
- 5.3. To report any concerns, please [click here](#)

6. COGNITIVE TESTING

- 6.1. Each player in all Statewide Competitions is to undergo two Baseline Cognitive and Concussion Tests, via Cognigram and MyMedical or any other platform as instructed by the QRL. Two separate tests are required – one for long term player health and one for immediate match day assessment and return to play.
- 6.2. Baseline testing must take place prior to the player taking the field in any trials or competition matches, and preferably before the Christmas break.
- 6.3. All players shall be required to complete the relevant (Junior or Senior) mandatory online education module prior to taking the field in any trial or competition match, detailed in [section 39](#).
- 6.4. Refer to [Appendix 5](#) for additional information and procedures.



7. COIN TOSS AND TEAM RUN-ON

- 7.1. Captains of each team, or their nominated player representative, are required to take part in the coin toss in the presence of the match referee before each team's warm-up. Ideally, this will take place 45mins prior to scheduled kick off
- 7.2. The toss may be broadcast (at the discretion of the host broadcaster), and captains are required to comply with any reasonable requests from the host broadcaster for a brief interview immediately after the toss has been completed.
- 7.3. In all cases the visiting team will take the field first when directed by the QRL Ground Manager or Match Officials, followed by the home team also when directed by the QRL Ground Manager or Match Officials.
- 7.4. Team Officials must adhere to requests of Game Day Operations Team members regarding entry or return to the field of play to meet scheduled game times.

8. COMPETITION FORMAT

- 8.1. The Hostplus Cup and the BMD Premiership are open aged competitions for players attaining a minimum age of 18 years in the year of competition. Players turning 17 years' in the year of the competition can apply for a written exemption to the Competitions Manager via their relevant Hostplus Cup or BMD Premiership Head Coach and CEO. ***Training program to start no earlier than the week commencing 10th November 2025.***
- 8.2. The Harvey Norman u19s is a restricted age competition for female players who will turn 17, 18 or 19 years' in the year of the competition (i.e. players born in 2007, 2008 or 2009). Players born in 2009 must complete their obligations in the U17s before requesting approval to progress to Harvey Norman u19s. ***Training program to start no earlier than the week commencing 10th November 2025.***
- 8.3. The Mal Meninga Cup is a restricted age competition for male players who will turn 17, 18 or 19 years' in the year of the competition (i.e. players born in 2007, 2008 or 2009). Players born in 2009 must complete their obligations in the CCC before requesting approval to progress to MMC. ***Training program to start no earlier than the week commencing 10th November 2025.***
- 8.4. The Cyril Connell Cup is a restricted age competition for male players who will turn 16 or 17 years' in the year of the competition (i.e. players born in 2009 or 2010). Players born in 2009 must complete their obligations in the CCC before requesting approval to progress to MMC. Wide Bay Bulls may enter an u18s side in this competition with the approval of the Competitions Manager. ***Training program to start no earlier than the week commencing 10th November 2025.***
- 8.5. The Harvey Norman u17s is a restricted age competition for female players who will turn 16 or 17 years' in the year of the competition (i.e. players born in 2009 or 2010). Players born in 2009 must complete their obligations in the U17s before requesting approval to progress to Harvey Norman u19s. Wide Bay Bulls may enter an u18s side in this competition with the approval of the Competitions Manager. ***Training program to start no earlier than the week commencing 10th November 2025.***
- 8.6. Players eligible for Mal Meninga Cup born in 2009, must play in that competition and their teams' participation in that competition completed prior to them being eligible for selection in the Hostplus Cup in conjunction with the age limits above. Clubs can apply for an exemption to this rule through written submission to the Competitions Manager with the consent of both the Hostplus Cup Head Coach and CEO.
- 8.7. Players eligible for Harvey Norman u19s born in 2009, must play in that competition and their teams' participation in that competition completed prior to them being eligible for selection in the BMD Premiership in conjunction with the age limits above. Clubs can apply for an exemption to this rule through written submission to the Competitions Manager and Female Pathways Head Coach with the consent of both the BMD Premiership Head Coach and CEO.
- 8.8. Competitions shall be conducted over the following timeframes:

Hostplus Cup	Max. of 23 premierships rounds of competition with a 4-week finals series.
BMD Premiership	Max. of 11 premierships rounds of competition with a 3-week finals series.
Mal Meninga Cup	Max. of 10 premierships rounds of competition with a 3-week finals series.
Harvey Norman u19s	Max. of 7 premierships rounds of competition with a 2-week finals series.
Cyril Connell Cup	Max. of 7 premierships rounds of competition with a 2-week finals series.
Harvey Norman u17s	Max. of 7 premierships rounds of competition with a 2-week finals series.



- 8.9. Competition points shall be allocated during the season in the following manner:
- A win shall be allocated two (2) points.
 - A draw shall be allocated one (1) point.
 - A loss shall be allocated zero (0) points.
 - A bye shall be allocated two (2) points.
 - A team receiving a forfeit shall be allocated two (2) points.
 - The forfeiting team shall be allocated zero (0) points.
- 8.10. In the event of a forfeit, for Competition Points Table purposes, a score of 40-0 shall be awarded to the non-forfeiting team.
- 8.11. At the conclusion of the premiership rounds all teams shall be ranked in descending order according to the number of competition points accrued during the season.

9. CURTAIN RAISER

- 9.1. For any matches being played as curtain raiser to the NRL, the usual QRL expectations still apply.

- 9.2. The following needs must be addressed by the 'home' team:

Hostplus Cup Match	BMD Premiership Match	Junior Rep Matches
• 4 x Hostplus Goal Post Pads, • 4 x XXXX Corner Posts • 3 x Hostplus Bolsters (positioned both try lines and the 50-metre line on the opposite sideline to the cameras) • 2 x Ford Bolsters (positioned on the 30-metre line on the opposite sideline to the cameras) • 4 x QRL HPC competition footballs • 3 x iPads, 2 x Interchange Cards sets, 1 x Interchange Official vest, 2 x 18th man vest, 2 x stopwatches	• 4 x BMD Goal Post Pads, • 4 x XXXX Corner Posts • 3 x Hostplus Bolsters (positioned both try lines and the 50-metre line on the opposite sideline to the cameras) • 2 x Ford Bolsters (positioned on the 30-metre line on the opposite sideline to the cameras) • 4 x QRL BMD competition footballs • 3 x iPads, 2 x Interchange Cards sets, 1 x Interchange Official vest, 2 x stopwatches	• 4 x Hostplus or BMD Goal Post Pads • 4 x Corner Posts (not XXXX) • 2 x Ford Bolsters (positioned on the 30-metre line on the opposite sideline to the cameras) • 4 x QRL competition footballs • 3 x iPads, 2 x Interchange Cards sets, 1 x Interchange Official vest, 2 x stopwatches

- 9.3. If playing as a curtain-raiser to a NRL match, confirm with the NRL club the following details:
- No conflicting sponsors to Hostplus, XXXX or BMD to be advertised during the matches
 - Will they provide ball persons, NRL Game Day Operations Staff and NRL Game Day Doctor?
 - Number of tickets they will be providing for both home and away teams and match officials?
 - Location for entry for Teams/Match Officials/QRL Game Day Operations Staff?
 - Will they provide post-match meals for teams and match officials?
 - Parking for Match Officials and QRL Game Day Operations Staff.

10. DISMISSED PLAYERS

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

- 10.1. A player receiving a period of temporary suspension by the referee shall leave the field of play and enter the sin bin area allocated by the home team and remain in that area until the end of the temporary suspension period.
- 10.2. The time of temporary suspension shall be ten (10) minutes and is for playing time only and shall commence after the referee signals time-on and/or when play recommences.
- 10.3. The temporary suspension shall be suspended if the referee signals time-off during the suspension period and shall recommence when the referee recommences play.
- 10.4. Suspended time does not include the half-time break and shall cease at the end of the first period and resume upon the commencement of the second period. If play continues after the siren has sounded, this time is included towards the players suspension until the referee blows time on the half.



- 10.5. If more than one player receives temporary suspension from the one incident, the players' temporary suspension shall be equal, and they shall be entitled to return to the field of play together after the completion of their suspension.
- 10.6. Players re-entering the field of play shall do so from an onside position after reporting to the Interchange Official and Touch Judge.

PERMANENTLY DISMISSED PLAYERS

- 10.7. Any player permanently dismissed from the field (i.e. sent-off), must immediately retire to their team's dressing room until the player has changed out of their playing uniform.
- 10.8. Under no circumstances can a dismissed player return to the players' bench unless it is outside the area bounded by the fence surrounding the playing area.
- 10.9. Immediately after the completion of the match the referee shall lodge with the nominated QRL Ground Manager the Referees On-Field Incident Report of the dismissed player.

SUSPENDED PLAYERS

- 10.10. Any Player who is suspended or disqualified from playing rugby league by the QRL Judiciary Panel or any other Judiciary and disciplinary bodies with authority to make such determinations shall not participate as a Player in any match until that suspension has been served or that disqualification has expired, as the case may be, and must not enter the playing field or area inside the fence prior to, during, or after a match.
- 10.11. No Pre-Season Trial Match is to be taken into account when determining the period of suspension - **as per rule 44A from the NRL Judiciary Code – QLD Edition.**
- 10.12. Without derogating from clause [10.11](#), in any case where a player is serving a period of suspension as the sole consequence of a conviction for either a Grade 1 Offence or a Grade 2 Offence, the player may participate in a Pre-Season Trial Match during the period of suspension, but the player shall not otherwise participate in any other match (whether that be an Ordinary Match, a carnival, a Final Series Match, a Representative Match or a Touring Team Match).
- 10.13. To remove doubt, where a Player is entitled to participate as a Player in a Pre-Season Match during their period of suspension pursuant to [10.12](#), and does so participate, that participation will not reduce their allocated penalty.
- 10.14. Clubs can apply to the Competition Manager for consideration as to which games are eligible for suspensions to be served. Approvals will be granted on a case-by-case basis.

11. ELIGIBILITY – FIXTURES & FINALS

- 11.1. There are four eligibility categories for Final Series qualifications:

Level One	NRL Telstra Premiership and NRLW	(Highest Level)
Level Two	Hostplus Cup & BMD Premiership	
Level Three	Local League Open Age Competitions (exclusive to A Grade / Division 1)	
Level Four	Under Age Competitions (i.e. Harvey Norman U19 / Mal Meninga Cup / Cyril Connell Cup / Harvey Norman u17s)	(Lowest Level)

- 11.2. Qualification shall commence at the start of each premiership competition and cease upon the completion of each competition's premiership rounds.
- 11.3. A player shall be deemed eligible for the Final Series of the competition in which the player played the majority of games throughout the premiership season.
- 11.4. If a player has participated in an equal amount of premiership competition matches in multiple levels of competitions, the player shall be deemed qualified for the lower level.



- 11.5. However, if a player has participated in three (3) games or more in any open aged competitions (Level 1, 2 or 3) or one (1) game or more in any Statewide female competition (Level 2 – BMD Premiership) or under aged competitions (Level 4 - Junior Reps) throughout the season, such player will be deemed eligible to compete in that competitions' Finals Series (or a higher Level), regardless of whether the player has played a majority of games in that competition.
- 11.6. A player who has qualified for a lower level competition finals series shall still be eligible to participate in the final series of a higher-level competition.
- 11.7. If they have not satisfied the criteria in [11.3](#) or [11.5](#), a Level 1 qualified player shall not be eligible to participate in a Level 2 final series unless the player has failed to gain selection in the higher-level team playing on the same weekend.
- i. However, if the Level 1 team is still competing but has a bye in their relevant final series then players are eligible to play for the Level 2 team provided they have played at least one match for the Level 2 team during the regular season.
- 11.8. A player whose team is eliminated from a higher-level competition must have played a minimum of one (1) finals series match to be deemed eligible to continue in lower level finals series, therefore eliminating any of the previous eligibility rules.
- 11.9. A player will not be eligible to play in two levels of a Final Series scheduled on the same weekend except where the lower level team has played earlier than the higher-level team on that weekend, provided they have qualified for the lower level using the criteria above.
- 11.10. Each Club with a team engaged in any Final Series shall lodge a list of players whom they consider to be eligible to play in each level by no later than 1.00pm on the second business day (generally Tuesday) following the conclusion of the last premiership competition match.
- 11.11. A player shall be deemed to have participated in a match if that player was nominated on the final team list regardless of whether they took the field. This only applies to final 17.
- 11.12. A player who participates in any Statewide Competition match on any given weekend shall not be eligible to participate in any other QRL match on the same weekend without the approval of the Competitions Manager (or their nominee) and the Local League Operations Manager.
- i. However, any player who plays twenty (20) minutes or less in any fixture of any level may seek approval from the Competitions Manager (or their nominee) and the Local League Operations Manager to play in a lower level match on the same weekend.

12. EQUIPMENT

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Please refer to Brand Guidelines for requirements regarding Player Apparel.

- 12.1. Jerseys must be manufactured in accordance with the QRL Brand Guidelines relevant to the year of competition and submitted for approval prior to production to apparel@qrl.com.au or the relevant submission platform as determined from time to time by the QRL (currently Smartabase).
- 12.2. A Player must not wear any item that might prove dangerous to other players. If in doubt a player is required to have any such item approved by the match officials prior to the commencement of the match.
- 12.3. A player may wear compression garments but may only do so as follows;
- i. The length of the garment must not extend below the elbow or knee of the player, outside the neck / collar of the jersey, or the length of the playing sock.
- ii. The colour of the garment may only be black or an approved colour which shall be the colour of the playing socks.
- iii. The wearing of full-length compression garments is not permitted unless approved by the Competitions Manager or receipt of medical clearance or religious advice.
- 12.4. Protective equipment may be worn provided it contains nothing of a rigid nature. Protective clothing refers to shoulder pads, arm bands, rib covering, head gear, hip pads and must not be of a rigid nature. The match officials will make a final decision in areas of doubt relating to what is considered as rigid.
- 12.5. Studs on boots or shoes must be no less than 8mm diameter at the apex and, if made of metal, must have rounded edges.



- 12.6. The playing jersey should be tucked inside the top of the shorts and remain tucked in throughout the match. This means that extra short jerseys or those cut above the waist are prohibited.

DAINGEROUS & PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

- 12.7. The use of gloves or mittens is prohibited.
- 12.8. All visible body jewellery shall be removed, and non-visible jewellery must be taped prior to the commencement of the match.
- 12.9. Players with beads in their hair must remove them or must wear head gear which covers them.
- 12.10. Players are permitted to wear power bands / wristbands on the field during matches, however they must be covered by tape so that no part of the band is visible.
- 12.11. The practice of 'knotting' (pulling together and tying a knot in the jersey) or 'bundling' (pulling together in a bundle or tail and taping) as a method for tightening the fit of a Rugby League jersey is prohibited.
- 12.12. Any items of non-standard or modified equipment must first be approved for use by the Competitions Manager (or their nominee) before that item may be used by a player in a match.
- 12.13. The referee may order a player to remove any item or any part of their equipment which might be considered dangerous and shall not allow the player to take any further part in the match until the item or equipment is removed.
- 12.14. Such a player must retire from the playing field to remove the offending item if the start or re-start of the match would otherwise be delayed.
- 12.15. The match officials must check all equipment prior to the commencement of each match.
- 12.16. Under no circumstances are fireworks to be placed on the field of play at any time before the game without the prior approval of the Competitions Manager (or their nominee). Additionally, no fireworks are to be placed anywhere near the player's tunnels as the players enter the field.

FIELD EQUIPMENT

Please refer to Brand Guidelines for requirements regarding on field equipment.

- 12.17. Corner posts shall be placed at the intersection of each touch line and goal line. The posts shall be of non-rigid material and shall be not less than 1.25m high.
- 12.18. For the avoidance of doubt, spring loaded corner posts and/or those with metal spikes are not permitted for use.
- 12.19. Corner post pads may be no wider than the width of the touch line and shall comply with the QRL Brand Guidelines relevant to the year of competition.
- 12.20. If a ball carrier makes contact with the corner post the player will not be deemed to be out of play unless any part of their body has made contact with either the touch line or touch-in-goal line, or the ground beyond the touch line or touch-in-goal line.
- 12.21. Goal post pads shall be a maximum width and depth of 50cm and shall comply with the QRL Brand Guidelines relevant to the year of competition.
- 12.22. A kicking tee may be used provided it is a product that is licenced and displays the logo of the QRL, NSWRL or NRL. Such tees may be used for kicks at goal and starts or restarts of play from the 50m line.



CLUB EQUIPMENT

12.23. Clubs to maintain allocated club kit which includes the following;

- Interchange cards Home Set (1)
- Interchange cards Away Set (1)
- 18th Player bibs (2)
- Interchange Vest (1) & Photographers Vest (1)
- HIA Vest (1)
- Stopwatches (2)
- QRL iPads (3)
- Protective iPad cases (3)
- iPad chargers (3)

These items must be kept in a secure place. Any lost or damaged gear needs to be registered for replacement with the QRL, at the cost of the relevant club.

13. FACILITIES

VENUES

13.1. The club shall ensure that the venue nominated to host a competition match is presented in an appropriate manner and has adequate ground officials / security engaged in the interest of the comfort of the public and the welfare of match officials and participants.

13.2. Each venue is to use the **NRL Preferred Facilities Guidelines – State Level** as a point of reference and preferred standard for Statewide Competition Clubs.

13.3. Each venue shall be required to provide as a minimum standard the following amenities and services;

- i. Lockable separate home and away team dressing room. These dressing rooms shall have toilet and shower facilities that meet Australian Health Standards which shall be made available for access at least 40 minutes prior to the kick-off of Harvey Norman u19s, Mal Meninga Cup, Cyril Connell Cup and Harvey Norman u17s matches and at least 90 minutes prior to the kick-off of Hostplus Cup and BMD Premiership matches;
- ii. Lockable Match Officials' dressing room. These dressing rooms shall have a toilet and shower facilities that meet acceptable Australian Health Standards;
- iii. Adequate Female Dressing Room Facilities if fielding a team in the BMD Premiership, Harvey Norman u19s and Harvey Norman u17s.
- iv. Medical Officers room includes running water and adequate space for a HIA test to be conducted (4m x 2m);
- v. Drug Testing room;
- vi. Match Official Match Day Coach room/area away from public;
- vii. Designated media area;
- viii. Provision of a covered, elevated (base minimum 2m above ground height) and powered area located on or near the halfway line for videography of matches suitable for four people (requirements as per 36.5)
- ix. Provision of an area for broadcast commentary suitable for three people;
- x. Adequate power points, radio points and internet connections for use by media from newspaper, radio, magazine and internet outlets.
- xi. Men's, Women's and Disabled amenities available for public use;
- xii. Separate canteen and bar facilities;
- xiii. Public address system;
- xiv. Scoreboard;



- xv. Digital time piece with match time display that counts down in seconds;
- xvi. Ambulance access to the area immediately adjacent to the playing field;

13.4. The host club shall provide reasonable quantities of ice, water and lockable storage.

LIGHTING STANDARDS

13.5. The following minimum lighting standards shall be required for training and competition matches:

- Ball and physical training 50 Lux
- Match practice 100 Lux
- Competition Matches 200 Lux

The above information has been extracted from Australian Standard AS 2560 Part 2.3 and the NRL Preferred Facilities Standards – State Level.

COACHES FACILITIES

13.6. During a game coaches are permitted to view the game from their teams' bench, behind the goal posts at the end of the field, or if applicable, in a coach's box. At all times the coach/es must stay an adequate distance from the field of play which is often defined by the red line that runs parallel and 3 meters from the side line. At no time is a coach or coaching staff permitted to interact with on-field players.

13.7. Team Officials must adhere to requests of Game Day Operations Team members including but not limited to the below;

- i. Entry or return to the field of play to meet game times
- ii. Return to coaches' box or behind red line
- iii. Inappropriate language
- iv. Interaction with any match officials

13.8. When situated near or within hearing of the general public, coaches are always required to respect the Code of Conduct.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

13.9. Each venue shall;

- i. Contain a table for observing, assessing and treating players with injuries such as minor head injuries, concussion, fractures, lacerations etc;
- ii. Provide facilities for adequate disposal of used materials such as syringes, needles, contaminated waste disposal kit etc;
- iii. Have unobstructed access for any player taken by stretcher from the field.
- iv. Have access to medical supplies and equipment as advised by QRL Chief Medical Officer (CMO) from time to time.
- v. Contain a spinal stretcher and defibrillator
- vi. Running water
- vii. Adequate space to conduct a HIA (4m x 2m)

Safeguarding Expectations

13.10. Clubs must adhere to the safeguarding expectations set out in the QRL Safeguarding Policy (currently being finalised)



14. FINALS SERIES

FORMAT

- 14.1. The eight (8) highest ranked teams shall compete in a finals series for the **Hostplus Cup**. The top eight (8) finals series of matches shall be:

Week	Game	Match Name	Home Team*	Away Team
1	1	1st Qualifying Final	Team 1	Team 4
1	2	2nd Qualifying Final	Team 2	Team 3
1	3	Elimination Final 1	Team 5	Team 8
1	4	Elimination Final 2	Team 6	Team 7
2	5	1st Semi Final	Loser of Game 1	Winner of Game 3
2	6	2nd Semi Final	Loser of Game 2	Winner of Game 4
2	-	BYE	Winner of Game 1 & Winner of Game 2	
3	7	1st Preliminary Final	Winner of Game 1	Winner of Game 6
3	8	2nd Preliminary Final	Winner of Game 2	Winner of Game 5
4	9	Grand Final	Winner of Game 7	Winner of Game 8

*Broadcast opportunities to a broader audience will be considered when allocating finals match venues.

