



QRL
SOUTH EAST



QRL SOUTH EAST
OPERATIONS MANUAL
2026

Last updated: 12 December 2025

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PART 1 | GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

This **2026** Operations Manual supersedes all previous versions and is a reference for all persons involved in the day-to-day management, administration, coaching, participating, officiating, and spectating of all Rugby League Clubs affiliated with the Queensland Rugby League (**QRL**) in the South-East Queensland (**SEQ**) Region. The rules detailed in this document will be operative and enforced for all rulings and proceedings from the date of issue.

Reference Documents

The Rules of the Queensland Rugby Football League Limited (**QRL Rules**), as amended from time to time, provide the framework under which all Rugby League is administered within the State of Queensland.

The rules detailed within this Operations Manual are to supplement the QRL Rules and to ensure the common interpretation and consistent application across all Rugby League Clubs affiliated within the South-East Queensland Region (QRLSE). All QRLSE Local Leagues follow and support QRL Rules:

- ↓ [QRL Rules Part 1 – Introduction, Definitions and Interpretations](#)
- ↓ [QRL Rules Part 2 – Regional Councils](#)
- ↓ [QRL Rules Part 3 – Local Leagues](#)
- ↓ [QRL Rules Part 4 – Players and Coaches](#)
- ↓ [QRL Rules Part 5 – Tribunals](#)

Should any information within this document conflict or contradict any of the QRL Rules, then the QRL rule as documented within the Rules of the Queensland Rugby Football League Limited (as amended from time to time) will have precedence. Please notify in writing, the QRL Area Manager of any such issues.

[Rules of the Queensland Rugby Football League Limited](#)

[Constitution of Rugby League Brisbane Limited](#)

[Corporate Governance Charter - Rugby League Brisbane](#)

[Constitution of Rugby League Gold Coast Limited](#)

[Corporate Governance - Rugby League Gold Coast Limited](#)

[Constitution of Rugby League Ipswich Limited](#)

[Corporate Governance - Rugby League Ipswich Limited](#)

[Working with Children \(Risk Management and Screening\) Act 2000](#)

[Child Safe Guarding Policies](#)

[Blue Card Services](#)

[NRL Policies and Guidelines](#)

[NRL Laws of the Game - Community](#)

[NRL Code of Conduct](#)

[NRL On Field Policy](#)

[NRL Mixed Gender Policy](#)

[NRL Player Development Framework](#)

[Associations Incorporations Act 1981 \(Qld\)](#)

[NRL Facilities Guidelines](#)

[Community Rugby League Policy and Guidelines for the Management of Concussion \(Nov 25\)](#)

Queensland Rugby League Affiliation

Each club which desires to participate in the Game in any given Football Year must complete the QRL affiliation application by the dates specified and prior to fielding any team in a match during that Football Year.

QRL have the right to refuse an affiliation application if the club has failed to meet its financial commitments, and/or the club is in breach of any QRL or sub-ordinate rule and has failed to remedy that breach within a reasonable time following receipt of written notice of that breach.

Female Nomination Criteria

To be considered for admission into the QRL South East Female Competition, clubs must first attain endorsement from their respective local league by 1 December 2025. Clubs will not be endorsed past this deadline. Final acceptance into the competitions will be determined by the QRL South East Competition Administration with consideration to the criteria outlined in the in this document ([linked](#)).

Financial Reporting

All Clubs will submit quarterly financial reports to QRL Staff Member within 14 days of the end date of the quarter. These reports shall include **a profit and loss statement and a balance sheet** (noting all cash in bank accounts, accounts payable and accounts receivable balances are recorded). The quarter financial dates are as follows:

- ↓ October 1st - December 31st
- ↓ January 1st - March 31st
- ↓ April 1st - June 30th
- ↓ July 1st - September 30th (end of year audited report)

Sale & Consumption of Liquor

The sale, advertisement and distribution of alcohol shall comply with the Liquor Act 1992 (Qld) and Guidelines for Liquor Licensees as administered by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation. Designated licensed areas shall be marked.

