



REFERENCE GUIDE

DEMERIT POINT PROGRAM

TEAM AND CLUB ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK





Team and Club Accountability Framework

Queensland Rugby League's Code of Conduct Demerit Point Program provides a consistent, statewide framework to address behavioural issues and promote a safe, respectful and inclusive environment at Community Rugby League matches.

The program is designed to:

- positively influence behaviour,
- support volunteers and officials,
- reinforce the standards expected of all participants, and
- respond appropriately when conduct does not meet those standards.

The Team and Club Accountability Framework supports this approach by addressing behaviour at both a team level and where required, a club level, ensuring responses remain fair, proportionate and focused on maintaining a safe and respectful match-day environment.

Team Demerit Points

Team demerit points apply when a proven Code of Conduct breach occurs in connection with a team.

Demerit points are allocated based on the severity of the incident, as outlined in the Code of Conduct Reference Guide and accumulate across the season.

The Team Demerit Points Framework:

- focuses on behaviour at a team level,
- supports proactive management of repeated issues,
- and provides clear escalation points where conduct does not improve.

Escalation may be triggered by:

- a defined number of proven offences, or
- the total demerit points accumulated by the team.

Depending on the level reached, outcomes may include education-based interventions, formal warnings, competition impacts or further review. This ensures teams are held accountable while maintaining a consistent and transparent approach across all competitions.

(Refer to the Team Demerit Points table for point allocations and escalation thresholds.)



Club Level Accrual

Club Level Accrual operates alongside Team Demerit Points and considers behaviour across the club as a whole.

While Team Demerit Points address issues within a specific team, Club Level Accrual:

- identifies patterns of concern across multiple teams within a club,
- supports earlier awareness of broader behavioural risk,
- and provides a pathway for club-wide engagement and intervention where required.

Club Accrual reflects cumulative behaviour over time and is not intended to respond to isolated incidents. Club Accrual thresholds are applied on a sliding scale based on club size, recognising clubs vary in the number of registered participants. Thresholds are calculated per 100 participants to ensure escalation points remain proportionate and are applied fairly across clubs of different sizes. It allows Queensland Rugby League to work proactively with clubs where conduct issues indicate a broader need for support, compliance action or review.

Outcomes at a club level may include formal notices, compliance-based actions or review processes, aligned to affiliation obligations and the Code of Conduct.

How the Framework works

To ensure the framework remains fair and proportionate, a single-event safeguard applies to Team Demerit Points. Where multiple proven breaches arise from the same incident or event, a cap applies to the total number of demerit points that may be allocated to a team from that event.

This safeguard:

- recognises that complex incidents may involve multiple charges,
- prevents one event alone from triggering the highest level of escalation,
- and preserves the intent of the framework as a graduated response to repeated or ongoing behaviour, rather than a single occurrence.

The single-event cap supports consistency, fairness and appropriate decision-making across all competitions.

The Team and Club components are designed to work together:

1. Teams are assessed individually based on proven incidents.
2. Clubs are considered collectively where behaviour patterns emerge across multiple teams.
3. Most matters are resolved at the team level through education and early intervention.
4. Club Level Accrual supports proportionate escalation where issues persist.

This layered approach ensures behaviour is addressed in a way that is consistent, transparent and aligned to the principles of the Code of Conduct Demerit Point Program, supporting a positive environment for all participants.

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TEAM DEMERIT POINTS TABLE

PROVEN BREACH	DEMERIT POINTS	GUIDE
Low Charge	1	Abusive
Medium Charge	5	Threatening
High Charge	10	Physical

Team demerit points are accumulated each season and additional sanctions will apply as per the table below once these milestones are reached.

LEVEL	TRIGGER	POTENTIAL OUTCOME
1	2 proven offences OR 10 demerit points.	A warning letter will be sent to the club and the team concerned. An action plan will be proposed to ensure the issue is being addressed.
2	4 proven offences OR 30 demerit points.	The team concerned will be docked of points equal to one-win. The Club will be required to video every game the concerned team participates in thereafter. Failure to comply may result in disqualification from the competition.
3	6 proven offences OR 40 demerit points.	The club will be issued with a Show Cause notice and the team may face removal from the competition.

The following table applies a single-event cap, limited the maximum number of demerit points a team can receive from one incident.

SAFEGUARD	RULE
Single-Event Cap	A maximum of 20 demerit points may be applied to a team from any single incident (i.e. melee), regardless of the number or severity of the offences arising from that incident.

Team demerit points deal with behaviour within a team; club accrual looks at whether similar issues are occurring across multiple teams and signals when broader club-level intervention may be required.

CLUB POINTS THRESHOLD#	CLUB POTENTIAL OUTCOME
35 Points	Where a club reaches this threshold, it indicates emerging or repeated conduct concerns across the club. The club may be formally notified of the concerns and engaged to take early corrective action to prevent further escalation.
50 Points	Reaching this threshold indicates ongoing or unresolved conduct issues requiring stronger intervention. The club may be subject to conditions or compliance actions aimed at addressing behaviours and reinforcing standards across the club.
70 Points	The club may be required to show cause why further action should not be taken, which may include a review of ongoing affiliation or participation.

#Club Accrual thresholds are applied on a scaled basis relative to club size, calculated per 100 registered participants.



QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

ABN 65 009 878 013

83 CASTLEMAINE STREET, MILTON QLD 4064

LOCKED BAG 3000, PADDINGTON QLD 4064

T: +61 7 3367 6000

E: rugbyleague@qrl.com.au

F: +61 7 3367 6085

QRL.COM.AU