**QRL has final say in determining venues and time to suit broadcast schedule.

- 14.2. The six (6) highest ranked teams shall compete in a finals series for the **BMD Premiership** and **Mal Meninga Cup**. The top six (6) finals series of matches shall be:

Week	Game	Match Name	Home Team**	Away Team
1	1	Elimination Final 1	Team 3	Team 6
1	2	Elimination Final 2	Team 4	Team 5
1	-	Week Off	Team 1	Team 2
2	3	Qualifying Final 1	Team 1	Winner of Game 2
2	4	Qualifying Final 2	Team 2	Winner of Game 1
3	5	Grand Final	Winner of Game 3	Winner of Game 4

*Broadcast opportunities to a broader audience will be considered when allocating finals match venues.

**QRL has final say in determining venues and time to suit broadcast schedule.

- 14.3. The four (4) highest ranked teams shall compete in a finals series for the **Harvey Norman 17s, Harvey Norman 19s and Cyril Connell Cup**. The four (4) team finals series matches shall be:

Week	Game	Match Name	Home Team**	Away Team
1	1	1st Qualifying Final	Team 1	Team 4
1	2	2nd Qualifying Final	Team 2	Team 3
2	3	Grand Final	Winner of Game 1	Winner of Game 2

*Broadcast opportunities to a broader audience will be considered when allocating finals match venues.

**QRL has final say in determining venues and time.

- 14.4. At the conclusion of the premiership rounds, if two (2) or more teams are equal on competition points, the final series rankings will be determined according to the following criteria.

- The greater positive difference between points scored for and against, then if equal
- The greater percentage of points scored for and against, being determined by:

$$\frac{\text{Points scored for} \times 100}{\text{Points scored against} \times 1}$$

then if equal,

- The most tries scored, then if equal
- The most goals kicked, then if equal,
- The most drop goals kicked, then if equal,
- By the toss of a coin.



- 14.5. Notwithstanding broadcast opportunities, the venues for **Hostplus Cup** finals series matches will generally be determined as follows;

Week	Game	Match Name	Host Rights**
1	1	1st Qualifying Final	Team 1*
1	2	2nd Qualifying Final	Team 2*
1	3	Elimination Final 1	Team 5*
1	4	Elimination Final 2	Team 6*
2	5	1st Semi Final	Highest ranked loser Week 1
2	6	2nd Semi Final	Highest ranked loser Week 1
3	7	1st Preliminary Final	Highest ranked winner from Week 1
3	8	2nd Preliminary Final	Highest ranked winner from Week 1
4	9	Grand Final	QRL

*Broadcast opportunities to a broader audience will be considered when allocating finals match venues.

**QRL has final say in determining venues and time to suit broadcast schedule.

- 14.6. BMD Premiership, Harvey Norman u17s, Harvey Norman u19s, Mal Meninga Cup and Cyril Connell Cup finals series match venues will be at the complete discretion of the Competitions Manager.

- 14.7. Host venues shall receive four (4) new Match Footballs for each competition hosted during the final series.

EXTRA TIME

- 14.8. If scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time in any Finals Series match, then in such matches a period of Golden Point extra time shall follow.
- 14.9. A coin toss to be conducted between the referee and the two (2) captains as per the Laws of the Game to determine commencement of extra time.
- 14.10. Five (5) minutes to be played initially and then if no point or points have been scored then both teams will **immediately** change ends, the receiving team in the first half will kick off in the second half and then play shall continue on an unlimited time basis until the first point or points have been scored.
- 14.11. In such extra time, the first scorer of any point or points (e.g. field goal, penalty goal or try) will immediately be declared the winner.
- 14.12. If a try is scored in extra time the conversion kick will not be permitted.
- 14.13. For matches that go into extra time, each team will receive two (2) interchange cards back from the Interchange Official. If there are any unused cards from regular time, these numbers must be used first.
- 14.14. HIA Free Interchanges do not apply in extra time as they are considered a normal interchange.

15. GAME DAY OPERATIONS TEAMS

- 15.1. The Game Day Operations team consists of the following personnel appointed by the QRL unless otherwise stated:

- QRL Ground Manager
- QRL Interchange Official
- QRL HIA Official/Standby Referee
- QRL Game Day Doctor
- Timekeeper (appointed by the Host Club)
- Public Announcer (appointed by the Host Club)
- Sin Bin Operator (appointed by the Host Club)
- Game Day Operations support (appointed by the Host Club)



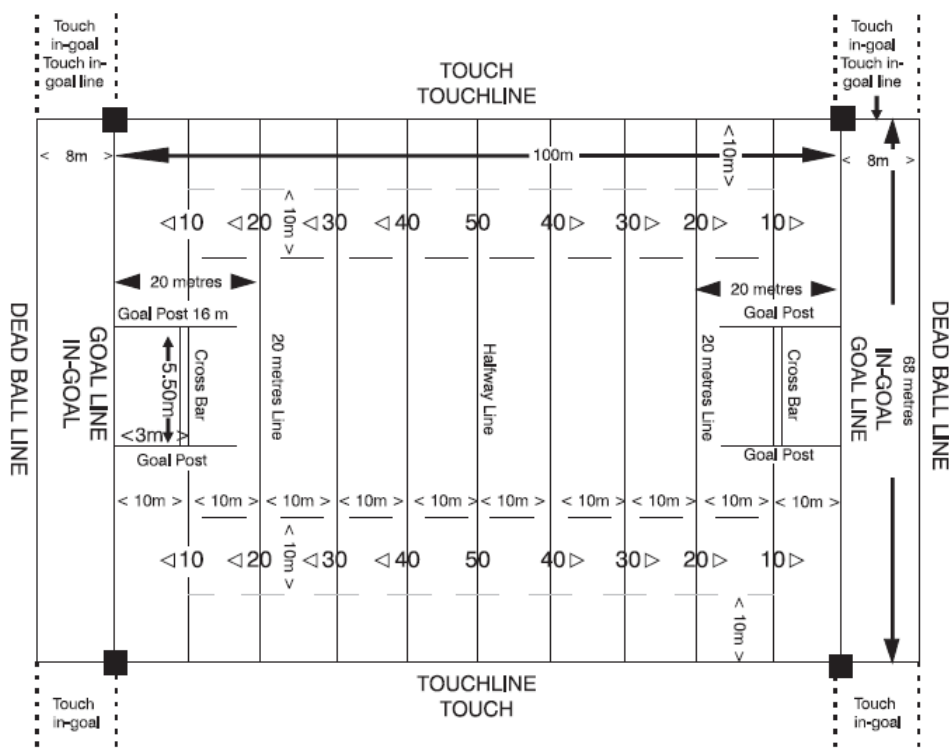
- 15.2. The role of the Game Day Operations team is to coordinate all Statewide Competitions Operations Manual requirements and enforce compliance on game day.
- 15.3. The QRL Game Day Doctor has final say for any HIA and medical decisions.
- 15.4. The function of a QRL Ground Manager appointed by the QRL is to:
- i. Lead the game day operations team and work alongside the Club Game Day Operations support.
 - ii. Ensure that all relevant Rules of the QRL are enforced whilst aiding the competing clubs and match officials as necessary.
 - iii. Enter and ensure all team list and scoring data is recorded correctly for each appointed match.
 - iv. Ensure that the QRL Game Day Operations team have entered and facilitated all Interchanges, HIA's, Sin Bin's and Send Offs correctly.
- 15.5. QRL Ground Manager must arrive 90 minutes prior to the first kick off.
- 15.6. All other Game Day Operations team members must arrive at the ground at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the first appointed match.
- 15.7. All QRL Statewide Competitions clubs will be provided Club Equipment by the QRL for use by the QRL Game Day Operations Team appointed to their venue. This equipment will be utilised by the QRL Game Day Operations Team to record team lists, on-field incident reports, pre-and post-game inspection reports, HIA's and match results. These iPads remain the property of the QRL.
- 15.8. The appointed QRL Ground Managers on behalf of the QRL Game Day Operations Team must complete a full report including a Facilities and Safety Check, Club Equipment and Field Equipment check, compliance check and note all discrepancies to the QRL using the relevant reporting system.
- 15.9. QRL Game Day Operations team will be issued with distinctive clothing which must be worn when on duty.

16. GROUND MARKINGS & DIMENSIONS

- 16.1. The host club is responsible for having its field lines marked and painted in strict accordance with this manual.
- 16.2. Each venue's playing surface shall include the following grid line markings:
- 10m;
 - 20m (Red Line);
 - 30m;
 - 40m (Red Line);
 - 50m;
 - Goal line;
 - Dead ball line; and
 - Touch line.
- 16.3. The grid line marking shall be unbroken lines, white or black in colour and 10cm in width except 20m and 40m line (red).
- 16.4. Where possible, an unbroken red line must be marked 3m and parallel to the touchline closest to where team benches are located. All team's staff and players must remain behind this line and within the designated area around each team's bench.
- 16.5. Each venue's playing surface may include distance markings. Where the home team elects to include distance markers they shall be placed at the following lines, are to be white in colour and 2.0m in height:
- 10m;
 - 20m;
 - 30m; and
 - 40m.



- 16.6. Each venue's playing surface shall also include 10m and 20m lines. Such lines will be marked both 10m and 20m in from the touchline, are to be 10cm in width, white or black in colour and to a length of five (5) metres (2.5m either side of the cross line for free kicks and 5m between the cross lines for scrum marks).
- 16.7. The broken lines in the diagram shall consist of marks or dots on the ground not more than 2 metres apart.
- 16.8. All transverse lines must be marked across the full width of the field.
- 16.9. Sponsors logos for grass signage shall be positioned in accordance with the QRL Brand Guidelines relevant to the year of competition.
- 16.10. These provisions set out the official markings and dimensions of the playing surface for all competition matches as per diagram below.



17. HEAT POLICY

- 17.1. For any match during any of the Competitions, if the prevailing weather conditions necessitate some relief from the normal playing conditions, the following concessions may apply for that particular match;
- i. All matches shall have a compulsory drinks break as described below;
 - ii. Match Officials will call 1-minute “time-out” approximately halfway into each half to allow players to take a fluid break. Players will remain on the field and may only be tended to by the three (3) trainers listed. No coaching staff shall be permitted on the field;
 - iii. The NRL Sports Trainers’ National Accreditation Scheme On-Field Policy will be relaxed so that all three (3) trainers may carry water;
 - iv. The half-time interval may be extended and shall be done so after consultation of both the match and team officials.
- 17.2. If in the event of severe heat conditions, and with the approval of the Competitions Manager, the commencement of a match may be delayed.
- 17.3. The implementation of the Heat Policy shall be at the sole discretion of the Competitions Manager (or their nominee) in conjunction with the [QRL Heat Policy](#)
- 17.4. Trial matches played before the end of February and **kicking off before 4.00pm** will also be subject to the following mandatory conditions:
- i. Maximum of 60-minute matches played in 15-minute quarters
 - ii. Three (3) Sports Trainers allowed to run water as per above

18. INSURANCE

- 18.1. The Club shall hold at least the minimum cover of insurance for each team that participates in the competitions as outlined in the QRL Insurance Handbook.
- 18.2. The Club shall hold a valid certificate of currency for public liability insurance to the value of not less than \$20 million.
- 18.3. To clarify, each Statewide Competition Club will be responsible for the payment of any insurance premium for each Hostplus Cup, BMD Premiership and Mal Meninga Cup team.
- 18.4. All players must complete and submit a [QRL Train & Trial Agreement Form](#) if they are not currently registered with the club they are trialling for (in the current season).
- 18.5. Where a team official does not hold any such position, the Club / Local League must ensure that the minimum QRL Insurance Cover is provided, and the Official is informed accordingly.
- 18.6. The Club shall ensure that all venues nominated to host matches has, at a minimum, \$20 million Public Liability Insurance cover for such venues.



CYRIL CONNELL CUP / HARVEY NORMAN U17S / HARVEY NORMAN U19S ONLY

- 18.7. Players and team officials, provided they register with the Statewide Competitions club, and pay an individual insurance premium (players only) upon registration via MySideline, shall be covered by insurance from the date of registration.

Participant Age	2026 Insurance & Levy Fee
U16	\$55
U17	\$55
U18	\$66
U19	\$150

19. INJURY REPORTING / WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 19.1. In the event of a serious injury to a player, spectator, or any other persons attending a game of rugby league it may be necessary to report the incident to Workplace Health and Safety (refer to Part 3 Incident Notification of the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#)). This act applies to persons conducting business and provides specific requirements in respect of notifiable incidents that occur in the conduct of that business.
- 19.2. In most cases the act will have no application however, there are severe penalties for people who fail to comply with health and safety duties. Thus, all incidents of serious injury should be recorded, and a summary referred to the Competitions Manager as soon as practicable after the event.
- 19.3. Regarding incidents that require reporting, see link to the online form [Work Cover QLD Incident Notification Form](#).
- 19.4. All clubs are required to record all player's injury in the QRL supplied Athlete Management System (AMS). The aim is to establish patterns, level of cover and potential insurance premium reductions.

20. MATCH FOOTBALLS

- 20.1. Only official QRL Hostplus Cup competition footballs are to be used during Hostplus Cup fixtures and trials. They are to be in a clean state and with no additional markings on them.
- 20.2. Only official QRL BMD Premiership competition footballs are to be used during BMD Premiership fixtures and trials. They are to be in a clean state and with no additional markings on them.
- 20.3. Only official QRL competition footballs are to be used during Harvey Norman U19, Mal Meninga Cup, Cyril Connell Cup and Harvey Norman u17s fixtures and trials. They are to be in a clean state and with no additional markings on them.
- 20.4. Twenty (20) QRL Hostplus Cup competition footballs are provided free of charge by the QRL to each Club competing in the Hostplus Cup.
- 20.5. Fifteen (15) QRL BMD Premiership competition footballs are provided free of charge by the QRL to each club competing in the BMD Premiership competition.
- 20.6. Twenty (20) QRL competition footballs are provided free of charge by the QRL to each club to compete in the Harvey Norman u19s, Mal Meninga Cup, Cyril Connell Cup and Harvey Norman u17s competitions.
- 20.7. Three (3) new footballs must be introduced after every second round of home matches i.e. 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th home matches.
- 20.8. Home team Club Game Day Support Staff are to ensure they have ready access to footballs on match day.



- 20.9. The requirement for football pressure is 8-10 pounds per square inch (psi) or 5.5-6.5 kpi. The upper (10psi) and lower (8psi) guides are given to ensure correct pressure depending on the match day's prevailing weather conditions.
- 20.10. At the end of each half and each match, match officials will return footballs to the match official's room and ball persons will collect the footballs prior to the commencement of the second half or the next match.
- 20.11. Match balls must always be clean with clear logos visible.
- 20.12. The QRL Ground Manager and the Match Officials must check the condition of the match balls prior to the commencement of the match.

21. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 21.1. The Match Officials for each competition will be appointed by the QRL who will also be responsible for the payment of those officials.
- 21.2. The Home Team shall be responsible for providing adequate security for the Match Official's dressing room, their entry to and exit from the playing field and venue.
- 21.3. Under no circumstances are Match Officials to be approached, questioned, or harassed in any way by club officials, coaching staff (incl. sports trainers), players or spectators either before, during, or after a match.
- 21.4. Under no circumstances on match day are Match Officials to be approached by a coach or a member of a club's coaching staff prior to the game to discuss any matter relating to an upcoming match.
- 21.5. The Standby Referee will act as the HIA Official at all appointed matches. In lieu of a Standby Referee the Interchange Official and/or QRL Ground Manager will act as the HIA Official.
- 21.6. All issues regarding the performance of the Match Officials shall be lodged in writing to the QRL State Match Officials Manager prior to 9am on the second business day following the match, accompanied by specific timings of such complaints.

22. MATCH REPORTS

- 22.1. The QRL Ground Manager shall be responsible for the completion of the match report after consultation with all Game Day Operations Staff and the recording of match results through the game day management system apps.
- 22.2. All QRL Statewide Competitions clubs will utilise the three (3) iPads provided by the QRL for use by the QRL Game Day Operations Staff assigned to their venue to record team lists, on-field incident reports, pre-and post-game inspection reports, HIA's and match results. These iPads remain the property of the QRL.
- 22.3. Each club's final team listing must be completed, through the NRL Sideline app, one hour prior to the advertised kick-off time and provided to the QRL Ground Manager.
- 22.4. The QRL Ground Manager in conjunction with [section 15](#) shall;
 - i. Lodge, via the game day management system apps, the full-time scores, the individual match scorers, any dismissed and/or reported players, player of the year points and the Ground Managers report.
 - ii. Any technical difficulties that prevent lodgement through the game day management system need to be addressed and resolved immediately. Contact game day management system weekend support.



23. MATCH REVIEW / JUDICIARY

The following procedure is to be followed for all match day incidents;

- 23.1. All Match Officials must submit On-Field Incident Reports to the QRL (via relevant reporting system) immediately upon completion of the relevant match.
- 23.2. The QRL Match Review Committee will meet at 4.30pm on the first business day following the previous round (generally Monday).
- 23.3. Clubs must submit all incidents that they wish to be reviewed by the Match Review Committee to the QRL via Hudl no later than 2.00pm on the first business day following the match.
- 23.4. All charges by the Match Review Committee will be issued in writing via email to the Coach, Operations Manager and CEO of the Club of the offending player by no later than 12.00 noon on the second business day (generally Tuesday).
- 23.5. Players / Clubs have until 8.30am on the third business day following the match to lodge their election to the relevant charge (generally Wednesday).
- 23.6. If the QRL has not received notification from the Player / Club within the required timeframe, it is deemed that the Player / Club has elected to accept the decision of the Match Review Committee and taken the Early Guilty Plea.
- 23.7. Any charges that may be contested or referred directly to the Judiciary will generally be held on Wednesday evening.
- 23.8. Any match suspensions for consideration to be served must be submitted to the Statewide Competitions Manager for approval.
- 23.9. For further information, please refer to the [NRL Judiciary Code of Procedure – QLD Edition](#) on the QRL website.

24. MATCH TIME

- 24.1. Match days and times will be determined and published by the QRL.
- 24.2. Once set, requests for changes to match days and times may be made up to twenty-eight (28) days prior to the scheduled match.
 - i. Any match alterations inside of twenty-eight (28) days shall require the approval of the opposition club and QRL, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.
 - ii. Any additional cost incurred due to granting an alteration in accordance with [24.2](#) shall be the responsibility of the home team.
- 24.3. Curtain raiser fixtures, or similar, must be scheduled to finish at least fifteen (15) minutes before advertised kick-off times.
- 24.4. Each Hostplus Cup match shall be played in two (2) equal periods of forty (40) minutes with a ten (10) minute interval between those periods for half time.
- 24.5. Each BMD Premiership and Mal Meninga Cup match shall be played in two (2) equal periods of thirty-five (35) minutes with a ten (10) minute interval between those periods for half time.
- 24.6. Each Harvey Norman u19s, Cyril Connell Cup and Harvey Norman u17s match shall be played in two (2) equal periods of thirty (30) minutes with a ten (10) minute interval between those periods for half time.
- 24.7. Match timings may be altered at the discretion of the QRL Competitions Manager in the event of travel delays and/or heat policy implementation.
- 24.8. Time off, as indicated by the match official, during those periods shall be permitted.



- 24.9. Suggested minimum time allocations between matches and example kick off times are as per below – this allows for time off, QRL Ground Managers to ensure correct team line ups, videographers time to change over etc:

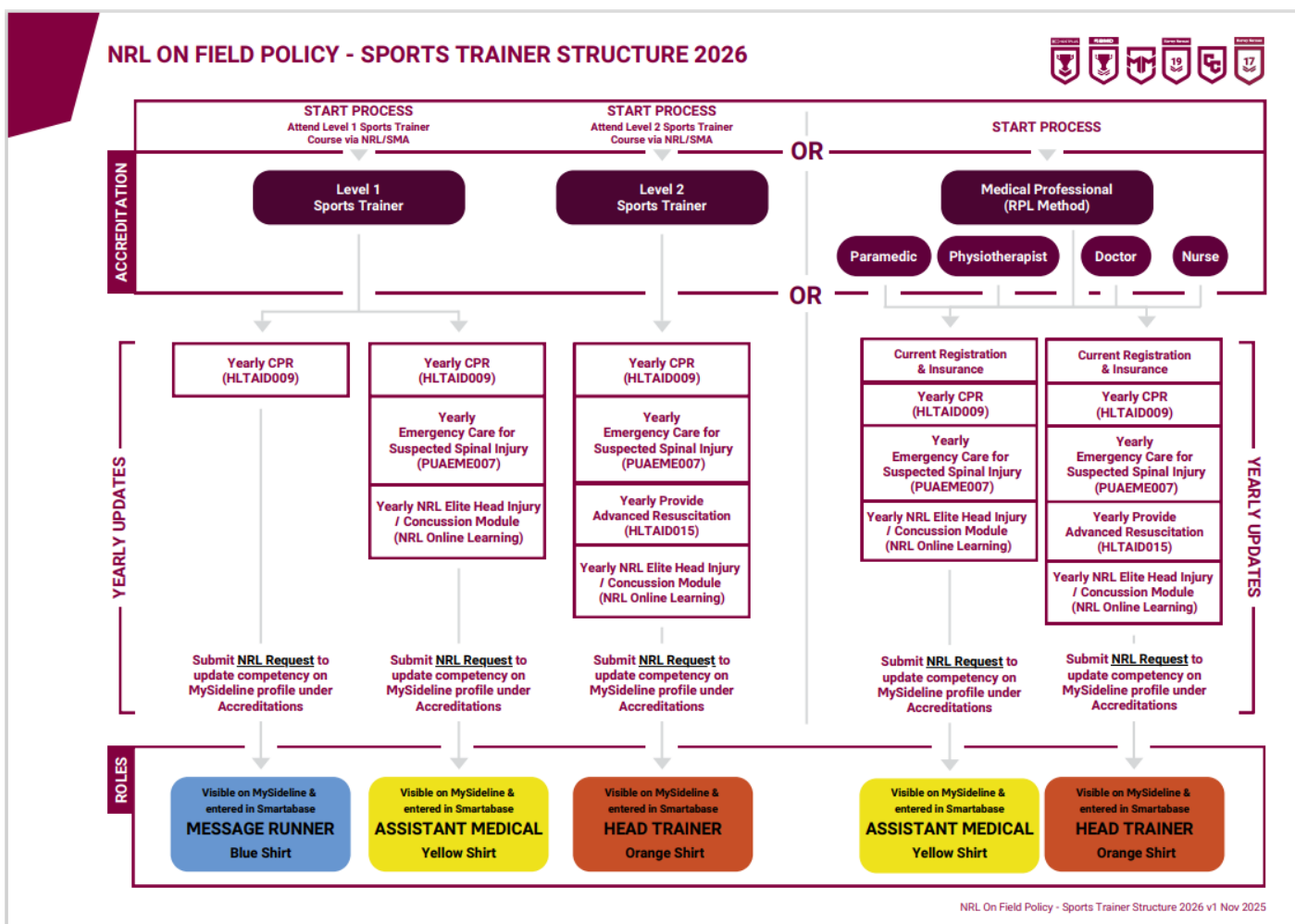
Harvey Norman u17s → Cyril Connell Cup	80 minutes
Cyril Connell Cup → Harvey Norman u19's	80 minutes
Harvey Norman u19's → Mal Meninga Cup	80 minutes
Mal Meninga Cup → Hostplus Cup/BMD Premiership	100 minutes
BMD Premiership → Hostplus Cup	100 minutes
Hostplus Cup → following match	120 minutes

Example Kick Off Times – Minimum break between matches

Harvey Norman u17s	9.00am
Cyril Connell Cup	10.20am
Harvey Norman u19's	11.40am
Mal Meninga Cup	1.00pm
BMD Premiership	2.40pm
Hostplus Cup	4.20pm
Post Hostplus Cup match	6.20pm

25. ON-FIELD POLICY - PERFORMANCE LEVEL

All Statewide Competitions operate under the “Performance” Level of the NRL On Field Policy.