All Clubs must comply with the QRL and Lion (XXXX) partnership requirements as set out in the XXXX Compliance Memo (2026). If clubs are found to breach the requirements within a 12-month period, the following penalties/fines will occur:

- ↓ **1st offence** – \$500 fine
- ↓ **2nd offence** - \$1000 fine and loss of competition points that constitute a win to all club teams.
- ↓ **3rd offence** - \$1000 fine and all club teams being ruled ineligible for finals in that year.
- ↓ *Continual breaches **COULD** result in loss of hosting rights for the club and/or withdrawal of teams from all competitions.

Heat Policy

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;

All matches shall have compulsory drinks break as described below;

- ↓ 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;
- ↓ The NRL Sports Trainers’ National Accreditation Scheme On-Field Policy will be relaxed so that all three (3) trainers may carry water;
- ↓ The half-time interval may be extended and shall be done so after consultation of both the match and team officials.

The implementation of the Heat Policy shall be at the discretion of the Ground Manager (or their nominee) in consultation with Match Officials. The Ground Manager should reference the [NRL Heat Guidelines](#) for support.

If in the event of severe heat conditions, and with the approval of the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee, the commencement of a match may be delayed, cancelled or postponed.

QRL Abeyance Period

It is important to note that the QRL has an Abeyance Period for rugby league matches, trials and carnivals involving any Body which is affiliated with the QRL. **The period will commence on the third weekend of October and finish after the second weekend of January inclusive.** It is stressed that if a QRL Affiliated Body or its players participate in a Rugby League event as outlined during the Abeyance Period it not only breaches QRL Policy but will also NOT be covered under the QRL Insurance Policy.

Trial Period

- Under 6 to Under 12s
 - No trials for Under 6 to Under 12 will be approved for sanctioning (including any historical events).
- Under 13s and above
 - As per season calendar for each local competition.

Match Sanctioning & Permission to Participate

All requests for match sanctioning and permission to participate in QRL sanctioned events, must be submitted by completing the relevant [Form](#) within the timelines indicated below:

Form	Minimum Timelines
Permission to Host (within Queensland)	14 Days prior to planned event
Permission to Participate	
Travel & Tour Application – Domestic & International	Host Clubs – Six (6) weeks in advance of commencement of tours Travelling teams four (4) weeks prior to departure date

Teams will not be permitted to forfeit any local competition fixtures to attend a QRL Carnival and Permission to Participate forms will be declined.

Clubs cannot permit players from other clubs to participate in carnivals. Clubs must select players from their own club. Any exceptions to this rule will only be considered under exceptional circumstances and must be submitted in writing to the Competitions Administrator for formal review and approval prior to the event.

PART 2 | OPERATIONS MANUAL

Venue Management

Field Equipment and Configuration

The playing field/s shall be marked and managed in accordance with the approved Rugby League Laws of the Game, International, Junior Rugby League Laws 6 -12 Years.

- ⇒ [RUGBY LEAGUE LAWS OF THE GAME INTERNATIONAL LEVEL](#)
- ⇒ [NRL JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE LAWS 6 -12 YEARS](#)

It is recommended that venues have a designated and clearly identifiable area for all interchange players and team staff, where they must remain unless fulfilling their required duties.

Corner posts, of a non-rigid material and not less than 1.25m high, shall be placed at the intersection of each touchline and goal line.

Goal posts pads shall be a maximum width and depth of 50cm.

All clubs must use QRL licensed '[Steeden Elite Match Balls](#)' that display the **current** QRL logo for all sanctioned matches.

Lighting Standards

⇓ The following lighting standards are required for training and competition matches:

- **Training:** 50 lux
- **Competition:** 100 lux

For more information regarding lighting standards, please refer to the [NRL Facility Guidelines](#).