ACCREDITATION OF TRAINERS

- 25.1. A LEAGUESAFE qualification is not sufficient accreditation to access the field of play in any QRL Statewide Competition.
- 25.2. For all QRL Statewide Competition matches it is a requirement that all trainers are registered on the National Registration Database (MySideline) and a minimum NRL Level 1 or Level 2 Sports Trainer accreditation is attained along with the relevant annual courses depending on the role. [Refer to the NRL On Field Policy – Sports Trainer Structure 2026 for minimum qualifications for each role.](#)
- 25.3. All trainers, including S&C's, physios and nurses must be submitted to the QRL for accreditation checks via the relevant platform (Smartabase) prior to acting in the respective role.

SPORTS TRAINERS ROLES / TREATMENT OF INJURED PLAYERS

- 25.4. Each trainer's name is to be recorded on the NRL Team List App (NRL Sideline) for each Match with the trainer's name corresponding with the colour worn on-field.
- 25.5. Each team may engage and use a maximum of three (3) trainers during Matches – one (1) Level 1 Sports Trainer (Blue – Message Runner), one (1) Level 1 Sports Trainer (Yellow – Assistant Medical) and one (1) Level 2 Sports Trainer (Orange – Medical). Under no circumstance are there to be two of the same colour shirts for each match.
- 25.6. In no case shall the Head Coach of a Club act as a trainer in any Match.
- 25.7. Sports Trainers must wear appropriate enclosed footwear and are to be identified with the below coloured shirts on match day.
 - i. Blue Shirt – with Sports Trainer labelled on shirt
 - ii. Yellow Shirt – with Sports Trainer labelled on shirt
 - iii. Orange Shirt – with Head Trainer labelled on shirt
- 25.8. In the event of a clash of trainer shirt colours with either competing Team jerseys, in Liaison with the Match Officials and QRL Ground Manager on-field personnel may wear another colour, HOWEVER the coloured shirt must not equate to a level above the persons level of accreditation.
- 25.9. The over-riding responsibility of Sports Trainers is to care for the health, welfare and safety of all Players under their care and within the bounds of their training and expertise. Sports Trainers have primary responsibility for the immediate on field management of injured Players.
- 25.10. In all cases when trainers enter the field of play to either attend to an injured Player, carry water, or deliver individual messages, they must immediately leave the field once their assigned task has been completed and return to the Player's bench. Trainers must remain within the bench area until their Team regains possession or until they accompany an interchange Player and the interchange official to the touchline in preparation to affect an interchange. There are no other circumstances under which it is permissible for trainers to move away from the bench area.
- 25.11. At all times Trainers must enter and leave the field as quickly as possible (i.e. running) without interfering with play or running behind the opposition Team's defensive line.
- 25.12. Trainers are not permitted on the field during scrums except in the case of a serious injury in which case the Orange Trainer (Medical) may attend. Once the scrum has been called, all other trainers on the field must leave immediately.
- 25.13. Each team may use a maximum of two (2) sports trainers on the field of play during general play at any one time (unless otherwise sanctioned by the referee). During stoppages each team may use a maximum of three (3) sports trainers on the field of play.
- 25.14. Trainers must not at any time enter the line of sight of a Player when he/she is attempting a kick for goal, or do anything which may in any way unnecessarily interfere with or distract an opposition Player (including communication) whilst he/she is participating in the Match or constitute some disadvantage to the opposing Team.
- 25.15. Under no circumstances are sports trainers permitted to communicate with match officials.
- 25.16. Under no circumstances are trainers permitted to approach or become involved in an altercation or melee involving Players from either team (unless an injured/ill player needs shielding from possible further harm). This includes not attempting to separate or restrain Players who may be attempting to become involved in the incident.



- 25.17. If any on-field personnel abuse their roles or behave in a manner contrary to the NRL ON-FIELD POLICY or QRL CODE OF CONDUCT or bring the game of Rugby League into disrepute and/or their team / club into disrepute, they may be subject to sanctions and/or disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the NRL National Database.
- 25.18. Each player shall complete the NRL Medical Advice Card before their first training or playing commitment. This will be the responsibility of the designated Accredited NRL Sports Trainer to ensure all cards are completed and kept up to date. As part of the Club's duty of care, this process should be fully supported by Club Officials. All Privacy Laws must be adhered to.
- 25.19. All injuries / illnesses assessed by the qualified Sports Trainer must be recorded in the relevant QRL supplied Athlete Management System.
- 25.20. If an Accredited NRL Level 1 or Level 2 Sports Trainer is not in attendance, the game(s) shall not commence under any circumstances until such (qualified) person is available.
- 25.21. No communication equipment is to be used for the purposes of on-field communication or communication between Medical and Coaching staff on the team bench whilst the game is in progress. To clarify, no communication equipment is to be taken on to the field of play.
- 25.22. **It is mandatory that a Medical Practitioner (Doctor) attend all QRL Statewide Competition matches before a game can commence. If a Doctor is not in attendance, the Competitions Manager must be notified immediately.**
- 25.23. **Trainer & Team Staff Restrictions**
- Trainers are not permitted on the field during scrums except in the case of a serious injury in which case the Orange Shirt Trainer may attend. Once the scrum has been called by the Match Official, all other trainers on the field must leave immediately.
 - Trainers and all team staff must always remain seated on their team's bench.
 - At no time is there to be communication between on field players and team staff situated on the team bench (or coaches located elsewhere) during a match.
- 25.24. **Club Medical Officer Requests**
- Where a Club Medical Officer requests that play should be stopped due to a serious injury (other than a possible head injury requiring on-field assessment), and the Match Official stops play, the Player involved must either be interchanged or taken off the field of play for a period of at least two minutes of lapsed playing time before they are permitted to return to the field of play from an onside position.



SPORTS TRAINERS ON-FIELD ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Orange Trainer – (Medical, Head Trainer)

- i. Is permitted unlimited access to the field of play to attend to injured Players;
- ii. May provide hydration to players when a team is in possession of the ball;
- iii. Must immediately leave the playing field (by running) once they have treated an injured player or provided hydration;
- iv. Must not loiter on the field at any time;
- v. May only monitor players from the sideline;
- vi. Must not carry messages;
- vii. Must sit at the approved medical end of the bench;
- viii. Is not permitted to go to the Coaching end of the bench before entering the field of play;
- ix. Is not permitted to enter the field of play at a scrum unless there is a serious injury;
- x. May ask the match officials to stop the game to remove a player for a HIA;
- xi. Is not permitted to stop a game for an injury that is not a HIA unless a player has a serious injury where the continuation of play could further endanger the injured player or other players.
- xii. Is the only trainer qualified to assess players for HIA and if player requires removal from the field must provide a comprehensive verbal report to the Game Day Doctor on observed symptoms or signs

Yellow Trainer – (Medical assistant, Hydration)

- i. Must sit with the Orange Trainer at the medical end of the bench
- ii. Can only enter the field of play in the following circumstances at the direction of the Head Trainer:
 - o To help the Head Trainer (Orange Shirt) assist an injured Player from the field
 - o To treat an injured Player if there is more than one injured Player and the Head Trainer is already occupied
- iii. Is permitted on the field of play during a time-out to provide hydration
- iv. Is permitted additional access to provide hydration where the NRL Heat Policy has been activated
- v. Is permitted on the field of play to provide hydration after a try has been scored
- vi. Is permitted to enter the field of play to encourage and escort a dismissed player to jog off the field
- vii. Is permitted to be involved in the off-field interchange process (i.e. to assist The QRL Interchange official with the Player entering the field).
- viii. Is not permitted to deliver a kicking tee, however, may enter the field of play to retrieve a kicking tee and return directly to the bench area.
- ix. Is not to carry water unless a try has been scored or the two (2) Club doctors of the participating Clubs agree that the extreme weather conditions require each Team to have an additional water carrier. If competing Clubs cannot agree, the QRL Ground Manager will make the final decision on whether additional water carriers are permitted. If agreed, the Yellow Trainer's duties are limited to carrying water when their Team is in possession.
- x. May refill drink containers and offer other assistance off the field of play

Blue Trainer - (Interchange)

- i. May assist with an interchange of a player by running onto the field to notify the player being interchanged, and immediately returning to the bench with the interchanged player
- ii. May only access the field of play to assist with an interchange when the Player entering the game is with the QRL Interchange Official and is ready to take the field
- iii. May access the field of play at stoppages in play for a goal-line dropout and after a try being scored (including during a Video Review of a possible try)
- iv. May not access the field of play during a scrum
- v. May not access the field of play in general play to deliver tactical or coaching messages
- vi. May not access the field of play to deliver or retrieve a kicking tee for goal kicks or kick-offs.

TRAINERS CONDUCT AND COMPLIANCE WITH RULES

- i. Trainers must at all times comply with any direction or instruction from Match officials or QRL Ground Managers. Trainers must not at any time while carrying out their duties make argumentative, disparaging, derogatory, or offensive comments to any Match officials or QRL Ground Managers.
- ii. Trainers must not become involved in any Match, including approaching or having any contact with Players, other than in strict compliance with their specific role and responsibilities as detailed in the Sports Trainers On-Field Roles and Responsibilities.
- iii. Under no circumstances are trainers permitted to approach or become involved in an altercation or melee involving Players from either competing Team. This includes not attempting to separate or restrain Players who may be attempting to become involved in the incident.



SPORTS TRAINER STOPPAGES POLICY

25.25. Decision to Stop Play

- The decision to stop play during a match for medical assessment of a player can only be made by an Orange Shirt Trainer, Game Day Doctor or Match Official, with the stoppage of play to be called by the Referee.
- Player safety and wellbeing takes precedence overall.

25.26. Conditions for Stopping Play

- The Referee must stop play:
 - When, in the view of the Referee or another Match Official, a Player appears to be injured requiring medical attention beyond the attendance of the Orange Shirt Trainer.
 - When, in the view of the Referee or another Match Official, a Player appears to be injured and the continuation of play around the injured Player would place them or other Players at risk.
 - When the Referee or another Match Official has received a request from an Orange Shirt Trainer to stop play in order to allow a doctor to attend the Player on the field, or to allow the movement of specialist medical equipment onto the field.
 - When the Referee or another Match Official has received a request from an Orange Shirt Trainer to stop play in order to allow the proper assessment of a Player for a suspected head injury under the Head Injury Assessment protocol.

25.27. Procedures During Stoppages

- In the event the Orange Shirt Trainer of the team **not in possession** of the ball requests a stoppage, and the player requiring attention remains on the field, the Referee will signal a set restart, restarting the play on Tackle 0. Additionally, the Player involved must either be interchanged or taken off the field of play for a period of at least two minutes of lapsed playing time before they are permitted to return to the field of play from an onside position. The time off field will be determined by actual playing time (i.e. when the clock restarts by the Referee.) This removal from field and the time off field will be managed by the Interchange Official.
- In the event the Orange Shirt Trainer of the team **in possession** of the ball requests a stoppage and the player requiring attention remains on the field, the Player involved must either be interchanged or taken off the field of play for a period of at least two minutes of lapsed playing time before they are permitted to return to the field of play from an onside position. The time off field will be determined by actual playing time (i.e. when the clock restarts by the Referee.) This removal from field and the time off field will be managed by the Interchange Official.
- To clarify, if the Referee stops play without direction from an Orange Shirt Trainer, play will resume as normal with no player having to leave the field of play.

25.28. Consequences for Non-Compliance

- **Warnings and Reprimands:** Initial violations of the Trainer Stoppages Policy may result in a formal warning or reprimand (Breach Notice) issued to the offending individual or team. This serves as a notice to correct the behaviour and adhere to the policy moving forward.
- **Suspension of Privileges:** Repeated or severe violations may lead to the suspension of certain privileges, such as the ability to have certain trainers on the field during matches. This suspension can be temporary or permanent, depending on the severity of the violation.
- **Fines and Penalties:** Financial penalties may be imposed on teams or individuals who fail to comply with the policy. The amount of the fine will be determined based on the nature and frequency of the violations.
- **Disqualification or Forfeiture:** In extreme cases, non-compliance with the policy may result in the disqualification of the team from the competition or the forfeiture of the match. This consequence is reserved for the most serious breaches that compromise player safety or the integrity of the game.
- **Mandatory Training and Education:** Offending individuals or teams may be required to undergo additional training and education on the importance of the Trainer Stoppages Policy and proper procedures during stoppages. This training aims to prevent future violations and ensure a thorough understanding of the policy.
- **Reporting and Documentation:** All Breach Notices will be documented and reported to the relevant authorities within the organization. This documentation will be used to track compliance and identify any patterns of non-compliance that may need to be addressed.



26. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 26.1. No public announcements are permitted whilst a player is preparing, or in the process of, kicking for goal.
- 26.2. No public announcements are permitted in relation to decisions or the performance of the match officials.
- 26.3. No public announcements are permitted which may be considered derogatory to any club, player, official, spectator and/or to the game.

27. REGISTRATIONS

BREAKDOWN OF REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS

Competition	Registration Notes
NRL	Register player as Player Tackle to NRL Club (this will be the players Primary Club) To play Statewide Competitions players must permit down to Statewide Competition clubs
Hostplus Cup	Register player as Player Tackle to Statewide Competition Club (this will be the players Primary Club) To play Local League Players must permit down to local league clubs
BMD Premiership	Register player as Player Tackle to Statewide Competition Club (including those under 18 with exemptions) To play Local League Players must permit down to local league clubs
Mal Meninga Cup	Register player as Player Tackle to Statewide Competition Club (this will be the Players Primary Club) To play Local League Players must permit down to local league clubs
Harvey Norman u19s	Register player as Player Tackle to Statewide Competition Club (this will be the Players Primary Club) To play Local League Players must permit down to local league clubs
Cyril Connell Cup	Register player as Player Representative to Statewide Competitions Club <i>If a player completes their obligations in the Cyril Connell Cup and is then considered for selection in a higher grade (Mal Meninga Cup or Hostplus Cup), they must first seek approval from the Statewide Competitions Manager and then register as Player Tackle to the relevant Statewide Competitions Club and sign a QRL Player Agreement.</i>
Harvey Norman u17s	To play Local League Players must register as Player Tackle with the relevant local league club. Register player as Player Representative to Statewide Competitions Club <i>If a player completes their obligations in the Harvey Norman u17s and Harvey Norman u19s and is then considered for selection in BMD Premiership, they must first seek approval from the Statewide Competitions Manager and then register as Player Tackle to the relevant Statewide Competitions Club and sign a QRL Player Agreement.</i> To play Local League Players must register as Player Tackle with the relevant local league club.

HOSTPLUS CUP, BMD PREMIERSHIP, MAL MENINGA CUP AND HARVEY NORMAN U19S

- 27.1. All Hostplus Cup, BMD Premiership, Mal Meninga Cup and Harvey Norman u19s players must sign a QRL Player Agreement via DocuSign. A digital copy must then be lodged with the QRL within ten (10) days of signing via Smartabase and prior to the player taking the field in any capacity.
- 27.2. All players must **also** be registered via the National Registration database (MySideline) prior to the player participating in any match.
- 27.3. These players can then be granted a Portability Permit back to their affiliate clubs.
- 27.4. If players aged 19 and under are selected from outside the club's catchment areas listed in [Appendix 1](#) and on another clubs Protected Player List, a Development Fee may be payable prior to that players registration being finalised with their new club.
- 27.5. In conjunction with Clause [27.3](#), QRL Rule 4.1.6 (Transfer of Junior Registration) shall take effect. A Club shall not register more than five (5) players in any one age group who were registered outside of the catchment areas in [Appendix 1](#) in the previous year. Of these five (5) players, no more than two (2) shall be from any one (1) Junior Rugby League Football Club. A Club may seek exemption from this rule from the relevant Regional Manager where it considers there are Special Circumstances as defined in the QRL Rules.



- 27.6. Final squad sizes of the below number of players for each competition are permitted. Larger squads are permitted to complete a pre-season and participate in trials. However, Contracts submitted (via Smartabase) will only be accepted for the below number of players for each squad.

Hostplus Cup	32 players
Talent Development Squad	4-8 players
BMD Premiership	30 players
Mal Meninga Cup	32 players
Harvey Norman u19s	30 players
Cyril Connell Cup	30 players
Harvey Norman u17s	30 players

- 27.7. Each player must complete the State of Origin Eligibility component of their registration via the National Registration database (MySideline) or relevant QRL platform (Smartabase).
- 27.8. A player is only deemed to be correctly registered when they are visible in the QRL's current Game Day Management System.
- 27.9. The above squad lists can only have a player added in the event of a season ending injury to an existing member with the submission of relevant medical confirmation and upon application to the Competitions Manager.
- 27.10. In cases where a Statewide Competition Club is a single NRL affiliate, the number of players eligible to participate in any given week of a QRL Statewide Competition is limited to six (6) players in any single competition.
- 27.11. In cases where a Statewide Competition Club is one of multiple affiliates to an NRL Club, the following conditions will apply subject to the affected Club/s providing QRL with suitable evidence that players allocated from the NRL Affiliate are distributed equally across all affiliates no later than March 1 of each Football Year.

- i. **3 Hostplus Cub Affiliate Model** - An NRL club can allocate players from their top 36 NRL contact list as follows.
- Affiliate Club #1 – 33% (up to 12)
 - Affiliate Club #2 – 33% (up to 12)
 - Affiliate Club #3 – 33% (up to 12)
 - The allocation remains on an equal basis to be approved by the QRL. Player allocations are made at the start of the season.
- ii. **2 Hostplus Cub Affiliate Model** - An NRL club can allocate players from their top 36 NRL contact list as follows
- Affiliate Club #1 – 50% (up to 18)
 - Affiliate Club #2 – 50% (up to 18)
 - The allocation remains on an equal basis to be approved by the QRL. Player allocations are made at the start of the season.
- iii. **1 Hostplus Cub Affiliate Model**
- As per rule [27.10](#)

- 27.12. **Player Movement** – NRL clubs can apply to the competition manager to move their contracted players between affiliates prior to June 30 each year. Each player will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration factors including return from injury, required game time and Statewide Competition byes. No approvals for player movement will be considered after June 30 – this includes all players (SWC and NRL contracted players).

COACH, TRAINER & VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

- 27.13. The club shall be required to register all coaches, trainers and volunteers (Managers etc) on the National Registration database prior to the commencement of the competition.
- 27.14. All coaches and trainers shall be listed via the QRL's relevant online portal (currently Smartabase) and shall be lodged with the QRL no later than **December 1 each year**.
- 27.15. All QRL Statewide Competitions Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches are required to be correctly accredited in accordance with the NRL Coach Accreditation Scheme prior to the commencement of any competition.



- 27.16. All Hostplus Cup Head Coaches shall be required to have attained (or enrolled in) the Performance Coach accreditation, or have a current High Performance Coach accreditation.
- 27.17. All BMD Premiership and Junior Representative Head Coaches shall be required to have attained (or enrolled in) a minimum Youth Development Coach, or current Senior Club Coach or High Performance Coach accreditation.
- 27.18. All Assistant Coaches shall be required to have attained a minimum Community Coach 16-18s or Community Coach 19+.
- 27.19. **All Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Sports Trainers require positive notice WWC/Blue Card (or an exemption card, if applicable) before commencing any training session. This must be entered in each members MySideline profile under "Accreditation and WWC information".**
- 27.20. If coaches and trainers are found to be not correctly accredited, their registration may not be accepted, and they will be unable to coach or perform the role of a Coach or Sports Trainer until suitably accredited.

28. REPLACEMENTS (INTERCHANGE)

- 28.1. An interchange is the replacement of one (1) player in a team for another during the match.
- 28.2. Only thirteen (13) players from each team may be on the field of play at any one time.
- 28.3. All teams are required to list four (4) players as interchange players on their official team list.
- 28.4. A limited interchange system is used in all Statewide Competitions.
- i. Hostplus Cup and Mal Meninga Cup teams may use up to a maximum of eight (8) interchanges in ordinary time during a match.
 - ii. BMD Premiership, Harvey Norman u19s, Cyril Connell Cup and Harvey Norman u17s teams may use up to a maximum of ten (10) interchanges in ordinary time during a match.
- 28.5. At the start of the season each team will be provided with a set of official interchange cards numbered 1-8 (including HIA cards, free interchange cards and 18th player replacement cards). BMD Premiership, Harvey Norman u19s, Cyril Connell Cup and Harvey Norman u17s teams will receive 1-10.
- 28.6. It will be the responsibility of each team to have these cards available for use during all matches.
- 28.7. For matches that go into extra time, each team will receive two (2) interchange cards back from the QRL Interchange Official. If there are any unused cards from regular time, these numbers must be used first.
- 28.8. A replaced player must have left the field of play prior to the interchange player taking their place on the field.
- 28.9. If a team elects to interchange a bleeding Player who leaves the field this interchange will be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges pursuant to [28.4](#).
- 28.10. If a Player is fouled by an opponent who is in consequence dismissed from the field or sin binned and the fouled Player is caused to leave the field as a direct result of an injury sustained in that incident, this interchange will **not** be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges pursuant to [28.4](#) provided that it is made without delay and, in any case, by the time the referee has acted on the incident.
- 28.11. The subsequent interchange, whether it is the return of the fouled player or another player, of the team of the fouled player will **not** be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges pursuant to [28.4](#).
- 28.12. An Interchange Official will be appointed by the QRL to manage the interchange process for each team, however, they will not be responsible for ensuring that clubs comply with these provisions. In proceedings with respect to any breach by a club of these provisions, it will not be a defence to that breach to assert or maintain that the QRL Interchange Official gave a particular direction or that they erred in some way.



- 28.13. The function of an Interchange Official employed by the QRL is to;
- i. Ensure that all relevant Rules of the QRL are enforced whilst aiding the QRL Ground Manager, competing clubs and match officials as necessary.
 - ii. Enter and ensure all interchange, HIA and incident data is recorded correctly for each appointed match.
- 28.14. Should an Interchange Official become aware of a breach of these Replacement / Interchange Provisions, they will address any non-compliance firstly with the Team Manager and QRL Ground Manager, secondly with the Player and thirdly, submit a written report to the Competitions Manager (or their nominee).
- 28.15. Each team will always be responsible for ensuring compliance with these Replacement / Interchange Provisions.

INTERCHANGE PROCESS

- 28.16. Before the commencement of the match the Interchange Official will hand the Interchange cards to each team.
- 28.17. As each interchange is to be made, the interchange player must report to the Interchange Official with an interchange card in sequential ascending numerical order (i.e. 1st interchange will hand over No. 1, 2nd interchange will hand over No. 2, etc. The last interchange player will hand over No. 8) for presentation to the Interchange Official. If a 'free' interchange is permitted under Rule [28.10](#) the interchange player must present the free interchange card to the Interchange Official. In all cases, it is the interchange player who must personally present the card to the Interchange Official (i.e. Trainers are not permitted to carry or present the card on behalf of a player).
- 28.18. The interchange player must retain possession of the card until the Interchange Official approves their entry onto the field of play by taking the card from the player after the replaced player has left the field of play. The acceptance by the Interchange Official of the card provides the only valid authorisation for the player to take the field. Unless and until the Interchange Official accepts the card, the interchange player will not have approval to enter the field of play and must not attempt to do so. Interchange players must not under any circumstances pressure the Interchange Official to take the card, irrespective of whether the replaced player has already left the field of play.
- 28.19. If a player reports to the Interchange Official without a card, the player will be sent back to the bench to obtain a card before the interchange will be allowed to proceed.
- 28.20. The Interchange Official will retain all cards until the end of the match to indicate the number of interchanges used by each team. Cards will then be returned to each club.
- 28.21. Only official interchange cards issued by the QRL may be used for the purposes of interchange. If a team loses or damages their cards, the Competitions Manager (or their nominee) must be contacted with a request to issue replacement cards.
- 28.22. An interchange Player must enter the field in an on-side position after reporting to the Interchange Official and after receiving the approval of the Interchange Official to enter the field of play and after the replaced player has left the field of play.
- 28.23. A maximum of two (2) interchange players can report to the Interchange Official at any one time. Other players must remain on the bench until the two interchanges being managed by the Interchange Official have been affected.
- 28.24. Except for scrums (see [28.25](#) below), Interchanges may occur during general play (i.e. whilst the ball is in motion), after any scoring has been completed or if play has been temporarily suspended by the referee (e.g. injury or caution).
- 28.25. In the case of scrums:
- i. Interchanges will only be permitted at scrums resulting from a touch line stoppage (i.e. a kick finds touch, or a player is tackled into touch), provided that the interchange player is already with the interchange official waiting to go on when the ball or the player crosses the touch line. Trainers will still be responsible for getting the player being replaced off the field before the interchange player can go on. The referee will not call a time-out or delay the recommencement to allow the interchange to take place.
 - ii. Otherwise, Interchanges must not be made after the referee has ordered a scrum until after the scrum has been completed. This applies regardless of whether the referee calls time out for an injury or not. The Player leaving the field may do so at any time, but a player cannot enter the field until the ball emerges from the scrum.



HEAD INJURY ASSESSMENT (HIA)

- 28.26. HIA will take place during all Statewide Competition matches. Refer to [Appendix 5](#).
- 28.27. The Standby Referee will act as the HIA Official at all appointed matches. In lieu of a Standby Referee the Interchange Official and or QRL Ground Manager will act as the HIA Official.
- 28.28. In the event of any one or more of the following being observed by the Club Head Trainer, Game Day Doctor, or Game Day Operations Staff during a match, the player must be taken from the field immediately to be assessed by the Game Day Doctor:
- i) clinical features including abnormal neurological signs of a serious or structural head and/or neck injury requiring emergency management and hospital transfer;
 - ii) loss of consciousness or suspected loss of consciousness;
 - iii) no protective action in fall to ground (tonic or floppy; or cervical hypotonia);
 - iv) impact seizure or possible impact seizure, e.g. tonic clonic movements or tonic posturing;
 - v) confusion or disorientation;
 - vi) memory impairment (e.g. failed the Maddocks questions – [Appendix 5](#));
 - vii) motor incoordination (e.g. balance disturbance or possible balance disturbance, clumsiness with upper limbs or in getting up);
 - viii) Player reports significant, new or progressive concussion symptoms;
 - ix) dazed, blank / vacant stare or not their normal self (e.g. no facial expression, no apparent emotion in response to the environment, reduced conscious state (GCS<15), not responding appropriately to those around them including other Players, Match Officials or trainers / medical staff);
 - x) behavioural change atypical of the Player;
 - xi) slow to stand following a possible head injury (1st priority is to ensure that there is no neck injury present);
 - xii) loss of responsiveness (Player lying motionless for 2-3 seconds or until support staff arrives); or
 - xiii) suspected facial fracture.
- NOTE: 'Balance disturbance' is defined as when a Player is unable to stand steadily unassisted or walk normally and steadily without support in the context of a possible head injury.
- In addition, if the Game Day Doctor or Head Sports Trainer (following a sideline discussion with the Game Day Doctor) forms a clinical impression that the Player appears to display other signs that a head injury may have occurred following trauma / impact, the Player must immediately be taken from the field in a medically appropriate way to be assessed by the Game Day Doctor.
- 28.29. If a player is required to leave the field of play as a consequence of the identification of one or more of these features to complete a Head Injury Assessment (HIA) this interchange will not be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges pursuant to [28.4](#).
- 28.30. The period of time in which the HIA is to take place is to be **no longer and no less** than a period of 15 minutes. To clarify, a HIA player cannot return to the field before 15 minutes has elapsed. The time period is to begin from the time at which the player is in the care of the Game Day Doctor. If the player has been cleared by the Game Day Doctor during the HIA, the player must report to the Interchange Official prior to or at the completion of the 15 minutes HIA to return to the field of play.
- 28.31. A HIA assessed player who is cleared must be the one to return to the field at the end of the 15 minutes **mandatory** period.
- 28.32. The mandatory 15 minutes period will not be assessed against the official match time or clock. The timing of the HIA period will be monitored by the HIA Official (Standby Referee or Interchange Official).



- 28.33. If a player is required to be assessed for a period longer than the specified HIA period, that player would then be adjudicated as an Interchange for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges pursuant to [28.4](#). The Club will be required to hand over their next interchange card available in sequential order immediately to the Interchange Official.
- 28.34. Any player who is required to leave the field of play for any further HIA in the same match will not be allowed to return to play in that match.
- 28.35. In the event of an on-field incident which has required two players to be taken from the field of play for a HIA, the Game Day Doctor may request from the HIA Interchange Official an additional 10-minute period for one (1) of the HIA players to complete the necessary assessment.
- 28.36. If the player has suffered a concussive injury in an incident that was a consequence of foul play which resulted in the incident being Send Off or Sin Binned, this interchange will take place in accordance with the process pursuant to [28.10](#). The time limit associated with the HIA will not apply.
- 28.37. If a HIA takes place in the 15-to-5-minute period prior to half time, the HIA period will be deemed to have been completed at the end of the half time period. The team must indicate to the HIA or Interchange Official immediately at the completion of half time whether the player is to return to the field of play.
- 28.38. If a HIA takes place in the 5-minute period prior to half time, the HIA period will be determined by the Game Day Doctor and the Interchange Official. The player must return to the field before the 5th minute of the second half or it will be counted as an interchange as per [28.4](#).
- 28.39. If a Club has used all of its allocated interchanges whilst a player is completing a HIA, and if that player is unable to return to the field of play at the completion of the HIA, the Club must immediately remove a player from the field of play and complete the match with 12 players.
- 28.40. At the completion of the match, the QRL Ground Manager is required to complete as part of their report to the QRL, details of any player who has completed a HIA during a match. Additionally, the Interchange Official will record the timing of each HIA in the relevant recording system.
- 28.41. The Game Day Doctor is to complete a HIA via the relevant QRL Concussion Assessment tool on any player who is suspected of suffering from a potential concussive episode. The Game Day Doctor is to add the outcomes and any HIA's to the Ground Managers report.
- 28.42. Clubs must only use HIA for the reasons set out in [28.28](#).
- 28.43. Any Club which is proven to have used a HIA for any reason other than that detailed in [28.28](#) will be deemed to have gained an unfair tactical advantage in the match and be subject to penalty.
- 28.44. All Clubs and persons bound by these Rules must comply in all respects with the provisions of the following policy statement. A breach of any of the provisions of this Policy may be enforced by the imposition of a penalty or penalties such as fines, suspensions and/or loss of competition points if a contravention of any of these provisions is found to have occurred.
- 28.45. Game Day Doctor directions take precedence over all others regarding player welfare.

18TH PLAYER REPLACEMENT PLAYER

- 28.46. The 18th player replacement player is **only applicable for the Hostplus Cup**.
- 28.47. A club can activate an 18th player:
- After a player from the same side has failed a HIA Test.
 - When a player suffers a match ending injury caused by foul play – and the perpetrator has been sin binned or sent off.
- 28.48. The 18th player must be a player currently registered with a Statewide Competitions club and in the club squad list in MySideline. Clubs will be permitted to select an 18th player on merit and must identify the player when final team sheets are provided on game day.
- 28.49. The 18th player must always wear the provided colour vest until activated.
- 28.50. The 18th player replacement does not have to be immediately interchanged.



BREAKDOWN OF REPLACEMENT (INTERCHANGE) CARDS FOR STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS

Card	Usage Notes
	<u>ALL Statewide Competitions</u> Red 'X' Card – used for a player LEAVING the field as a result of a foul play. If a Player is fouled by an opponent who is in consequence dismissed from the field or sin binned and the fouled Player is caused to leave the field as a direct result of an injury sustained in that incident, this interchange will not be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges pursuant to 27.4 provided that it is made without delay and, in any case, by the time the referee has acted on the incident.
	<u>ALL Statewide Competitions</u> Green 'X' Card – used for a player ENTERING the field as a result of a foul play or is the subsequent interchange following a player leaving the field as a result of a foul play. If a Player is fouled by an opponent who is in consequence dismissed from the field or sin binned and the fouled Player is caused to leave the field as a direct result of an injury sustained in that incident, this interchange will not be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges pursuant to 28.4 provided that it is made without delay and, in any case, by the time the referee has acted on the incident. The subsequent interchange, whether it is the return of the fouled player or another player, of the team of the fouled player will not be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges pursuant to 28.4.
	<u>ALL Statewide Competitions</u> Red 'HIA' Card – used for a player LEAVING the field for a Head Injury Assessment. Card is used when the Orange – Head Trainer or Game Day Doctor indicates that a player is to be removed from the field for a Head Injury Assessment.
	<u>ALL Statewide Competitions</u> Green 'HIA' Card – used for a player ENTERING the field after a Head Injury Assessment. A HIA assessed player who is cleared must be the one to return to the field at the end of the 15 minutes mandatory period.
	<u>Hostplus Cup ONLY</u> Blue 'R' Card – used for an 18th player activated by one of the scenarios below. Scenario 1: Failed HIA • A player from the same team fail HIA test • The player can be ruled out by Game Day Doctor prior to 15min assessment period ending, but proper assessment must be conducted Scenario 2: Fouled Player • Fouled Player leaves field without delay due to injury (inclusive of HIA injury) • Injury arose from incident involving opposition player • Offender is sin binned or sent off • Free interchange card applies



29. SALARY CAP / CONTRACTING MODEL

All QRL Statewide Competitions are required to follow the guidelines regarding player payments as contained in [Appendix 4](#).

30. SIDELINE AREA AND BENCH LOCATIONS

- 30.1. Both the home and visiting team benches must be on the same side of the field.
- 30.2. Where team benches are located within the playing area (i.e. inside the fence) the following provisions must be adhered to:
 - i. Adequate seating shall be provided for each team and placed parallel to the touch line. This seating should be of a resilient nature and located as near to the 50m line as possible.
 - ii. Personnel on the bench may comprise only those people directly related to the conduct of the match itself (i.e. coaches, interchange players, trainers, team manager, medical officers).
 - iii. There can be no more than twelve (12) persons on the bench from each team.
 - iv. Orange Sports Trainer and Blue Sports Trainer must sit at opposite ends of team bench.
- 30.3. Under no circumstances will “coaching”, “barracking” or “abuse” from the bench be permitted - this includes players, coaches, sports trainers and team staff. This not only refers to abuse, but also to what might be described as offering advice or assistance to the match officials in relation to their performance or how they should be carrying out their duties, or coaching/advising players who are on-field.
- 30.4. The Host club is asked to provide 4 x chairs placed between the team benches for use by the QRL Ground Manager, Interchange Official, Game Day Doctor and Standby Referee/HIA Official.
- 30.5. The QRL Ground Manager, Interchange Official and Match Officials may request any person on the bench to leave the bench area and may name that person in their Match Report.
- 30.6. Players and officials on the bench must always remain at the bench allocated to their team (except for player warm-ups). Any player(s) warming up must remain at least 1 metre from the field of play.
- 30.7. Whilst team officials are not expected to sit during the entire match, they must not leave this immediate area or approach the field of play under any circumstances. Where possible team officials must remain at least 5 metres from the sideline.
- 30.8. No player or players may temporarily leave the field of play and subsequently re-enter the field of play without the permission of the referee or touch judge.
- 30.9. Under no circumstances is a suspended Player and/or staff member permitted on the sideline or bench area.
- 30.10. No members of the public or any other unauthorised persons are permitted within the playing area (i.e. inside the fence surrounding the field of play).
- 30.11. Where possible, bench areas are to be clearly designated with the use of red line markings.

31. SPORTS INTEGRITY AUSTRALIA (SIA)

- 31.1. All QRL Statewide Competitions and its participants are bound by the Anti-Doping Policy of the Australian Rugby League Commission Ltd, as per details below.
- 31.2.
 - i. Anti-Doping Policy of the Australian Rugby League Commission Limited, National Rugby League Limited, the NSWRL, the QRL and our member and sub-member organisations, adopted by the Queensland Rugby League.
 - ii. The above document, in its most current form, is available via the Queensland Rugby League website – About – [Documents and Policies](#). [NRL Integrity Anti-Doping](#).



- 31.3. All players shall be required to complete the relevant (Junior or Senior) mandatory online education module prior to taking the field in any competition match, detailed in [section 39](#).
- 31.4. All clubs must notify SIA of their training schedules in the pre-season and during the season. If training varies in any way from this schedule SIA must be notified via (national.testing@sportintegrity.gov.au) and the relevant QRL online platform (currently Smartabase).
- 31.5. Failure to notify SIA of any changes to the clubs training schedule that results in a fine for a "Failed Mission" will be the responsibility of the club.

PLAYERS WHEREABOUTS

- 31.6. Clubs must provide the following Whereabouts Information, or any other information as requested, to the QRL and relevant Drug Testing Authorities:
- By the first day of every month, each club must provide a current Squad list of Player contact and primary residential address details, including:
 - First and Last Name
 - Residential Address
 - Mobile Phone
 - Email address
 - Clubs must provide a schedule providing time and location details of a week's training, club coordinated activities, competition, travel and accommodation (Team Schedule) by 9am AEST on the preceding Friday.
 - Clubs may provide Team Schedules which cover several weeks in advance, provided always that the details for a particular week are received no later by 9am AEST on the preceding Friday.
 - Any change to a scheduled activity must be communicated to the Drug Testing Authorities at least one (1) hour before that scheduled activity was due to begin. If the rescheduled activity begins before the original scheduled activity, the updated time must be communicated at least one (1) hour before the rescheduled activity commences.
 - At least one (1) hour before a scheduled training or club coordinated activity, clubs must provide a list of Players who will be absent from that Training or Club coordinated activity; and,
 - Player Temporary Address details six (6) days prior to the date the player will be residing at the Temporary Address.
- 31.7. Without limitation, a failure to provide Whereabouts information in the form and within the timeframe specified by the QRL will constitute a breach of the NRL/QRL Rules.

32. TEAM LIST SUBMISSION

- 32.1. Clubs are required to nominate to the QRL Competitions & Innovations Coordinator all members who will be responsible for each team list submission to be allocated relevant permissions.
- 32.2. All Clubs must submit a mid-week team list for each of their teams competing in all Statewide Competitions via Game Day Management System by **1.00pm on the Tuesday** prior to the scheduled fixture. This may be regularly updated until 5.00pm on Tuesday each week. Please notify Competitions Coordinator if you are advised of your NRL affiliate players later than 1:00pm.
- i. Mid-week team list to include 13 on-field players, 4 interchange players and any additional players are named as reserves.
 - ii. Captains must be nominated.
- 32.3. The release of teams to media outlets or on any form of media platform by either QRL or the Clubs shall not be permitted prior to **5.50pm on the Tuesday** prior to the scheduled fixture.
- 32.4. All clubs must submit a 24-hour team list for each of their teams competing in all Statewide Competitions via Game Day Management System no later than **24-hours prior to** the scheduled fixture. This will be updated on the website 24-hours prior to scheduled match kick-off.



- 32.5. Each player shall take the field in the jersey number that appears in the 24-hour team list regardless of what position the player takes on the field.
- 32.6. On game day, all teams are required to submit a one hour before kick-off team list with the inclusion of three (3) trainers. This submission will be facilitated by the QRL Ground Manager but is the responsibility of each club to ensure it is correctly inputted in the Game Day Management System.
- One hour before kick-off team list to include 13 on-field players, 4 interchange players and **no** reserve players.
 - Three (3) Sports Trainers must be nominated - one trainer nominated for each respective Sports Trainer shirt colour. If they cannot be selected via the Game Day Management System, QRL Competitions & Innovations Coordinator (or their nominee) must be contacted.
 - Captains must be nominated.
- 32.7. If a player listed in the initial team list is subsequently not selected for that match, the replacement player may wear that player's jersey provided the replacement player is not already listed in the initial team list. It is preferable to use another number not already listed in the initial team list (e.g. numbers 18-23).
- 32.8. Ensure suspended or concussion restricted players are not named in the initial line-up. Players unable to play must not be featured in their team's line-up on game day.

HOSTPLUS CUP ADDITIONAL TEAM LIST SUBMISSION INFORMATION

- 32.9. Each Club must submit its Tuesday Team Lists no later than 5pm on the Tuesday prior to each Match.
- 32.10. Each Club must submit revised Day-Before Team Lists to the Team List Entry Software, or as otherwise directed by the QRL Football Department, the day before each Match. Day-Before Team Lists must include seventeen (17) Players named in numbered positions as "Active Players", and a maximum of three (3) additional Players named as "Reserves", with all Players drawn from the preceding Tuesday Team List.
- 32.11. Each Club must submit its Day-Before Team Lists no later than 24 hours prior to the advertised kick-off time.
- 32.12. Each Club must submit its Final Team List to the QRL through the Team List Entry Software (MySideline App/URL), or as otherwise directed by the QRL Football Department, no later than one hour prior to the advertised kick-off time.
- 32.13. The Final Team Lists must comprise:
- seventeen (17) Players named in numbered positions; and
 - an additional Player who is nominated to be the 18th Player Replacement, who is entitled to play only in accordance with the provisions of Rule 27
- 32.14. Where a Player subsequent to the submission of the Final Team List is injured or becomes ill prior to the Team taking the field, the Club shall report to the Ground Manager and notify the Competitions Manager.