Player Management

Participant Registration

- ⇓ All players are required to be fully registered annually via MySideline.
- ⇓ All On-Field personnel (Trainers) are required to be fully registered annually as a 'Trainer' via MySideline.
- ⇓ All Managers and Club Volunteers are required to be fully registered annually as a 'Volunteer' via MySideline.
- ⇓ All On-Field and Off-Field team personnel working with children under the age of 18, must complete the [NRL Child Safety – Patrons of the Game](#) course.

All registrations must be fully completed prior to any participation (training or matches). **Any club playing an unregistered participant (player, coach, trainer, manager, etc) will attract a fine as per the schedule of fees and charges with the possibility of loss of competition points.**

Player Permits

In addition to points outlined in [QRL Rules Part 4](#); a player permit will only be granted on the condition that the club a participant is currently registered to is unable to offer the age group and/or division to the participant. Failure to achieve a Transfer of Junior Registration is not sufficient criteria for a permit to be granted. At the discretion of the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee applications for permit may not be considered until grading has been completed or team nominations are finalised.

Medical Clearance (40 years and older)

In accordance with [QRL Rules Part 4](#) -

- a) A person who is turning the age of forty (40) years or is 40 or over in that Football Year and desires to participate in a game under these Rules must provide to the relevant Administration Unit a certificate or report prior to participating in any game, training session or carnival each year.
- (b) The certificate or report must be issued by a medical practitioner registered in Australia stating:
 - (i) that the person is medically fit to participate in rugby league; and
 - (ii) such other qualifications, terms and conditions as may be required by the QRL's insurance provider as part of the registration process.

Players over the age of forty (40) who have not provided an approved medical certificate will be deemed an ineligible player. Sanctions may apply as per [QRL Rules Part 5](#).

Player Eligibility

A player cannot play in a lower-level game if they have already played a game that is of a higher division or age group in the same competition round or final round. Classification of Players must also be considered when reviewing Player Eligibility for Core Players.

Classification of Players (Juniors)

Every player within each team in the Under 13 to 18s competitions will be classified as either a 'core player' or 'non-core player' and are subject to the rules relating to the movement of players.

Junior clubs (Under 13 to Under 18), with more than one team in the same competition age group, are required to grade their players into teams based on skill level. The best and most skilled players must be allocated to the highest graded team and the least skilled players to the lowest graded team within the same age group. There must be 10 core players named following the completion of round four (4). Clubs must complete their Player Grading Register for each of its teams and submit to the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee. Player's names must only appear on one team register.

Clubs with two (2) teams in the same competition or division must evenly distribute players between the teams based on performance and skill level, ensuring both teams are competitively balanced.

The Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee may determine a player's core/non-core status and their grading in the absence of a Player Grading Register.

Deliberate attempts to exclude players from the core player list to gain advantage for lower divisions/grades is considered a serious breach of these rules and may incur a fine as per the schedule of fees with a possible loss of competition points.

Players Moving Between Grades (same age group)

- ⇒ Core players are unable to participate in any lower graded team but are permitted to participate in higher graded teams in the same competition age group.
- ⇒ Non-core players listed on a higher graded team's Player Grading Register are only permitted to play down in the next lowest graded team within the same age group in their club.
- ⇒ Non-core players are permitted to play unlimited games up in a higher grade at any time during the fixture rounds.
- ⇒ Under no circumstances are lower graded players to be forced to play in a higher graded team within the same age group. The player and player's primary carer's consent must be obtained before using a lower graded player in a higher graded team.
- ⇒ If a club has multiple teams in a single division of the same age group, there will be no lateral movement of players between the teams after round 4.
 - Requests for lateral movement can only be given because of significant injury or absence and must be submitted to the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee for consideration.
- ⇒ Non-core players may play up an age group, but not more than two divisions lower than the team they had been listed in on the core player list.

Defaulters

Clubs are responsible for collecting registration fees from players by 30 June of the Football Season and paying the required contribution to as per the schedule of fees. Clubs shall not play any player who has not paid their registration fee for the Football Season. Any club who permits a player to play in matches when that player has not paid their registration fees will be deemed to have paid those fees on the player's behalf and shall carry the financial burden of the unpaid fees.

Competition Management

Junior & Senior Competitions

Competitions will be classified as Junior (Under 6 to Under 18 years) and Senior (Under 19 and above) grade.

Guidelines for players in Under 6 to Under 12 competitions inclusive are as follows:

- ⇒ Competition ladders and scores are not published.
- ⇒ No finals series.

- ⇓ No premiership trophies.
- ⇓ All teams play an equal number of games across the competition where possible.
- ⇓ Teams are structured in a fair and honest manner so that teams/players of similar ability play against each other as often as possible where clubs have more than one (1) team in the competition.
- ⇓ Teams are divided into "Pools" rather than "Divisions" if applicable.

Nomination of Teams

- ⇓ All team nominations are to be submitted to the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee via the QRL SEQ Region Team Nomination Form a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the scheduled commencement of competition rounds.
- ⇓ The Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee reserves the right to decline any late team nominations.
- ⇓ The Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee may allocate a team to a competition grade different from its nomination, considering factors such as the team's results from the previous year, its playing squad, and the size of the competition.

Required Minimum Players to Nominate a Team/s

For a club to nominate 1 team it should attain a minimum number of registered players:

- ⇓ Under 6 and Under 7 = 8 registered players
- ⇓ Under 8 and Under 9 = 10 registered players
- ⇓ Under 10 and Under 11 = 15 registered players
- ⇓ Under 12 to Under 18 = 17 registered players
- ⇓ Open's (Men's and Women's) = 19 registered players

If player numbers fall outside the required guidelines, please contact your Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee for support.

Regrading / Withdrawal of Teams

Regrading at the Request of Club/Team

Any regrading requests should only occur up to the commencement of round 4 of the current season and will only be undertaken with the express approval of the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee.

Teams requesting to be **dropped down** a division after **round 4** will be ineligible to play finals in that lower division should that request be approved. If the regrading is approved, all their opposing teams in that division will receive competition points that constitute a win.

A team **promoted** after a request to a higher graded competition will take their competition points only and not 'for' and 'against' points. Teams being promoted to a higher graded competition will be eligible to play finals.

Regrading of Teams by the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee

The Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee may also regrade teams at their discretion at any point during the season based on results, competition sizes and structure with consideration to the balance and integrity of the competition.

If a team is regraded at the discretion of the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee, the allocation of competition points, 'for' and 'against' and eligibility to play finals will be determined at the sole discretion of the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee, with considerations to the fairness and the integrity of affected competitions.

Withdrawal of Teams

If a team withdraws from a competition throughout the season, future fixtures & results will be reviewed and/or adjusted at the discretion of the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee.

A team withdrawal fee will be payable for each team withdrawn as per the schedule of fees.

Clubs with multiple teams in the same age group seeking to withdraw a team will be required to withdraw the lowest graded team unless approved otherwise by the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee.

Addition of Teams

If a team is approved, the team nomination fee must be paid before the team will be added to the competition. New teams added to competitions will start with zero (0) competition points.

Ground Managers & Duty Officials

Ground Managers are responsible for the off-field environment of matches, and the enforcement of the NRL National Code of Conduct including managing spectator behaviour at games and always ensuring the safety and wellbeing of everyone.

Ground Managers are required to complete the [Game Day Checklist](#) prior to the commencement of matches.

The Ground Manager must be accredited and have a minimum of 1x per international field. **Games will not commence without a host venue Ground Manager present and visible (wearing a red vest).** **Both host and visiting teams are required to provide at least 1x Duty Official each.** Ground Managers and Duty Officials must be a minimum of 18 years of age.

For further information, refer to the [Ground Manager Handbook](#).

Please find below a list of duties for a Home (Orange Bib) /Away (Yellow Bib) Duty Official-

- Monitor the behaviour of players, coaches, and spectators, ensuring a positive and respectful environment.
- Report any incidents or issues to the roaming or sideline Ground Manager (Red bib).
- Ensure necessary game reports or documentation are completed.
- Maintain communication with Opposition team officials & Ground Managers to ensure a smooth game day experience.
- Walking on/off match officials and any sin bin / sent off players.