APPLICATIONS TO THE COMPETITIONS MANAGER

- 32.15. Where a Club is genuinely unable to comply with the Team List restrictions in Rules 31.10 to 31.13, the Club may apply to the Competitions Manager for permission to include an additional Player(s) in its Team List. All applications (including those referred to in Rules 31.10 to 31.13 above) must be made via the following link: [SWC Player Exemption Form](#)

TEAM CHANGES MATCH DAY

- 32.16. Players must enter the field and start the Match as indicated on the Final Team List. Those listed as interchange Players must start the Match on the interchange bench subject to the provisions of Rule 32.17 below.
- 32.17. In respect to the withdrawal of a Player after the submission of the Final Team List, the following procedures will apply:
- i) If a Player is included on the Final Team List (in accordance with Rule 32.4) but subsequently becomes ill or is injured prior to the Team taking the field, then the illness or injury is to be reported to the QRL Ground Manager.



- ii) If Game Day Doctor agrees that the Player is unfit to participate in the Match, the Player may be withdrawn without penalty and a substitute can be added to the seventeen (17) man squad. If the substitute is the Player previously nominated as the 18th Player Replacement, another substitute Player must be nominated as the 18th Player Replacement. If the Player is only deemed unwell temporarily and cannot start the Match, the Player may be substituted with a bench Player.
- iii) This rule cannot be used in the case of a Player who is carrying an existing injury or illness and the Coach wants to give the Player until the last minute to make a decision on their fitness to play.

32.18. Any club that names a player who was not in their original 22-24, and who they have not submitted an exemption form for, will incur a \$1000 per-player fine.

33. TIMEKEEPING

OFFICIAL MATCH TIME

- 33.1. It should be noted that the match clock on display at the venue does not necessarily accurately represent the official match time.
- 33.2. It is the responsibility of the home team to provide a Timekeeper/s.
- 33.3. The home team, in conjunction with the visiting team if they so wish, shall be responsible for the keeping of match time. If a visiting team does not nominate anyone for this purpose, they must accept the timing of the home team.
- 33.4. All decisions of the official timekeeper(s) shall be final and not open to review or appeal unless the Competitions Manager, at their absolute discretion, so determines.

MATCH CLOCKS

- 33.5. Match clocks should be in good working order and showing second hand if analogue or indicating seconds if digital.
- 33.6. All clubs match clocks should be a countdown clock (i.e. 40 minutes to zero)
- 33.7. A back up system should also be available at all venues.

SIN BIN OPERATORS

- 33.8. Visiting clubs must nominate their personnel for timing of “temporary suspensions” and make themselves known to the QRL Ground Manager prior to the start of the match.
- 33.9. If a visiting club does not nominate anyone for this purpose, they must accept the timing of the home team sin bin operator and QRL Ground Manager
- 33.10. Operators must be provided with time pieces displaying minutes and seconds by their clubs.

TIMEKEEPING IN RELATION TO MATCH OFFICIALS

- 33.11. When a referee starts play, they will blow their whistle and indicate with one arm above their head and order the ball to be kicked off.
- 33.12. If, for any reason (e.g. an injury or caution), the referee orders time off by indicating with both arms above their head, vertical to their body, timekeepers must immediately stop their watches and time clocks.
- 33.13. When play is to recommence, the referee will indicate by waving one arm over their head. Timekeepers must recommence match clocks immediately. This procedure is to be carried out throughout the match.
- 33.14. Timekeepers shall have at least one additional time piece when keeping time for use in the event of the match clock malfunctioning.
- 33.15. In the event of time wasting, time off is at the sole discretion of the referee.



SIRENS

- 33.16. At the completion of each half, the timekeeper must continue to sound the siren until such time as the match referee signals that they have heard it by raising their arm above their head. The referee will indicate a cessation (after the hooter is blown) by blowing their whistle and waving both their arms across their body.
- 33.17. If the venue siren fails to operate, the timekeeper must use the standby air horn issued to them. If, for any reason, the referee cannot hear the siren, the timekeeper must immediately alert the QRL Ground Manager and Home Team who shall advise the match officials.

END OF PLAY

- 33.18. In all cases, the referee will be the sole judge of when play shall cease after the half or full-time siren has sounded.
- 33.19. The referee may extend the match to award a penalty or to complete the play currently underway at their discretion.

34. TRAVEL LOGISTICS

- 34.1. The QRL shall be responsible for the management and cost of transport, accommodation and meal allowances for teams travelling to all Statewide Competition and finals series matches as outlined in the Travel Schedule in [Appendix 2](#). (PNG Hunters Excluded)
- 34.2. Any expenses incurred outside of the items allocated in the Travel Schedule including the cost of team assembly shall be the responsibility of the club.
- 34.3. The QRL will cover the costs of approved travel for a party of:
- | | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Hostplus Cup teams | 25* people |
| BMD Premiership teams | 23 people |
| Harvey Norman u19s teams | 23 people |
| Mal Meninga Cup teams | 23 people |
| Cyril Connell Cup teams | 23 people |
| Harvey Norman u17s | 23 people |
- * When Mal Meninga Cup travels with Hostplus Cup, only 24 PAX will be covered for Hostplus Cup.
- 34.4. Any club travelling with more than the allocated members shall be responsible for all travel arrangements and associated expenses for those travel arrangements.
- 34.5. Travel for matches during Country Week will be allocated at the discretion of the Competitions Manager (or their nominee).
- 34.6. Any club that schedules a match at any venue other than its nominated home venue will be responsible for the cost of all additional travel above the allocated budget at the discretion of the Competitions Manager.
- 34.7. The Travel Booking Form will be available on **Smartabase** once booked by QRL and prior to **1pm on the Tuesday preceding the match**.
- 34.8. For all travelling teams in the Hostplus Cup competition and that have matches against the PNG Hunters (in PNG), for the 2026 season. The PNG Hunters will be arranging travel directly with visiting clubs and the travelling party will be defined in [34.31](#).
- 34.9. All clubs and participants must adhere to any current Queensland Government health protocols and restrictions.

AIR TRAVEL

The following rules apply to air travel for the Travelling Party.

- 34.10. The QRL shall be responsible for the cost of providing the Travelling Party economy class air tickets including all airport departure and arrival taxes.
- 34.11. The club shall be responsible for the cost of all excess baggage. The QRL will notify the club of the airline's baggage allowances prior to each flight.



- 34.12. The club shall advise QRL and their nominated CBT travel manager on the Smartabase Travel Booking Form persons of the travelling party. Such form shall be lodged prior to;
- If flying with **Qantas (QF)** and **Jetstar**- names must be submitted via the Travel Booking Form on **Smartabase**, no later than **9am on the Friday** in the week prior to the match (e.g. eight days prior to travel). Please note that if names are not supplied in the required timeframe, Qantas will cancel the flights – this is out of CBT and QRL's control and clubs will be required to pay for new flights.
 - If flying with **Virgin** or any other travelling companies (including Bus/Accommodation), details must be submitted via the Travel Booking Form on **Smartabase** no later than **1pm on Tuesday** week of travel (e.g. four days prior to travel)
- 34.13. Should any players or support staff wish to change a flight, requests must be submitted by 1pm Tuesday (week of travel) to the club's designated CBT travel manager. Any costs associated with these changes will be charged back to the club.
- 34.14. Any name changes (due to injury or NRL club allocation) between 1pm Tuesday and 5pm Friday must be emailed directly to the club's designated CBT travel manager. The email must include the outgoing player's name and replacement player's name in the body (e.g., "John Jones out, Bob Brown in"). Any additional fees associated with a change that is not due to player injury shall be charged back to the club.
- 34.15. Any changes required inside of 24 hours of scheduled flight and if those changes incur a fee, the additional expenses will be the responsibility of the club.
- 34.16. For any changes after 5pm Friday (day before travel), the clubs contact person (as submitted via the Travel Booking Form in Smartabase) must contact **CBT After Hours on 07 3893 7101** to make the following changes only:
- i. Flights: Players that are injured or sick and unable to travel, replacement player only (this will be processed as a new ticket)
 - ii. Bus: Change to departure time only
 - iii. Accommodation: Name change only
 - iv. Meals: Change to meal time only
- 34.17. Individual travellers will be entitled to retain, for their own use, any frequent flyer points accrued.
- 34.18. Upgrades from the economy class air tickets provided by the QRL will be at the expense of the club.

BUS TRAVEL

The following rules apply to bus travel for the Travelling Party.

- 34.19. In accordance with the Travel Schedule [Appendix 2](#), the QRL shall be responsible for the cost of providing for the Travelling Party on a coach / bus for the travel from a single nominated venue to the match and return as stated in [34.31](#).
- 34.20. Any additional fees (i.e. cleaning fee / additional stops) charged by the supplier will be at the expense of the club, unless prior approval has been granted by the Competitions Manager (or their nominee).
- 34.21. Any excess seats on the coach / bus may be allocated to additional players, staff or supporters.
- 34.22. The QRL shall be responsible for the cost of providing nominated airport transfers between airport / venue / hotel.

ACCOMMODATION

The following rules apply to accommodation travel for the Travelling Party.

- 34.23. In accordance with the Travel Schedule, the QRL shall be responsible for the cost of providing accommodation for each member of the Travelling Party for the number of nights indicated in the Schedule.
- 34.24. Individual travellers will be entitled to retain, for their own use, any loyalty points accrued.
- 34.25. Any additional fees (i.e. cleaning fee / additional meals / beverages) charged by the supplier will be at the expense of the club, unless prior written approval has been granted by the Competitions Manager (or their nominee).



- 34.26. Upgrades in accommodation will be at the expense of the club.
- 34.27. The accommodation shall include provisions for breakfast. Where breakfast is not provided, an allowance shall be provided in accordance with section [34.34](#)
- 34.28. QRL will attempt to schedule matches to minimise overnight accommodation for Under 17 (CCC and HN17) matches wherever possible.
- 34.29. Where travel or overnight accommodation is required, clubs must integrate child safeguarding considerations into all arrangements. This includes appropriate supervision, safe sleeping arrangements and clearly defined adult responsibilities. Players must be informed of who they can speak to if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable, and all concerns must be reported in line with [QRL safeguarding procedures](#).

MEAL ALLOWANCES

- 34.30. The home club shall be responsible for providing a substantial post-match meal for each member of the Travelling Party, Match Officials and Game Day Operations Staff. A substantial meal is defined as per below:
- For teams that are required to travel via air or bus trip longer than 1 hour, a substantial meal consists of either a sit-down meal or similar containerised for takeaway purposes (e.g. Pasta etc.) plus a drink (water, soft drink etc.) per person.
 - For teams that are considered local (e.g. Travel less than 1 hour) a sufficient meal is defined as a substantial sandwich/roll and drink per person.
 - The away club is required to discuss directly with the home club if they will be requiring a post-match meal not less than 4 days prior to match day.
 - For QRL Game Day Operations Staff (3), the home club is to provide the QRL Ground Manager with three (3) vouchers for use in your canteen.
- 34.31. For Match officials, the home clubs is to provide vouchers (to be left in referees room) for use in your canteen for their post-match meal.
- 34.32. In accordance with the Travel Schedule ([Appendix 2](#)), the QRL is responsible for the cost of meals for each member of the Travelling Party.
- 34.33. Where required, an allowance for lunch for the Travelling Party of \$30.00 per person will be provided.
- 34.34. Where required, an allowance for dinner for the Travelling Party of \$50.00 per person will be provided.
- 34.35. In accordance with section [34.27](#), an allowance for breakfast for the Travelling Party of \$25.00 per person will be provided.
- 34.36. Where an allowance is incurred, the club shall be required to provide the Statewide Competitions department with a tax invoice (**with receipts attached**) for the provision of the allocated allowances within fourteen (14) days of incurring the expense.

35. TRIALS

- 35.1. All requests for trial matches involving Statewide Competition clubs shall be lodged via the [Trials Request Form](#) with the QRL Statewide Competitions department no less than twenty-one (21) days prior to matches being scheduled.
- 35.2. Trial matches can only be played within the approved trial window relevant to each competition, each team can only play two trials within the three week trial period. Any additional trials may be approved at the discretion of the Competitions Manager.
- 35.3. Players must complete and submit a QRL Train & Trial Agreement Form online via Cognito forms if they are not currently registered with the club they are trialling for in the current season. Link to form: [QRL Train and Trial Agreement](#)
- 35.4. For preseason and post season trials, other than intra club trials which may be approved upon application to the Competitions Manager, clubs shall refrain from playing games from the 3rd weekend of October to the 2nd weekend in January, inclusive.





- 35.5. Trials being played between the 2nd weekend in January and the end of February that kick off prior to 4pm are also subject to the following conditions:
- Games are to be played in 15-minute quarters.
 - 3 x Sports Trainers can be utilised to run water.
 - Half time can be extended if deemed necessary.
 - No player to play more than 60 minutes.
- 35.6. All trial matches shall require the completion of a trials teamlist prior to kick off via the relevant submission platform as determined from time to time by the QRL. Trials teamlist submission can be found here: [SWC Trials Teamlist Submission](#)
- 35.7. All trials for all Statewide Competitions must be videoed for assessment and judiciary purposes and the responsibility for organisation rests with QRL however the cost rests with the host club. These videos must be uploaded to HUDL within 24 hours of match completion.
- 35.8. All trials for all Statewide Competitions must have a doctor in attendance and the responsibility for organisation rests with QRL and cost rests with the host club.
- 35.9. Referees for preseason trials will be charged as per the table below. Hosting clubs will be responsible for match official payments. Invoices will be issued by the QRL at the conclusion of the preseason trial period.

U17s	Amount	BMD Premiership	Amount
Referee	\$50.00	Referee	\$120.00
Touch Judge	\$25.00	Touch Judge	\$60.00
Touch Judge	\$25.00	Touch Judge	\$60.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>\$240.00</u>
U19s	Amount	Hostplus Cup	Amount
Referee	\$70.00	Referee	\$200.00
Touch Judge	\$35.00	Touch Judge	\$100.00
Touch Judge	\$35.00	Touch Judge	\$100.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$140.00</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>

- 35.10. Referees for post-season trials (including squad selections) will be charged at \$1 per minute. Hosting clubs will be responsible for match official payments. Invoices will be issued by the QRL at the conclusion of the post season trial period.
- 35.11. Requests for referees to attend training sessions throughout the season and internal club Junior Representative trials must be submitted to the State Match Officials Manager via the [Scrimmage Request Form](#).

36. REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFTS (RPAS) - DRONES

- 36.1. RPAs are not permitted to be flown over any sporting event including associated crowd.
- 36.2. The drone safety rules simplify the regulations from [Part 101 of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations](#).
- 36.3. Refer to [Appendix 7](#)



37. VIDEOGRAPHY

- 37.1. The QRL has an exclusive agreement with a nominated QRL supplier (Redcorner) for the videography of competition matches.
- 37.2. The nominated QRL supplier will record all competition matches and shall upload to the relevant cloud storage platform within three (3) hours of match completion. Vision of all matches will be provided to all teams and Match Officials via Hudl.
- 37.3. The QRL will be responsible for the payment of the services provided by the nominated QRL supplier for all competition matches.
- 37.4. The cost to video trial matches shall be the responsibility of the Host Club and is mandatory for assessment and Judiciary purposes.
- 37.5. The Host Club must provide a suitable filming platform or position as per the requirements below:
- i. Must have a floor height of at least two metres from the playing surface
 - ii. Must have min. platform length (parallel to sideline) of 4m for a 2 x camera broadcast (plus 1.2m per additional camera)
 - iii. Must have min. platform width/depth (perpendicular to sideline) 1.8m
 - iv. Must have no obstructions visible between the platform and any part of the field (including field light poles)
 - v. Must be accessible via a staircase of at least 90cm width
 - vi. Must not have any structural components on the front edge of the platform that rise above the level of the front railing (including roof supports) unless the platform is more than 10m from the edge of the field of play
 - vii. Must be as close to the halfway line as possible
 - viii. Should be set back from the edge of the playing surface by at least 5m
 - ix. Should have weather protection
 - x. Power (Mains 240v 10A) available at the camera deck. If this is not available, an inverter generator must be supplied and maintained during the event - we recommend a 3 KVA Inverter Generator.
- 37.6. The QRL shall maintain exclusive rights to the intellectual property captured by nominated QRL supplier and shall be entitled to use such property in any manner it deems appropriate for the promotion and enhancement of the competition.
- 37.7. All players in Statewide Competitions are required to consent to the use of their image and the release of game footage and photography. No private profiles are permitted in any Statewide Competition as privacy cannot be guaranteed due to live streaming and public team list submission protocols.
- 37.8. As part of the MySideline registration process, all players participating in Statewide Competitions (or, where the player is under 18 years of age, their parent or legal guardian) must provide consent to the recording, use, and publication of their image in game footage and photography for competition-related, promotional, officiating, and broadcast purposes, in accordance with applicable privacy and child safeguarding legislation.

38. WARM UP AREA

- 38.1. The home team must ensure a safe, secure and suitable area is provided for warm up.
- 38.2. Both teams must return to the dressing room at least five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time.
- 38.3. Where a warm up area is not available and teams are required to use the playing field, allow thirty (30) minutes from the end of the preceding match.

39. WELLBEING AND EDUCATION

- 39.1. All players in all Statewide Competitions must complete and attend the relevant social welfare education seminars as directed by the QRL from time to time. Attendance and completion of any online Wellbeing and Education courses must be completed prior to the commencement of the competitions.
- 39.2. The completion of the relevant education modules is mandatory for all players and staff prior to round 1. **Players will not be considered for selection until these modules are completed and visible in their profile on MySideline.**
- 39.3. For all players to complete: [2026 Code of Conduct Quiz](#)



- 39.4. The set of instructions has been provided to each clubs' Wellbeing and Education Manager. Once a player or staff member successfully completes the online module it will automatically appear under "My Accreditations" and will remain there permanently.



APPENDIX 1 - CATCHMENT AREAS

The following catchment areas will act as a boundary for clubs for the registration of players for the competitions and the determination of Development Fees.

A club may contract a player from outside of their area to compete with their club in the competitions. If the player is eligible for the application of a Development Fee (aged 21 and under and on a Development List) it shall be paid under the terms of the Development Fee policy ([Appendix 3](#)).

If a club chooses to maintain a relationship with a club outside of its catchment area it shall be entitled to do so, subject to QRL approval, however it shall remain bound by these areas for the purpose of player registration and any subsequent Development Fees.

Brisbane Tigers	Brothers St Brendan's
	Carina
	East's Juniors
	East's Mt Gravatt
	East's Springwood
	Flagstone
	Rochedale
	Yarrabilba
Burleigh Bears	Gold Coast Rugby League Clubs – shared with Tweed Seagulls
	Burleigh Bears Seniors and Juniors
CQ Capras	Bundaberg Rugby League Clubs - shared with Wide Bay Bulls
	Central Highlands Clubs
	Central West Clubs
	Gladstone Rugby League Clubs
	Rockhampton Rugby League Clubs
Ipswich Jets	Ipswich Rugby League Clubs
Mackay Cutters	Mackay District Rugby League Clubs
Northern Pride	Cairns District Rugby League Clubs
	Remote Areas Clubs
	FNQ Rugby League Clubs
Norths Devils	Aspley Devils
	Banyo Devils
	Brothers Juniors
	Norths Juniors
	Pine Central Holy Spirit
	Samford Stags
	Valleys Diehards
	West's Arana Hills
	West's JRLFC
	West's Mitchelton
	West's Panthers
PNG Hunters	PNG Rugby League Clubs
Redcliffe Dolphins	Albany Creek Crushers
	Brighton
	Burpengary
	Dayboro



	Moreton Bay
	Narangba
	North Lakes
	Pine River Bears
	Redcliffe
Souths Logan Magpies	Browns Plains
	Forest Lake
	Graceville
	Greenbank
	Logan Brothers
	Mustangs
	Normanby
	Souths Acacia Juniors
	Souths Sunnybank
	Waterford
Sunshine Coast Falcons	West's Inala
	Sunshine Coast / Gympie Rugby League Clubs
	South Burnett Clubs – shared with Western Clydesdales and Wide Bay Bulls
	Fraser Coast Clubs – shared with Wide Bay Bulls
Townsville Blackhawks	North and Central Clubs – shared with Wide Bay Bulls
	Gulf Clubs
	Mid-West Rugby League Clubs
	Mt Isa Rugby League Clubs
Tweed Seagulls	Townsville Rugby League Clubs
	Gold Coast Rugby League Clubs – shared with Burleigh Bears
Western Clydesdales	Northern NSW to Lismore
	Toowoomba Rugby League Clubs
	Border Rugby League Clubs
	Roma & District Rugby League Clubs
	South West Rugby League Clubs
Wide Bay Bulls	South Burnett Clubs – Shared with Wide Bay Bulls and Sunshine Coast Falcons
	Bundaberg Rugby League Clubs – shared with CQ Capras
	North and Central Clubs – shared with Sunshine Coast Falcons
	South Burnett Clubs – shared with Western Clydesdales and Sunshine Coast Falcons
Wynnum Manly Seagulls	Fraser Coast Clubs – shared with Sunshine Coast Falcons
	Beenleigh
	Capalaba
	Eagleby
	North Stradbroke Island Sharks
	Redlands
	Slacks Creek
	Wynnum Manly



APPENDIX 2 - TRAVEL SCHEDULE

HOSTPLUS CUP & BMD PREMIERSHIP

The following shall be provided for each member of the Travelling Party.