Game Day Management

To view the SEQ Game Day Process, click here: [SEQ Game Day Process](#).

Disputes, including those related to match scores or player eligibility, must be submitted to the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee by 5:00pm Monday following the completion of the match.

Game Times and Interchanges

Age Group	Game Duration	Interchanges	Players / team list
Mini League (Under 6 -9)	4 x 8-minute quarters, 1-minute break between	Unlimited	N/A

	quarters + 2- minute half time break		
Mod League (Under 10-12)	2 x 20-minute halves, 5-minute half time break.	Unlimited	N/A
Junior International (U13-15)	2 x 30-minute halves, 10-minute half time break.	Div. 1 – 10 Interchanges Div. 2,3,4 - Unlimited	19 players
Junior International (U16-18)	2 x 30-minute halves, 10-minute half time break.	Div 1 - 8 interchanges Div 2+ - Unlimited	Div 1 – 17 players Div 2+ - 19 players
Junior Females (U13-17)	2 x 30-minute halves, 10-minute half time break.	Unlimited	19 players
Community Grade (U19+)	2 x 35-minute halves, 10-minute half time break.	Unlimited	19 players
Premier Colts (U19+)	2 x 35-minute halves, 10-minute half time break.	8 Interchanges	17 players
Premier Reserve Grade (U19+)	2 x 35-minute halves, 10-minute half time break.	8 Interchanges	17 players
Premier A-Grade (U19+)	2 x 40-minute halves, 10-minute half time break.	8 Interchanges	17 players
Masters (Over 35's)	2 x 25-minute halves, 10-minute half time break.	Unlimited	N/A
Community & Reserve Grade Women's	2 x 30-minute halves, 10-minute half time break.	Unlimited	19 players
Premier Grade Women's	2 x 35-minute halves, 10-minute half time break.	Unlimited	19 players

* Time off during junior and community senior competition finals will be applied for injuries only, irrespective of the fact that the referee may indicate time off for player misconduct or any other reason.

** Time off will apply for all Premier Grade competitions as per signal by the referee.

*** Interchange officials must be identified by wearing a Pink Bib that has 'Interchange Official' printed on the bib.

Competition Points

Competition points shall be allocated during the competition season in the following manner:

- ↓ A win shall be allocated two (2) competition points.
- ↓ A draw shall be allocated one (1) competition points.
- ↓ A loss shall be allocated zero (0) competition point.
- ↓ A bye shall be allocated two (2) competition points.
- ↓ A forfeit received will be classified as a 'win'.
- ↓ A forfeit declared will be penalised 1 (-1) competition points.

Competition Ladders

After the completion of competition fixtures, the team leading on the points table shall be number one (1) and the next team number two (2) and so on. The team at the top of the premiership table will be declared minor premiers.

Should teams be equal on competition points at the end of the regular season, the higher placed team(s) will be decided when the first of the following criteria, in order, favours one team:

- ↓ Points differential (points scored 'for' minus points scored 'against')
- ↓ Points scored 'for'
- ↓ Head-to-Head result(s) between the teams concerned
- ↓ Toss of a coin

Forfeits

Notification of forfeit must occur via the [QRL South South East Region Forfeit Form](#) by the timeline indicated in the [SEQ Game Day Process](#).

Team Receiving Forfeit – A forfeit received will be classified as a 'win' and the team shall be allocated two (2) competition points, in addition to +50 'for' points.

Teams Declaring a Forfeit – A forfeit declared will be classified as a 'loss' and the team will be penalised one (-1) competition point, in addition to -50 'against' points.

Teams who forfeit for two (2) consecutive weeks or who reach a total of three (3) forfeits may receive additional fines from the Competition Administration. A letter will be issued to the club asking why the team should not be excluded from the remainder of the season. If a team has forfeited five (5) games throughout the season, the team may be withdrawn from the competition.