Host Region	Visiting Region	Transport	Accommodation	Meals
Cairns	Townsville	Bus	1 night	3
	Mackay / Rockhampton	Air / Bus	1 night unless Charter	3 unless Charter, then as required
	South East QLD* / Gold Coast & Tweed*	Air / Bus	1 night	3
Townsville	Cairns / Mackay	Bus	1 night	3
	Rockhampton	Air / Bus	1 night unless Charter	3 unless Charter, then as required
	South East QLD*	Air / Bus	1 night	3
Mackay	Cairns	Air / Bus	1 night unless Charter	3 unless Charter, then as required
	Townsville / Rockhampton	Bus	1 night	3
	South East QLD*	Air / Bus	1 night	3
Rockhampton	Cairns / Townsville	Air / Bus	1 night unless Charter	3 unless Charter, then as required
	Mackay	Bus	1 night	3
	South East QLD*	Air / Bus	1 night	3
South East QLD	Cairns / Townsville / Mackay / Rockhampton	Air / Bus	1 night	3
	Brisbane* / Ipswich	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Burleigh / Tweed / Sunshine Coast / Toowoomba	Bus	Nil	Nil
Burleigh & Tweed	Brisbane* / Sunshine Coast / Ipswich / Toowoomba	Bus	Nil	Nil
	Burleigh & Tweed	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sunshine Coast	South East QLD	Bus	Nil	Nil
Toowoomba	South East QLD	Bus	Nil	Nil

*South East QLD Region – Brisbane Tigers, Redcliffe Dolphins, Wynnum Manly Seagulls, Norths Devils, Souths Logan Magpies, Ipswich Jets, Western Clydesdales.

*Brisbane – Brisbane Tigers, Redcliffe Dolphins, Wynnum Manly Seagulls, Norths Devils, Souths Logan Magpies.

^Note: Airport Transfers will only be provided for the following clubs to & from Brisbane Airport – Sunshine Coast Falcons, Ipswich Jets, Burleigh Bears, Tweed Seagulls and Western Clydesdales.

^Note: PNG covers all travel, accommodation and meals for all clubs and match officials.

MAL MENINGA CUP

The following shall be provided for each member of the Travelling Party.

Host Region	Visiting Region	Transport	Accommodation	Meals
Cairns	Townsville	Bus	Nil	2
	Mackay / Rockhampton	Air / Bus	Nil	1
	South East QLD*	Air / Bus	Nil	1
Townsville	Cairns / Mackay	Bus	Nil	2
	Rockhampton	Air / Bus	Nil	1



	South East QLD*	Air / Bus	Nil	1
Mackay	Cairns	Air / Bus	Nil	1
	Townsville / Rockhampton	Bus	Nil	2
	South East QLD*	Air / Bus	Nil	1
Rockhampton	Cairns / Townsville	Air / Bus	Nil	1
	Mackay	Bus	Nil	2
	South East QLD*	Air / Bus	Nil	1
South East QLD	Cairns / Townsville / Mackay / Rockhampton	Air / Bus	Nil	1
	Burleigh / Tweed / Sunshine Coast / Toowoomba / Wide Bay	Bus	Nil	Nil
	Brisbane* / Ipswich	Nil	Nil	Nil
Burleigh / Tweed	South East QLD	Bus	Nil	Nil
	Sunshine Coast / Toowoomba	Bus	Nil	Nil
	Burleigh / Tweed	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sunshine Coast / Toowoomba / Wide Bay	All teams	Air / Bus	Nil	Nil

*South East QLD Region – Brisbane Tigers, Redcliffe Dolphins, Wynnum Manly Seagulls, Norths Devils, Souths Logan Magpies, Ipswich Jets, Burleigh Bears, Tweed Seagulls, Western Clydesdales, Wide Bay Bulls.

*Brisbane – Brisbane Tigers, Redcliffe Dolphins, Wynnum Manly Seagulls, Norths Devils, Souths Logan Magpies.

^Note: Airport Transfers will only be provided for the following clubs to & from Brisbane Airport – Sunshine Coast Falcons, Ipswich Jets, Western Clydesdales, Burleigh Bears and Tweed Seagulls.

HARVEY NORMAN U19S, CYRIL CONNELL CUP AND HARVEY NORMAN U17S

The following shall be provided for each member of the Travelling Party.

Host Region	Visiting Region	Transport	Accommodation	Meals
Cairns	Townsville	Bus	Nil	2
	Mackay / Rockhampton	Air / Charter	1 night	3
Townsville	Cairns / Mackay	Bus	Nil	2
	Rockhampton	Air	1 night	3
Mackay	Cairns	Air / Charter	1 night	3
	Townsville	Bus	Nil	2
	Rockhampton	Bus	Nil	3
Rockhampton	Cairns / Townsville	Air / Charter	1 night	3
	Mackay	Bus	Nil	2
Pool B*	Pool B*	Bus	Nil	1
Burleigh / Tweed	South East QLD*	Bus	Nil	Nil
	Burleigh / Tweed	Nil	Nil	Nil
South East QLD	South East QLD*	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Burleigh / Tweed	Bus	Nil	Nil

*Pool B – Ipswich Jets, Sunshine Coast Falcons, Western Clydesdales & Wide Bay Bulls.

*South East QLD – Brisbane Tigers, Souths Logan Magpies, Redcliffe Dolphins, Norths Devils, Wynnum Manly Seagulls.



APPENDIX 3 - DEVELOPMENT FEES – POLICY OF THE NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE

1. OBJECTIVES

This Policy and accompanying Schedule of Fees have the following objectives:

- a) Fair compensation for the development investment of a Player and to encourage the continuance of that investment.
- b) Discourage recruitment Clubs from 'cherry-picking' and the development Clubs from 'stockpiling' while still providing Players with an opportunity to develop and progress their rugby league career;
- c) Consider the needs of NRL Clubs who have suffered due to changing demographics and need to recruit more vigorously.
- d) Ensure the Schedule of Fees reflects the special needs of the NZRL ('player drain').
- e) Place wellbeing and playing opportunity at the forefront of decisions, in relation to the movement of Players across organisations.

2. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this Policy (including any appendix to this Policy):

"Affiliated States" – means the States and Territories of Australia that do not currently have an NRL Club based within their territorial limits plus Victoria;

"Age Limit of Fees" – Development fees do not apply to players who have exceeded the age required to be eligible to participate in the highest level of age-restricted representative competition offered within the State League (or NZRL) where they are registered.

The age limit of fees is equal to the level of the highest age-restricted competition within each State League (or NZRL).

For clarity, the age limit of fees for each League is outlined in Schedule 3. Once a player has exceeded the age eligibility in the League where they are registered, a development fee will not be applicable.

"Geographical Border" – means the boundaries that separate the recognized locations of the State and Territory Leagues of Australia and the NZRL and NRL.

"Club" – means a Club who fields a team in the junior representative competitions at U16/17 or U18/19 in the NSWRL, QRL, or NZRL and a Club who fields a team in the NSWRL or QRL State Under 21s competition or the State Rugby League competition.

"Cross Border" – means the movement of a player from a club in one recognised State League border or NZRL, to a club playing within another State League Border, NRL Club or NZRL.

"Development Area" – means an area which has been allocated to a Club who is a participant in the competitions under the auspices of the NRL or a Governing League.

"Development Fees" – means a fee(s) payable under this Policy by an SRL Club or NRL Club for the development of a player as outlined in the Schedule of Fees in Schedule 1 to this Agreement.

"Development Program" – means a program delivered by an SRL/Region/District that aims to deliver additional coaching and development to selected players as outlined in the Governing Leagues policy and part of their minimum standards.

"Disputes Adjudicator" – means a person appointed by a Governing League to resolve development fee disputes.

"Disputes Panel" – means a panel of 4 people that will convene in the event of a dispute that has arisen due to the signing of a player from one Governing League to another, one Geographical location to another or with an NRL Club. This panel will rule on Category 1 and 2 disputes and be made up of the following:

- a) NRL Head of Football - Participation, Pathways and Game Development (Chairperson);
- b) NRL Salary Cap Auditor;
- c) Representative of the Governing League that player is clearing from; and
- d) Representative of the Governing League that player is clearing to.

"District" - means a geographical area defined by a Governing League for the purposes of organising development programs

"Governing League" – means, with respect to a player, the League that is responsible for the administration of the competition in relation to which the player's junior rugby league club was or is a participant;

"JRA" – means Junior Representative Agreement in the standard format attached for Junior Players contracting to a Junior Representative Team.

"Junior Player" – means a player who has not attained the age of 18 years before 1 January of each year;

"Junior Representative Team/Club" – means a Team or Club playing in the Harold Matthews Cup, SG Ball Cup, Cyril Connell Cup, Mal Meninga Cup, Andrew Johns Cup, Laurie Daley Cup, NZRL U18s and NZRL U16s and representing a League;

"Leagues" – the NZRL, the QRL, the NSWRL, the NRL Victoria, the NRL WA, the NRL NT and the NRL SA.

"MySideline" – means the online system used by the National Rugby League for player registration and player clearance purposes.

"NRL" – means the National Rugby League, being the administrative body responsible for the NRL Premiership competition.



“NRL Club” – means one of the 16 clubs competing in the NRL Premiership competition;

“NRL Development List” – has the meaning given to that expression by the NRL PCR Rules.

“NRL Development List Contract” – means a contract between a Club on the one hand and a Player on the other hand by which the Player agrees to be a Development List Player and plays Rugby League for the Club in the NRL Competition, and/or the Related Competitions.

“NRL Top 30 List” – has the meaning given to that expression by the NRL PCR Rules.

“NRL Top 30 Playing Contract” – means a contract between a Club on the one hand and a Player on the other hand by which the Player agrees to play Rugby League for the Club in the NRL Competition, and/or the Related Competitions.

“NRL Premiership” – means the top-level men’s National rugby league competition organised by NRL and contested by the NRL Clubs and includes the finals series and grand final.

“NRL Salary Cap Auditor” – means the person appointed pursuant section 12 on the NRL PCR Rules.

“NSWRL” – means the New South Wales Rugby League. **“NZRL”** – means the New Zealand Rugby League. **“Player”** – means a Junior Player or Senior Player.

“NZRL” – means the New Zealand Rugby League.

“Player” – means a Junior Player or Senior Player.

“Playing Contract” – means a playing contract which has been lodged for registration and / or clearance with the Governing League responsible for the State Rugby League competitions or the NRL Competition.

“Policy” – means this policy including any schedules or annexures.

“Protected Player List” – means the squads notified to the NRL Salary Cap Auditor by 1 October of each season, listing those players who are subject to a development fee as a result of the rules stated in this Policy.

“QRL” – means the Queensland Rugby League.

“Region” – for the purpose of this policy, has the same meaning as “District”

“Senior Player” – means a player who has attained the age of 18 years before 1 January of each year;

“Schedule of Fees” – means the Development Fees outlined in the Schedule to this Policy.

“SRL Club” – means a Club who participates in the state-based competitions including competitions at U21s and/or the most Senior Open Age competition.

“State Cup Contract” - means a contract between an SRL Club on the one hand and a Player on the other hand by which the Player agrees to play Rugby League for the Club in the Hostplus Cup, Canterbury Cup, Mal Meninga Cup or Jersey Flegg Competitions.

“State Rugby League” – means any competition run by the NSWRL, QRL, NZRL, or affiliate states.

“Team” – means a Team entered into the Junior Representative Competitions or the State Under 21s competition or the State Rugby League competition as representing a League.

“Truly Developed” – means players who have been within the District/Junior Representative Club/Region Development Programs (as defined earlier) for a minimum period of two (2) consecutive years.

“Written Offer” – means a letter sent to a player, informing them of the Club/Region’s desire to have them as part of their Development Program. This offer can be in the form of a written letter or email that appears on appropriate letterhead, and is signed and dated by the appropriate person representing the Club/Region

3. POLICY

Calculation of Development Fees

- a) Development Fees will be calculated and paid in accordance with the Schedule of Fees.
- b) Development Fees will be charged at the applicable level outlined in the Schedule of Fees, to the recruiting NRL Club or SRL Club/Team where a Player signs a JRA or a Playing Contract with an NRL Club or SRL Club/Team unless:
 - i) the player has exceeded the Age Limit of Fees;
 - ii) the player has not been ‘truly developed’ by the District/Junior Representative Club/Region claiming the Development Fee;
 - iii) the player is not listed on the relevant Protected Player List; or
 - iv) there has been an agreement reached between the NRL Club or SRL Club/Team signing the player and the Club/Region/District from which the player is transferring, to waive the fee in a particular circumstance. The Governing Leagues of both parties must approve this process.
- c) All Junior Representative Teams/Clubs, NRL Clubs and Leagues will be required to nominate their Protected Player Lists in line with the policies in place for their respective Governing League. Development Fees will be applicable for those Players who are nominated on the Protected Player



List. Details relating to the structure of Protected Player Lists for each Governing League can be found in the “Protected Player List Details” in Schedule 2 of this policy.

- d) If a player appears on a Protected Player List and moves to a Club/Team within another Governing League at a level of competition that does not attract a Development Fee and that player subsequently signs a JRA, State Cup Contract, NRL Development List Contract or NRL Top 30 Playing Contract within two years from the date of the original clearance, a Development Fee will be payable to the Governing League that the player relocated from.
- e) For a player to be part of the District/Junior Representative Club/Region Development Program, they must have been given a written invitation to be part of the program. An offer to ‘trial’ is not considered being part of a Development Program. For clarity, if a player receives a written offer and refuses to attend, a development fee is still applicable.
- f) The final Protected Player List will be circulated to NRL Clubs by the NRL Salary Cap Auditor. The final Protected Player List will be circulated to NSWRL, QRL, NZRL Clubs by the relevant Governing League.
- g) Where a Player registers a contract defined in a particular category, and then subsequently registers a contract in a higher category in the same season of registering the initial contract, an additional fee will be charged by the applicable Governing League who charged the original Development Fee. This additional fee will be the difference between the Development Fee on the initial contract and Development Fee on the subsequent contract.
- h) Once a Development Fee in a particular category is invoiced, no further Development Fee will be applicable for that Player in that particular category if he remains at the same club/district/region or their associated affiliates.
- i) A Development Fee is not payable when a player signs a contract defined in Category 2 of the Schedule, having previously signed a contract defined in Category 3 or 4.
- j) Furthermore, where a Player signs an:
 - i) NRL Development List Contract and has previously been signed to an NRL Development List Contract; or
 - ii) NRL Top 30 Playing Contract and has previously been signed to an NRL Top 30 Playing Contract then no Development Fee will apply unless the incumbent club has offered the player a contract at or above the current contract value.

4. REGISTRATION OF CONTRACTS

- a) A Club or Teams who sign a Player to a JRA or Playing Contract must register the agreement with the Governing League or the NRL within 5 business days of the player signing the JRA or Playing Contract.
- b) It is the Clubs/Leagues responsibility to check whether a player is on a Protected Player List prior to signing and/or registering a JRA or Playing Contract.
- c) The Governing League of a Club/Team that signs a player to a JRA or Playing Contract that requires an international clearance from New Zealand, will advise NZRL as part of the international clearance process that the player has had a JRA or Playing Contract registered with the Governing League.

5. NOTIFICATION OF DEVELOPMENT FEES

- a) Clubs or Teams who sign a JRA or SRL Playing Contract with a Player with a Development Fee applicable will be notified by the Governing League who registers the agreement that a Development Fee is applicable within 10 business days of the Club/Team lodging the JRA or SRL Playing Contract for registration.
- b) NRL Clubs who sign a player to an NRL Top 30 or NRL Development List contract with a Development Fee applicable should be invoiced within 10 working days of the release of the NRL Top 30 List and NRL Development List on 1 November, 1 March and 30 June each season.
- c) The Governing Leagues are required to advise the NRL weekly of any newly contracted Players at each level and the NRL will advise all Leagues of any newly contracted Players in the NRL Top 30 List and NRL Development List.
- d) Notifications will be made by the Governing Leagues to NRL via MySideline and notifications from NRL to Governing Leagues via the clearance application process on MySideline.

6. PAYMENT OF DEVELOPMENT FEES

- a) The invoice shall be raised by the applicable Governing League, SRL Club or NRL Club. The Governing League, SRL Club or NRL Club is required to document the break-up of the payment with respect to the various recipients and their portion of the payment. This is to allow Governing Leagues and Clubs to provide development acknowledgement if so desired.
- b) Arrangements made by NRL Clubs, SRL Clubs and their local Leagues associated with the Club (Development Area) to waive Development Fees for the use of Players during the course of a season is a matter for negotiation between the NRL Club/SRL Club and the local League with the approval of the relevant Governing League in the State/NZRL.
- c) Development Fees should be paid in full prior to a clearance being provided, however, if a clearance is provided irrespective of payment, the Player is clear to play. The NRL Disputes Adjudicator and/or the Disputes Panel may intervene to ensure payment is received by the appropriate Club/Team.
- d) Retrospective fee disputes greater than 12 months old will not be dealt with under the provisions of this Policy and will be deemed null and void unless the necessary documentation and supporting information was lodged with the Disputes Adjudicator by 5pm on 31 October in the season of which the dispute relates (i.e. the last day of the contracting year).



7. DISPUTES RESOLUTION – CATEGORY 1 & 2

- Any disputes as to the liability to pay a Development Fee or the quantum of a Development Fee for a Player moving within a Geographical Border must be promptly referred to the Disputes Adjudicator within that Governing League, or their nominee, for determination in their absolute discretion.
- If a Player is registered in one of the Governing Leagues and signs a contract with another Governing League or in another geographical location, and there is any dispute, the matter will be referred to the Disputes Panel.
- If a majority decision cannot be reached by the members of the Disputes Panel, the casting vote will be afforded to the Chairperson.
- If the NRL Head of Football - Participation, Pathways and Game Development or the NRL Salary Cap Auditor is unavailable to sit on the Disputes Panel for any reason, they may appoint a proxy.
- The Disputes Adjudicator (or their nominee) or the Disputes Panel, whichever is relevant to the Development Fee, may determine that some or all or none of the Development Fee is payable. That determination will be final and binding.
- Where a Development Fee is determined by the Disputes Adjudicator (or their nominee) or the Disputes Panel, whichever is relevant to the Development Fee, to be payable by a Club/Team, the amount of that Development Fee shall be remitted as directed by the Disputes Adjudicator (or his nominee) or Disputes Panel, whichever is relevant to the Development Fee, within 14 days of the date of the determination. However, should a Club/Team fail to remit a Development Fee – or any part of a Development Fee – within that time period, the Development Fee may be deducted from the annual grant payable by the Governing League to the Club/Team and remitted by the Disputes Adjudicator or Dispute Panel, whichever is relevant to the Development Fee, on behalf of the Club/Team.

8. DISPUTES RESOLUTION – CATEGORY 3 & 4

- Any disputes as to the liability to pay a Development Fee or the quantum of a Development Fee for a player registered in the NRL Premiership (Category 3 and 4) must be promptly referred to the NRL Salary Cap Auditor, or their nominee, for determination in his absolute discretion.
- The NRL Salary Cap Auditor, or their nominee, may determine that some or all or none of the Development Fee is payable. That determination will be final and binding.
- Where a Development Fee is determined by the NRL Salary Cap Auditor, or their nominee, to be payable by an NRL Club, the amount of that fee shall be remitted as directed by the NRL Salary Cap Auditor, or his nominee within 10 days of the date of the determination. However, should an NRL Club fail to remit a Development Fee – or any part of a Development Fee – within that time period, the Development Fee shall be deducted from the annual grant payable by the NRL to the NRL Club and remitted by the NRL Salary Cap Auditor, on behalf of the NRL Club.

9. SCHEDULES

9.1 Schedule 1 – Schedule of Fees (Development Fees).

Category	Development Fee	Amount
One (1)	Development Fee on JRA	\$5,000
Two (2)	Development Fee on State Cup Contract–Regional, Interstate and International Transfers Only	\$7,500
Three (3)	Development Fee on NRL Development List Contract	\$12,500
Four (4)	Development Fee on NRL Top 30 Playing Contract	\$25,000

9.2 Schedule 2 – Protected Player List Details

NSWRL	Competition	Teams	List Number	Total
U15	Harold Matthews/Andrew Johns Clubs	25	30 or 20% of District/Region, whichever is higher ¹	750+
U16	Harold Matthews/Andrew Johns	25	30	750
U17	SG Ball/Laurie Daley Clubs	25	30	750
U18/19	SG Ball/Laurie Daley	25	30	750
U20/21	Jersey Flegg	12	30	360

¹ Based off NSWRL Minimum Standards and policies

QRL	Competition	Teams	List Number	Total
U15	SRL Club Aligned Academy	14	30	420
U16	SRL Club Aligned Academy	14	30	420
U17	SRL Club Aligned Academy	14	30	420
U18	Mal Meninga Cup clubs	14	30	420
U19/U20/U21	Hastings Deering Colts clubs	14	30	420

NZRL	Competition	Teams	List Number	Total
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U15	National Youth Tournament	8	30	240
U16	NZRL Zones	8	30	240
U17	National Youth Tournament	8	30	240
U18	NZRL Zones + Warriors SG Ball team	n/a	240	240
U19/20	NZ U19's and Senior Comps	n/a	240	240

NRL VIC	Competition	Teams	List Number	Total
U15	Rep Squad or Academy	1	30	30
U16	Rep Squad or Academy	1	30	30
U17	Rep Squad or Academy	1	30	30
U18/U19	SG Ball	1	30	30
U20/21	Jersey Flegg	1	30	30

NRL WA	Competition	Teams	List Number	Total
U15	Rep Squad or Academy	1	30	30
U16	Rep Squad or Academy	1	30	30
U17	Rep Squad or Academy	1	30	30
U18	SG Ball	1	30	30

NRL NT	Competition	Teams	List Number	Total
U15	Rep Squad or Academy	1	30	30
U16	Rep Squad or Academy	1	30	30
U17	Rep Squad or Academy	1	30	30
U18	Rep Squad or Academy	1	30	30

NRL SA	Competition	Teams	List Number	Total
U15	Rep Squad or Academy	1	30	30
U16	Rep Squad or Academy	1	30	30
U17	Rep Squad or Academy	1	30	30
U18	Rep Squad or Academy	1	30	30

9.3 Schedule 3 – Age Limit of Fees

Competition	
QRL	the calendar year where the player turns 19 years of age
NSWRL	the calendar year where the player turns 21 years of age
NRL WA	the calendar year where the player turns 18 years of age
NRL SA	the calendar year where the player turns 18 years of age
NRL NT	the calendar year where the player turns 18 years of age
NRL Victoria	the calendar year where the player turns 18 years of age
NZRL	the calendar year where the player turns 18 years of age



10. APPENDIX

5.1 Example of Clause 3.1.b.i

If a player signs a NSW State League Contract for a club for the year he turns 22 after playing more than 2 years with another NSW State League Club then no development fee is applicable

5.2 Example of Clause 3.1.g

A player signs a State League contract at a new Club for 2021 and a development fee of \$7500 is paid by the recruiting club. If that player is then upgraded to an NRL Development List Contract for 2021, an additional \$5000 would need to be paid to the club the player was recruited from.

5.3 Example of Clause 3.1.h

A player signs a QLD or NSW State League Contract and plays 2 years with a club. Before his 22nd year, he then signs another State League Contract with a different club. If his current club has made an offer to the player on terms no worse than their previous contract, then a development fee would be applicable.

5.4 Example of Clause 3.1.i

If a player is on an NRL Development List contract (Cat 3) and then signs a State League Contract (Cat 2), then no Development Fee is payable.

APPENDIX 4 - SALARY CAP / CONTRACTING MODEL

PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

1. Purpose of Document

The purpose of this document is to provide clubs with guidelines to allow management of the QRL Open Age (Hostplus Cup) and Under 19's (Mal Meninga Cup) Salary Cap.

2. Commencement

The provisions of these rules commence in operation from midnight on 31 October 2023. This coincides with the commencement of the QRL 2024 financial year.

PART 2 – THE SALARY CAP

3. Salary Cap Values

The salary cap for each club is as follows:

- a) The total club salary cap is \$460,000 (Hostplus Cup (HPC), Mal Meninga Cup (MMC) and Talent Development Squads (TDS))
 - a. \$420,000 Hostplus Cup and Mal Meninga Cup – 32 players each squad.
 - b. \$40,000 Talent Development Squad – Min 0 players Max 8 players.
- b) Individual Salary Cap - \$35,000 (Hostplus Cup)
- c) The salary cap is estimated at the beginning of the season based on contracts received and using the formulas detailed in section 8.
- d) The salary cap estimation is based on the highest paid 17 player plus all guaranteed player payments outside the Top 17 including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Player & Training Fees
 - b. Relocation allowance (above \$5,000)
 - c. Travel allowance
 - d. Meal allowance
 - e. Accommodation
 - f. Any additional player bonuses/benefits/payments
- e) **The salary cap actuals at the end of the season will be used to determine the final figure.**
- f) The actual figure calculated at year end includes all payments in the following competitions – Hostplus Cup & Mal Meninga Cup.

4. Minimum Salary Cap Value

Clubs are not expected to meet a minimum salary cap value.

5. Maximum Wages

- a) Maximum Wage for a Hostplus Cup player is \$35,000.

6. Talent Development Squad (TDS) players

- a) Players must be aged between 18 and 21 – to clarify, they must be turning these ages in the relevant year of competition.
- b) Minimum of 0 players - Maximum of 8 players
- c) Total Talent Development Squad Cap - \$40,000
- d) Players must be signed from within each Statewide Competition (SWC) club's catchment area as defined in the SWC Operations Manual.
- e) If a TDS player is signed from outside a SWC club's catchment and is on another club's Protected Player List, a Development Fee will be applicable unless an exemption is granted.
- f) Development Fee will be applicable if a player is offered a Development List Contract with another club as well as a Development List Contract with their home club.
- g) However, there will be no Development Fee applicable if a player is offered a Development List Contract with their home club but a Top 32 Contract with another club.
- h) To clarify, if a player is signed from outside a club's catchment area, has been offered a Development List Contract only by their home club and is on a Protected Player List (PPL), they must be included in the new club's Hostplus Cup Top 32 squad to be exempt from the application of a Development Fee.



- i) Additionally, if a player is on a Top 32 contract, is under 21 years old and is on their home clubs PPL, a Development Fee will be applicable if the player is signed to another clubs Top 32 squad.
- j) Any payments made to a TDS player by a local league club are not included in the Salary Cap.

7. Salary Cap Administration

- a) A club is bound by the team, Talent Development Squad and individual salary cap values.
- b) If a club's team salary cap value breaches the salary cap of \$420,000, the Club will face the following sanctions:

Breach Level	Monetary Sanction	Competition Points Sanction
\$420,001 - \$430,000	\$1 for \$1 fine over \$420,000 and up to \$430,000	No loss of competition points
\$430,001 - \$435,000	\$1 for \$1 fine for total amount over \$420,000	Loss of 6 competition points in current season
\$435,001 <	\$1 for \$1 over \$420,000	Loss of 6 competition points in current season, plus an additional 2 competition points for every \$5,000 (or part thereof) over \$435,000

- c) If a club's Talent Development Squad salary cap value breaches the salary cap of \$40,000, the Club will face the following sanctions:

Breach Level	Monetary Sanction	Competition Points Sanction
\$40,001 - \$50,000	\$1 for \$1 fine over \$40,000 and up to \$50,000	No loss of competition points
\$50,001 - \$55,000	\$1 for \$1 fine for total amount over \$40,000	Loss of 6 competition points in current season
\$55,001 <	\$1 for \$1 over \$40,000	Loss of 6 competition points in current season, plus an additional 2 competition points for every \$5,000 (or part thereof) over \$55,000

- d) If a club's individual player salary cap value breaches \$35,000, the Club will face the following sanctions:

Breach Level	Sanction	Points Sanction
\$35,001 and above for Hostplus Cup	Player ineligible for selection once income exceeds \$35,000	If club plays a player who is over the individual cap, loss of 4 competition points per breach in current season

- e) Any breaches or conflicts regarding salary cap will be heard by the salary cap committee.
- f) The salary cap committee will be comprised of the following positions;
 - a. QRL Statewide Competitions Clubs Director
 - b. QRL Chief Financial Officer
 - c. QRL Chief Executive Officer
 - d. QRL Statewide Competitions Manager
- g) The salary cap committee will assess and make a determination for any breaches or conflicts and their decision will be final.

8. Foreign Currency

- a) The salary cap value for contracts written in foreign currency will be converted to Australian Dollars (AUD).
- b) The value will be converted using an average of the daily exchange rates published by the Reserve Bank of Australia for 3 years ending on 31 October of the season preceding the upcoming QRL season.

PART 3 – SALARY CAP COMPONENTS / REMUNERATION

9. Salary Cap Inclusions

- a) The QRL salary cap is calculated as the value of all benefits provided to players (Hostplus Cup, Talent Development Squad & Mal Meninga Cup ONLY), unless specifically listed under "exclusions"- point 10.
- b) All benefits must be assigned a dollar value in a player's QRL playing contract – if not, nominal values will be acquitted against the item.
- c) All remuneration stated in a player's QRL playing contract must be stated inclusive of PAYG and superannuation.

Remuneration / Benefit Provided	Assessed Value
Playing / Sign On Fee	Total sign on fee – includes any Sign on fee paid to any player regardless of whether they are in the 17 highest paid players at the club and regardless of competition.
Match Fee	For estimate purposes, this is the value based on 21 regular season matches for the 17 highest paid players. For actual purposes, this is the value of all match fees paid to all players for all matches.
Results Fee	For estimate purposes, this is the value based on 21 regular season wins for the 17 highest paid players. For actual purposes, this is the value of all results fees paid to all players for all matches.
Finals payments	Finals match payments and bonuses above amount of regular season match payments and bonuses (e.g. if you pay \$800 for regular season matches and \$1,000 for finals matches, \$200 per game will be included in salary cap estimates and final calculations)
Marquee Player Maximum Individual Wage Exemption	One (1) Marquee Player allowance with the following conditions: - One (1) Marquee Player exemption per club (over Individual Cap of \$35,000). - Player nominated on Smartabase and approved by QRL.



	- Payments included in Salary Cap. - Player must have played 50 NRL matches or a minimum of 1 x Tier 1 or Tier 2 international match.
Education / employment grants & payments	Total education payment/grant as stated in contract. This payment can be included in Talent Development Squad payments if player is aged 21 or under in year of competition.
Housing allowance / Accommodation	Housing allowance as stated in contract. If no value provided, this will be based on \$200 per week x 52 = \$10,400.
Meal Allowance	Payment as stated in contract.
Travel Allowance	Payment as stated in contract.
Relocation Allowance	All costs associated with relocation above \$5,000 included (e.g. \$6,000 cover, \$1,000 is included in the salary cap). Valid receipts confirming expenditure to be supplied and uploaded to Smartabase for all relocation expenses.
Medical Insurance	Any value over \$3,000 (e.g. \$3,500 cover, \$500 is included in the salary cap).
Other benefits including cars	As stated in contract. (EG: Residents, PNG Nationals Selection etc.). Cars provided will be a nominal \$5000 figure.
Bonuses	Unearned bonus's (e.g. number of games played, rep bonus) will be assessed prior to the season based on 21 matches / wins. Actual figures will be re-assessed at seasons end and included in the current year's salary cap.
NRL Contracted Players	Any money or benefit paid to or for the player by the Statewide Competitions Club is included in the Salary Cap. Includes Top 30 and NRL Development List players.

10. Salary Cap Exclusions

Remuneration / Benefit Provided	Assessed Value
Private Health Insurance	Private health insurance is compulsory for all QRL contracted players (that is all players contracted to play in QRL Statewide Competitions). It is not compulsory for Clubs to pay for medical insurance for players but payment of a private health insurance policy by a club will be excluded from the capped value. Any payment over \$3,000 is included in the salary cap (e.g. \$3,500 cover, \$500 is included in the salary cap).
Relocation Allowance	All costs associated with relocation under \$5,000 excluded (e.g. \$6,000 cover, \$1,000 is included in the salary cap). Valid receipts confirming expenditure to be supplied and uploaded to Smartabase for all relocation expenses.
Employment	The amount of employment remuneration paid to the player will be excluded where the player is paid at a commercial "Arms-length" rate of pay commensurate with the duties the player is performing. Clubs must provide employment contract to QRL to ensure transparency. Clubs must state in Schedule 1 of the Standard Player Agreement if the player is to be employed by the club or associated body.
Prizemoney	Any Prize money from QRL Statewide Competitions that is shared with the players.
Grand Final / National Final	Any payments and bonuses are excluded from the Salary Cap if paid from prizemoney.
BMD Premiership players	Any payments and bonuses are excluded from the Salary Cap.
NRL Train & Trial payments	Excluded if paid by NRL club. If Statewide competition club contributes, then this amount is included in the Salary Cap calculations including Individual Cap.
NRL Contracted Players	Includes Top 30 and NRL Development List players. However, any money or benefit paid to or for the player by the Statewide Competitions Club is included in the Salary Cap.

PART 4 – PLAYER LIST & REGISTRATIONS

11. Players included in Salary Cap

- The QRL Salary Cap covers all players registered under a QRL standard player agreement.
- Players who participate in QRL Statewide Competitions and are in the NRL "Top 30" or "NRL Development List" are not included in the salary cap unless they receive any payment from the Statewide Competition club.
- The number of players included under the Salary Cap is limited to the following:
 - Hostplus Cup 32 players
 - Mal Meninga Cup 32 players
 - Talent Development Squad 4 – 8 players
- Any player added to the above squads due to injury or other reason.
- Clubs can apply to have a player replaced due to injury or other valid reason by applying for an exemption to the Competitions Manager.

12. Other Competitions

- From 2020, clubs must only sign the above number of players in each relevant competition.
- Only those players nominated by the club can be selected at Mal Meninga Cup or Hostplus Cup level.



PART 5 – SALARY CAP ASSESSMENT

13. Record Keeping Obligations

- a) Each club must submit, maintain and make available for inspection a database of player contracts, contract values & payments in a format provided or approved by the QRL.

14. Pre-Season Salary Cap Assessment – Estimated

- a) All values and contracts inputted into Smartabase.
- b) Salary Cap preseason estimate base on highest 17 player payments plus all guaranteed player payments outside Top 17 including but not limited to the following:
 - i. Playing & Training Fees
 - ii. Relocation allowance above \$5000 – receipts for all expenses required
 - iii. Travel Allowance
 - iv. Meal Allowance
 - v. Accommodation
 - vi. Any additional player benefits/payments (e.g. finals bonuses above regular season match payments)
- c) Preseason estimate based on player playing and winning all regular season matches available.
 - i. 2024 = 21 regular season games played and won
- d) Prior to 1 February of the QRL playing season each club and the QRL shall agree the estimated salary cap contract value.
- e) Where applicable the “Marquee Player” will be nominated at this time.
- f) All contracts must have been registered prior to this date.
- g) Each club must submit their listing of players and contract values via the current QRL Salary Cap Assessment tool (Smartabase).
- h) Any underaged player payments will be assessed in the competition relevant to their age. If they play a higher grade, their payments will be assessed against that competition.

15. Post-Season Salary Cap Assessment - Actuals

- a) Prior to 31 October each year, or as soon as practicable after the end of the QRL playing season, each club and the QRL shall come together to agree the final salary cap contract value based on actual player payments for that year.
- b) After a review is conducted, a final salary cap value will be agreed.
- c) “Spend to Date” dashboard to be incorporated in Smartabase.
- d) Results entered weekly so current Salary Cap expenditure is available to all clubs.

2025 CONTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

QRL Player Agreements will need to be signed via DocuSign by all players competing in the following competitions: Hostplus Cup, BMD Premiership, Mal Meninga Cup and Harvey Norman u19s.

Players in the above competitions must sign a QRL Player Agreement regardless of whether they are receiving any benefit/s.

Players under the age of 18 at the time of signing must use the U18 QRL Player Agreement which includes a signature from a parent/guardian.

A player’s contract is only successfully lodged and registered when all the following criteria are met:

1. The player is visible and registered as an “Active” participant in your club on MySideline.
2. The player has been added to your squad list in MySideline.

Contract Template Name	Competition	Contract Y/N	Registration Type	Upload to Smartabase
QRL Player Agreement 2025 *Open Age*	Hostplus Cup BMD Premiership Mal Meninga Cup Harvey Norman u19s	DocuSign contract (Regardless if player gets paid or not)	Player Tackle	Yes
QRL Player Agreement u18 2025 *Under 18 of age years at date of signing* *Guardian/ Parental Signature mandatory*	Hostplus Cup BMD Premiership Mal Meninga Cup Harvey Norman u19s	DocuSign contract (Regardless if player gets paid or not)	Player Tackle	Yes
NRL and NRLW Players	Hostplus Cup BMD Premiership Mal Meninga Cup	No contract required if Top 30 or Development Player	Permit required	Yes *Still required to submit however no contract needed*



HEAD INJURY ASSESSMENT (HIA) PROCESS 2026

KEY

- QRL Game Day Ops - Data Entry
- QRL Responsibility
- Doctor Responsibility
- Club Responsibility

START → SUSPECTED CONCUSSION

HEAD TRAINER

YES

Player removed from field & HIA Official takes player to the Doctor [Clock Starts]

15 MINS MAXIMUM FOR ENTIRE PROCESS

Player to rest for 5 mins with Doctor who will complete formal HIA assessment with player. 'MATCH HIA' (SCAT) test in NRL MyMedical

FAIL → PLAYER DOES NOT RETURN TO GAME

PASS → PLAYER RETURNS TO GAME

(HIA Counts) NRL Sideline

(HIA Regular Play) NRL Sideline

(HIA Free Interchange) NRL Sideline

PLAYER CANNOT BE NAMED IN TEAM LIST WITHOUT CLEARANCE

QRL will request Club & Club Doctor to follow up for Player Clearance

QRL Administrator to check for 'HIA Clearance (Return to Play)' in NRL MyMedical

Check COGNIGRAM

Check NRL MyMedical

QRL Administrator to record HIA Interchange Data in HIA log

Player monitored & once cleared of Concussion. Club Doctor to complete 'HIA Clearance (Return to Play)' in NRL MyMedical

If Concussion is diagnosed in the 'Match HIA' or 'HIA Follow Up'. Player to be monitored & Club Doctor ensures 'After Injury' COGNIGRAM test completed online once recovered

Player monitored & club doctor complete 'HIA Follow Up' Test' in NRL MyMedical within 36-48hr of Match HIA

HIA Follow Up and HIA Clearance (Return to Play) to be completed and entered into NRL MyMedical for ALL players that come off for a Match HIA (regardless of concussion diagnosis)

2nd diagnosed Concussion within 12 months. Player must be cleared in writing by a Neurologist, Neurosurgeon or Sport & Exercise Physician and approved by the QRL Chief Medical Officer.

HIA Process Flowchart 2026 v1 Nov 2025

All Clubs and persons bound by these Rules must comply in all respects with the provisions of the [NRL Guidelines for the Management of Concussion](#). As well as the following QRL Policy and Flow Chart, a breach of any of the provisions of the NRL Guidelines and QRL Policies may be enforced by the imposition of a penalty or penalties if a contravention of any of these provisions is found to have occurred.

The following is to be the protocol of management of Concussion in all Queensland Statewide Competitions.

Any player with a suspected concussion should immediately be removed from the field of play by the HIA process and should not be permitted to return to play the same day unless the Doctor attending to the player allows them to continue in the match.

It is recommended that the SCAT 6 tool (Sport Concussion Assessment Tool 6) be used by the Doctor in the clinical assessment of concussion on game day via the relevant QRL provided Concussion management system (MyMedical) HIA process.

Return to play after a concussion should only take place after a thorough evaluation process by the Club Doctor via the relevant QRL provided Concussion management systems (Cognigram & MyMedical) HIA Follow-Up process. This should confirm that the player is free of all signs and symptoms of a concussion.

The diagnosis of concussion remains a clinical decision based on a number of factors including symptoms, signs, cognitive impairment and behavioural changes.

If a player is diagnosed as having a concussion, the player must not be allowed to return to play or training on that day until cleared by the Club doctor via the relevant QRL provided Concussion management system (MyMedical) Return to Play Sign Off process.

STEP 1 – BASELINE COGNITIVE TESTING

1. For each Player, establish a preseason baseline for normal psychometric state via the use of Cognigram. Each club is to appoint administrator/s to conduct the testing and notify the QRL of these administrators. On the rare occasion, that a baseline cannot be achieved, either obtain formal neuropsychological testing or accept the “invalid” test as that Player’s baseline. Cognigram testing should be done annually on all players registered with the club and any Player who had an invalid baseline.
2. Each Player must also undertake a MyMedical cognitive baseline test in order for game day SCAT6 comparison tests to be performed.

Conduct preseason education of players, coaching and training staff to emphasise that concussion is not a trivial injury and repeat concussions can lead to long-term consequences which can be prevented if concussion is managed appropriately.

STEP 2 – ON-FIELD ASSESSMENT – SPORTS TRAINERS

Identifying a concussion as early as possible is paramount and Trainers should be competent in this very important aspect of their duties. The assessment by the Trainer should include the use of Maddocks Score modified questions.

Maddocks Score:

“I am going to ask you a few questions, please listen carefully and give me your best answer.

- What ground are we at today?
- Which half is it now?
- Who scored last in this game?
- What team did you play last week?
- Did your team win the last game?

Incorrect response indicates that the player should be removed from the field.

In addition, the player should be immediately removed from the field of play if any of the following signs are present after a direct or indirect blow to the head:

- a) loss of consciousness (LOC)
- b) player lying motionless on the ground or slow to get up
- c) player exhibits balance or motor coordination problems (player stumbles, has slow / laboured movements or unsteady gate)
- d) player is disoriented or confused (inability to respond appropriately to questions; not aware of plays or scores)
- e) player exhibits a loss of memory
- f) player has dazed, blank or vacant look on face
- g) player has visible facial injury in combination with any of the other signs.

WHEN IN DOUBT THE DOCTOR IS IN CHARGE AND HAS FINAL SAY.

Note: If the Player is unconscious or has neck pain, the player should be immobilised and treated as a spinal injury.

Smelling salts (ammonium carbonate) or similar substances must never be used following a head injury.

STEP 3 – HEAD INJURY ASSESSMENT (HIA) BY THE GAME DAY DOCTOR

- i) The Player should be allowed to rest for 5 minutes. This is included in the total 15-minute HIA period.
- ii) The Medical Officer ascertains any concussive symptoms, performs a cervical and neurological examination and performs an online SCAT 6 via Smartabase.
- iii) The Game Day Doctor may add an exercise challenge.
- iv) If the clinical diagnosis of concussion is made the Player will not return the field of play on the same day.
- v) Please note: HIA's are to be conducted over a **mandatory** 15-minute period.

While the Player is being assessed for a concussion the team will have a free interchange.

If the Player is deemed to not have a concussion, the player may be allowed to return to the field of play but must be regularly re-evaluated by the Head Sports Trainer throughout the remainder of the game.



STEP 4 – POST CONCUSSION ASSESSMENT TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE CLUB DOCTOR

a) **Post-Match:**

- i) Medical review regarding ongoing symptoms;
- ii) Assign the Player to the care of a responsible adult i.e. family member, sports trainer or club official and it should be noted that the injured player should not be alone for at least the next 24hrs. If the situation arises the medical officer may need to determine if or when the player can take a scheduled flight home;
- iii) Give the caregiver a head injury sheet (e.g. SCAT, UPMS) and advise them to monitor the Player particularly over the next four hours;
- iv) Advise the carer of the warning signs and symptoms of deterioration;
- v) Advise the Player to avoid alcohol and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication the day after injury;
- vi) Following a concussive episode, the Player should not be allowed to drive that day.

b) **The next day and the following week:**

- vii) Evaluation is conducted by the club doctor within 36-48 hours (via QRL provided concussion management system – MyMedical, HIA follow up). Analysis is performed to enquire about ongoing symptoms.
- viii) All players with a diagnosed concussion during Match HIA or Follow Up HIA must complete an online Cognigram After Injury Cognitive test (directed by Club Doctor) to an acceptable level before returning to training and playing.
- ix) The evaluation to return to play may include a post injury cognitive test as well as other neurological and physical tests.
- x) The player must be symptom free for 10 days before clearance. If Cognigram cognitive tests have not returned to normal within 10 days of the incident consideration must be given to referring the patient to specialist services.
- xi) In the recovery period, it is important to emphasise to the player that the player requires physical and cognitive rest.
- xii) It should be noted that return to sport is only after the 'Return to Play Sign Off' medical clearance (via QRL provided concussion management system – MyMedical) by the Club Doctor after thorough assessment including SCAT and not limited by a further Cognigram test returning to baseline.
- xiii) The above 'Return to Play Sign Off' medical clearance must be completed before the player can return to training and/or playing.
- xiv) Only the Club Doctor can clear a player to return to training and play after a concussion. If other medical opinions and clearances are sought the club doctor must give the final clearance.

c) **Multiple and/or concerning concussions**

- xv) When a player: has sustained two (2) diagnosed concussions within 12 months, has prolonged concussion symptoms (>14 days) or an unusual presentation; or over time is developing concussion symptoms with less force or has an increasing symptom load, then the QRL requires that the Player be formally sent for independent assessment with a specialist with a recognised interest in sport related concussion management (Neurologist, Neurosurgeon or Sport and Exercise Physician) as part of a multi- disciplinary Team approach. The assessment should also include formal neuropsychological testing if recommended by the Concussion Specialist providing the opinion. This should occur to ensure the Player has fully recovered from their concussions, to assess the risks of further concussions and to determine whether the Player is currently fit to participate in training and/or matches. The independent concussion assessment must occur before the Player is allowed to engage in contact training or participate in a Match. A copy of the independent specialist's opinion should also be made available to the QRL CMO on request.
- xvi) Players who suffer three (3) concussive episodes within 12 months must gain clearance from an independent Neurologist, Neurosurgeon or Sports Physician and a formal neuropsychological assessment once symptom free. The player is recommended to have a longer stand-down period.

d) **Players wishing to return to play following concussion**

- i) Players can no longer return to play early following a concussive episode. Players aged 19 years and older (born in 2007) fall under the 11-day mandatory stand-down. Players aged 18 years and younger (born in 2008) fall under the 19-day mandatory stand-down.



APPENDIX 6 - 2026 BMD PREMIERSHIP PLAYER POINTS INDEX SYSTEM (PPIS)

Cat	Criteria	Points
A	➤ A player who has represented the Australian Jillaroos, NZ Kiwi Ferns or England within the last 4 seasons (2025, 2024, 2023 or 2022)	20
B	➤ A player who has represented NSW or QLD in an Origin/State Game within the last 4 seasons (2025, 2024, 2023 or 2022)	15
C	➤ A player registered and played 8 or more NRLW games within the last 3 years (2025, 2024, 2023)	10
D	➤ A player that represented Prime Ministers XIII, QLD Country, QLD City, NSW City or NSW Country within the last 3 seasons (2025, 2024, 2023) ➤ A player who has represented a tier two nation (a country other than Australia, New Zealand, or England) in approved international games in the past 2 seasons. ➤ A player that has played HNWP or equivalent inter-state or international competition (ie Tarsha Gale, English Super League, Auckland Women's Opens) with 10 + games experience at that level.	8
E	➤ A player registered and played 7 or less NRLW games within the last 3 years (2025, 2024, 2023) ➤ A player that has represented at the National Championships in the past 2 seasons. ➤ A player that has played more than 6 BMD Premiership games in the last 2 seasons. ➤ A player who has represented NSW or QLD in an underage Origin/State Game within the last 3 seasons (2025, 2024, 2023) ➤ A player from another clubs Harvey Norman u17/19s team in 2025. ➤ A player who has represented at State or National level in another sport and who is not Queensland eligible. ➤ A player that has achieved CAT A, B, C or D status but hasn't played in that representative group in the past 4 seasons	6
F	➤ A BMD Premiership player with 6 or less games. ➤ A player that has played HNWP or equivalent inter-state or international competition with less than 10 games experience at that level. (See also in Category H below) ➤ Any player who does not qualify in any other Category (e.g. a player who last played NRLW 5 years ago)	3
G	➤ A player who has played any level of Community League (Open Age – above U18) Women's competition ➤ A Harvey Norman U19s player returning to your club who has not yet played BMD Premiership.	2
H	➤ A player who has not previously played Senior Rugby League (Open Age – above U18). ➤ A Queensland Origin eligible player who returns from any external competition, regardless of prior level achieved – maximum of 2 players per club. ➤ A Harvey Norman U17s player returning to your club who has not yet played BMD Premiership.	0

GUIDELINES

Players will be assessed at their highest possible category & points, not including the current season. QRL will issue a report with all players points for all clubs.

- 1) Upon receiving this report, clubs have a limited period to review the players points.
- 2) Prior to round one, all players points will be confirmed and cannot be altered.
- 3) Any new players will be assessed, and reports will be sent weekly with new players points.
- 4) Points calculated using the players participating in that match only (Max 17)
Maximum Points allowed per team:
 - a) 110 points cap - 2026
- 5) New team cap - 10 points on top of the above (Inaugural Year only)

PLAYER DISCOUNTS

A player discount will be calculated using only ONE of the following discount rules. Consideration for a discount will also be considered and assessed by the Competitions Manager for those players who reside within catchment areas, as per [Appendix 1](#). See Residential Discount below.

DEVELOPMENT DISCOUNT	OR	LOYALTY DISCOUNT
One Category discount (<i>down only to the maximum points of the immediate category below</i>) for CAT A, B, C, D & E if the player earns a position in a higher representative category then returns to the same club from the previous season.		1 point discount for each year a player, plays for the same club or affiliated club (<i>down only to the maximum points of the immediate category below</i>). For example, a CAT D player can get 2 points (2 years) of discounts but only down to 6 points (<i>the maximum for CAT E</i>)
RESIDENTIAL DISCOUNT		
A player returning to their junior/senior club catchment or if they currently reside near a club can claim a Residential Discount equivalent to a level below their current Category. They will need to supply a rates notice/rental agreement & utilities in their name to claim the Residential Discount.		
PLAYER MENTOR		
Each club can nominate one (1) player that fits the following criteria, and if approved, that player will be allocated zero (0) points: - Player is over 30 years of age (as at 1st Jan in the year of competition) or has been at the club for 5 years or more - Has played 30+ games inclusive of either BHPP, BMDP, HNWP, NRLW or equivalent international competitions. - Must hold a minimum Level 1 Community Coach or Sports Trainer qualification and be assigned to the coaching staff of either the BMD Premiership or Harvey Norman u17s/u19s team.		



APPENDIX 7 - RULES FOR RECREATIONAL DRONE OPERATORS



You must not fly your drone higher than 120 m above ground level.



You must keep your drone at least 30 m away from other people and never fly over a person.



You must only fly one drone at a time.



Only fly during daylight hours.



You must not fly in a populous area. This includes beaches, parks, events, or sport ovals during games.



You must not fly your drone in a way that creates a hazard to another aircraft, person or property. Respect others' privacy.



Keep your drone within visual line-of-sight. This means you must always be able to see it with your own eyes (not through a device, screen or goggles). Don't fly through cloud, fog or smoke.



You must not fly your drone over or near areas affecting public safety or where emergency operations are underway. This includes ambulance, police, search and rescue, or firefighting efforts.



If your drone weighs more than 250 g, you must not fly within 5.5 km of a controlled airport (airports with control towers). If it's 250 g or less, you can fly up to 45 m high within 5.5 km but stay out of the airport boundary and don't create hazards for other aircraft. Regardless of weight, stay clear of the runway approach and departure paths.



Near smaller airports without control towers, you can fly your drone within 5.5 km. If you become aware of crewed aircraft nearby, move away and land your drone quickly and safely.



If you're within 1.4 km of a helicopter landing site and become aware of a helicopter nearby, taking off or landing, you must move your drone away and land it safely.



If you fly your drone for work (commercially), extra rules apply. You must register your drone and get a licence or accreditation. If you only fly for fun, no registration or accreditation is needed.

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APPENDIX 8 - QRL STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS RULE CHANGES & ADOPTIONS

Year Introduced	Law Adoptions	International Law Changes (ILC) or NRL Law Changes (NLC) or QRL Law Changes (QLC)	Hostplus Cup	BMD Premiership	Mal Meninga Cup	Harvey Norman u19	Cyril Connell Cup	Harvey Norman u17s
2020	40/20 and 20/40 kicks	NLC	●	●	●	●	●	●
2020	40/30 and 20/50 kicks	NLC	●	●	●	●	●	●
2020	Mutual Infringement Restart	ILC	●	●	●	●	●	●
2020	Mid-Air Tackles	ILC	●	●	●	●	●	●
2021	Lateral Position of Scrums	NLC	●	●	●	●	●	●
2021	Message Runners	NLC	●	●	●	●	●	●
2021	Play the Ball Restart	NLC	●	●	●	●	●	●
2021	Incorrect Play the Ball	NLC	●	●	●	●	●	●
2021	Early Scrum Break	ILC	●	●	●	●	●	●
2021	2 Point Field Goals	ILC	●	●	●	●	●	●
2022	Trainers Stopping Play	NLC	●	●	●	●	●	●
2022	Free Interchange Rule – only granted when offending player is sin binned or sent off	NLC	●	●	●	●	●	●
2025	Penalty – ruck & 10 metre infringements inside 40m only	NLC	●	●	●	●	●	●
2025	Six Again – ruck & 10 metre infringements outside 40m only	NLC	●	●	●	●	●	●
2025	Player removed from field – 2 minutes playing time	QLC	●	●	●	●	●	●



APPENDIX 9 - QRL STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS HEAT POLICY

1. Purpose and Scope

This updated QRL Heat Policy is in alignment with the NRL Heat Policy & Management of Thermal Injury/Hyperthermia. It applies to all statewide competitions and outlines protocols for education, monitoring, risk assessment, treatment, and match-day procedures and is referred to in 16.1 Heat Policy of the Statewide Competitions Operations Manual.

2. Education and Emergency Action Plan

Clubs must conduct pre-season education sessions led by the Club WEM's and assisted by the QRL, ideally prior to the commencement of the Pre-Season relating to the Heat Policy and preparation for the Preseason. The Club's performance department staff are required to attend this training.

Topics include heat stress awareness, symptom recognition, treatment protocols, and HSI monitoring using the Kestrel Weather Meter.

3. Risk Assessment

Players must be assessed for heat illness risk factors including fitness level, body mass, medication/supplement use, hydration status, illness history, sleep deprivation, substance use, and psychological factors. At-risk players require modified training plans.

4. Heat Stress Index (HSI) Monitoring

HSI must be measured 40 minutes before and every 15–30 minutes during sessions using a tripod-mounted Kestrel 5400 Heat Stress Tracker. Measurements must reflect actual training conditions (e.g., sun, shade, indoor) and be made where the training is to take place.

5. Pre-Season HSI Thresholds

Week 1: <135 Normal, 135–180 Basic Cooling, 180–225 Full Cooling, >225 Cancel Session

Week 2: <145 Normal, 145–190 Basic Cooling, 190–230 Full Cooling, >230 Cancel Session

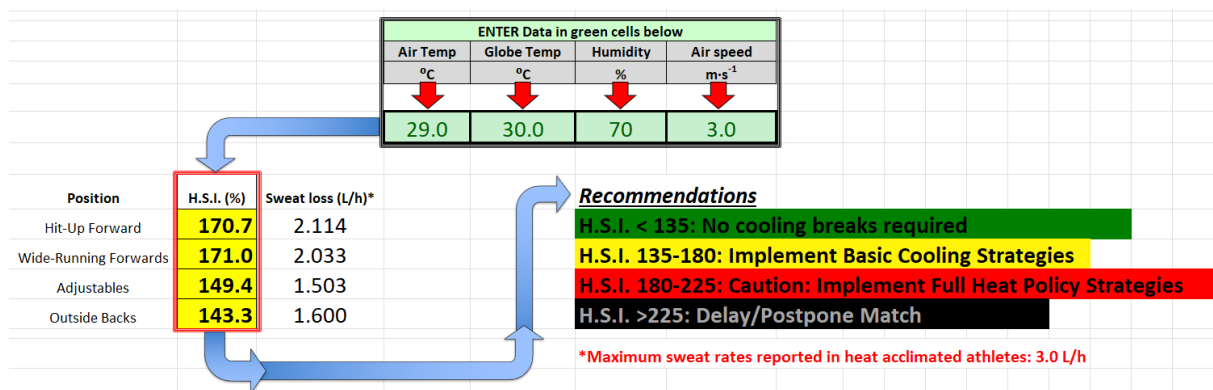
Training intensity must be modified if HSI exceeds 130 (Week 1) or 140 (Week 2).



When using the Kestrel Heat Stress Tracker, the Meter must NOT be handheld. It must be (a) mounted on a tripod; (b) with the Vane mount 1.2 m in height from the ground; and (c) the Meter remaining in position for at least 5 minutes, preferably located in the centre of the field.

The Kestrel will provide readings of Air Temp, Globe Temp, Humidity %, and Air Speed. We will use the formulas below to identify heat policy enforcement during **pre-season training for all competitions**:

Example only



Strategies to be adopted during Pre-Season training when HSI is at measured levels:

- The following strategies must be available and adopted when the HSI exceeds 150:
 - A minimum of a 3–5-minute cooling breaks every 30 minutes, in the shade.
 - Ice towels, misting fans and additional drinks be made available to Players to utilise during any breaks or pauses in activities. Cold water Immersion and/or Tarp with ample ice and cold water must be available.
 - A shaded recovery area to be provided that Players can access during any breaks or pauses in activities.
- The following additional strategies should be available and adopted when the HSI exceeds 200:
 - a. A minimum of 10-15 minutes break after every 60 minutes.
 - b. All other cooling strategies to be observed

6. Hydration and Scheduling

Hydration is key in preventing heat related illnesses that may include collapse, seizures, confusion, aggressiveness, loss of consciousness, altered consciousness, irrational behavior, irritability, diarrhea, vomiting, dizziness, fatigue, personality change, staggering gait and other signs associated with central nervous system (CNS) dysfunction.

Ensure water stations and electrolyte drinks are available. Schedule sessions in cooler parts of the day and implement 5-minute breaks every 15 minutes in shaded areas. Reduce session duration in extreme heat.



7. Treatment Protocols

1. If heat related illness is suspected in a player, the player must be removed to the shade and:
 - a. Immediate cooling strategies implemented while further assessment of the player continues.
 - b. Ideally, the player's rectal temperature is measured. Medical staff must have the capacity and training to measure rectal temperature when Exertional Heat Stroke (EHS) is suspected. This should be done with a flexible thermometer so that the thermometer can stay in for continuous measurement. If a rectal thermometer is not available continue with the below measures.
 - c. Cooling should continue for at least 15 minutes. Medical providers must follow the general rules of triage included in their emergency training and EAP.
2. Exertional Heat Stroke (EHS) is a medical emergency. It is defined as a rectal temperature of $> 40.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ and CNS dysfunction. Immediate cooling must begin with Cold Water Immersion (CWI) or the Tarp method if CWI not available.

Cool first, transport second.

Core Body Temperature is measured by rectal temperature.

Continue cooling for at least 15 minutes.

Use rotating ice-wet towels and water dousing if needed.

CWI (Cold Water Immersion) Method:

- a. If available and safe to use, cold water baths are highly recommended.
- b. The bath should be filled with cold water and crushed ice up to at least the player's upper abdomen. Temperature of the CWI should be 5 to 15°C , with regular stirring of the water.
- c. The player should be supported to remain sitting upright throughout the cooling process. This will require a minimum of 4 people but may require up to 6-8 people.
- d. For areas of the body not submerged, cold water should be poured over these skin surfaces to assist in lowering body temperature rapidly.

Tarp Method:

- a. In situations where cold water baths are not available or the player cannot safely be placed in a bath, the tarp method can be used as an effective alternative.
- b. This method involves the following steps:
 - i. Lay the player down on a strong plastic sheet.
 - ii. Four individuals, each holding a corner of the sheet, will lift the sheet to create a makeshift container around the player.
 - iii. Cold water and crushed ice are then poured onto the player within the sheet.
 - iv. The water and ice are then to be agitated and moved to flow back and forth across the player's skin surface, enhancing the cooling effect and preventing the risk of drowning.



3. Ideally, all training venues should have the necessary equipment for both the CWI Method and Tarp Method available.
4. If a player is observed to have the symptoms of heat-related illness, despite a rectal temperature $<40.5^{\circ}\text{C}$, they should be cooled across the whole body using rotating ice-wet towel method as follows:
 - a. Wet towels with iced water are applied over the whole body and rotated every 1-2 minutes.
 - b. Towels are applied over backs, arms and chest (1 large towel) over top of both legs (2nd towel) and over head, neck and face (3rd towel).
 - c. Water dousing (pouring water over the body) is also recommended.
5. If the HSI is forecasted to exceed 150, at least one cooling bath should be filled prior to commencing practice. The ice bath should be $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ filled with iced water at 5 to 15°C .
6. Ice Packs just placed on peripheral arteries is not an effective cooling strategy for treating EHS.

7. Risk Mitigation

The following process will be utilized when it is expected that the heat policy may be required to be implemented:

1. Monitor predicted readings throughout any heat spell.
2. Input the expected readings for the following weekends matches into the NRL Heat Formula to determine possible activation of heat policy.
3. The above will begin communication to the effected centres that may be at risk.
4. Thursday readings (based on predictions) inputted into NRL Heat Formula to determine likely heat reading on day of match.
5. If readings return in the black, defer or call games off by Thursday COB.
6. This way we won't have teams travelling to matches that are likely to be called off anyway.
7. Any games that are cancelled and cannot be rescheduled due to heat policy will be recorded as a 0-0 draw.

8. Game Day Protocols

Hostplus Cup & Junior Rep (North): Delay/cancel if HSI >250

All Hostplus Cup games (All clubs including PNG Hunters) and Junior Representative matches involving teams from Rockhampton **north** only – NRL guidelines.

Example only

Dr AP, and Gosselin RM. Mechanisms of heat exchange: biophysics and physiology. In: AG Friggly and CM Bazzani editors. Handbook of Physiology: Environmental Physiology. Bethesda, MD: American Physiological Society; 1996, pp. 45-84.
 Baker DM. The Stress of Hot Environments. London: Cambridge University Press; 1972.

ENTER Data in green cells below			
Air Temp $^{\circ}\text{C}$	Globe Temp $^{\circ}\text{C}$	Humidity %	Air speed $\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$
32.4	33.2	80	6.0

Position	H.S.I. (%)	Sweat loss (L/h)*
Hit-Up Forward	270.1	2.332
Wide-Running Forwards	270.4	2.243
Adjustables	238.7	1.675
Outside Backs	229.2	1.789

Recommendations
H.S.I. < 150: No cooling breaks required
H.S.I. 150-200: Cooling breaks recommended
H.S.I. 200-250: Caution: Extended breaks recommended
H.S.I. >250: Delay/Suspend Play

*Maximum sweat rates reported in heat acclimated athletes: 3.0 L/h



BMD Premiership & Junior Rep (South): Delay/cancel if HSI >225

All BMD Premiership games and Junior Representative matches involving teams **south of** Rockhampton – NRLW Guidelines.

Example only

ENTER Data in green cells below			
Air Temp	Globe Temp	Humidity	Air speed
°C	°C	%	m·s ⁻¹
29.0	30.0	70	3.0

Position	H.S.I. (%)	Sweat loss (L/h)*
Hit-Up Forward	170.7	2.114
Wide-Running Forwards	171.0	2.033
Adjustables	149.4	1.503
Outside Backs	143.3	1.600

Recommendations	
H.S.I. < 135:	No cooling breaks required
H.S.I. 135-180:	Implement Basic Cooling Strategies
H.S.I. 180-225:	Caution: Implement Full Heat Policy Strategies
H.S.I. >225:	Delay/Postpone Match

*Maximum sweat rates reported in heat acclimated athletes: 3.0 L/h

If 2+ positional HSI readings are 'in the black', delay/cancel match. If 1 reading is 'in the black', implement full heat strategies.

Matches with HSI 225–250 may proceed only if:

Full heat protocols outlined below are in place:

- At-risk players are excluded.
- Unlimited interchanges and 3 water runners allowed.
- Quarters format with 10-minute breaks (Junior/BMD: 4x15 min, Hostplus: 4x20 min).
- No time off during quarters.
- Ice towels.
- Shade tents for all players and staff.
- De-mister fans available.
- Pre-filled ice baths.
- Rectal thermometers ready.





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