If a club forfeits a match, the club must forfeit the lower division/grade team first. **This rule is subject to special consideration with junior teams at the discretion of the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee.**

Where a club has two teams in the same division and a forfeit occurs when they are scheduled play each other, the highest placed team will be deemed to have forfeited that match.

Teams will not be permitted to forfeit any local competition fixtures to attend a QRL Carnival and Permission to Participate forms will be declined.

Participation in any sanctioned QRL Carnival will be denied when local competition rounds are being played.

If a team forfeits a finals match, they are ineligible to participate in the remainder of the final's series.

Cancellation, Suspension, Postponement

Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee have the discretion to relocate fixtures due to hosting fields being closed or deemed to be not safe.

The Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee must be notified of all matches delayed, cancelled, or postponed. Clubs must agree on replaying the game within two (2) weeks at the discretion of the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee.

If an arrangement in consultation with the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee cannot be decided between both clubs, the game will be declared a draw, with one (1) competition point awarded to both teams.

Matches cancelled due to a washout of the entire round, will only be replayed at the discretion of the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee. If a match cannot be replayed, the match will be declared a draw, with one (1) competition point awarded to both teams.

If a match is terminated when less than half of the match (has not reached the conclusion of the first half) has been completed, the match shall be declared a draw and one (1) competition point awarded to both teams.

If one half or more (e.g. first half has been played entirely) of the match has been completed, the score at the time play is suspended will determine the outcome the match. The competition point(s) and for/against points will be awarded accordingly on the competition ladder.

The Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee, at their discretion, may review and change the outcome of a match if a team is found to not be acting within the true spirit of the game.

In the event of the referee stopping a match after it has commenced due to a team having an insufficient number of players to continue, the match shall be deemed a loss by the team with the insufficient number of players. Temporarily suspended players (sin-binned) are included in the player count. Players dismissed from the field (sent-off) or who have retired from the game due to injury are not counted. Points scored, (for and against) at the time of the abandonment shall stand regardless of which team was leading.

Mercy Rule

All matches in the Under 13 to Under 18 competitions will have the option for the game to cease at the discretion of the coach of the losing team when there is a gap of fifty (50) points or more. The coach of the losing team may elect to conclude or continue the match. Should the losing team wish to continue the match, they must inform the Ground Manager.

Whenever the 'Mercy Rule' results in a game finishing before the designated match duration, this must be recorded on the match report. **Enter as Disputed and add note "Mercy rule applied".**

Scores entered in MySideline must reflect a fifty (50) point margin at the conclusion of the game and will be adjusted as necessary. **Enter as Disputed and add note "Mercy rule applied".**

Recommended suggestions for the coach of the leading team to employ to avoid an early end to the match:

- ↓ Reduce the number of the dominant team's players on the field.
- ↓ Return possession of the football to the opposition.
- ↓ Try players in different playing positions.

No other changes to the International Laws of the game should be made.

The Mercy Rule **does not** apply in finals fixtures. The Mercy Rule **does** apply to U13s & U14s positional play off matches.

Finals Eligibility

- i. To be eligible for any finals series match, a player must have **played three (3) or more competition fixture matches** in the current season for their club prior to the completion of the final round of fixtures as well as satisfying other applicable qualification rules. For the purposes of determining the number of games played during the season, only one (1) match in any fixture weekend will count; multiple matches in different grades on the same weekend will only count as one match. In this case, the lower grade match shall count in determining qualification.
- ii. All players who have met the minimum match requirement will qualify to play in the Finals Series in the division and/or graded competition where they have played most of their matches.
- iii. If a player has participated in an equal amount of premiership competition matches in multiple levels of competitions, the player shall be deemed eligible for the lower level.
- iv. Any player who has qualified for a lower-level competition, will still be eligible to participate in the Finals Series of a higher-level division or age group. If playing in multiple finals matches during the same round, the lower-level match must be played prior to the higher-level match
- v. Where a team qualifies for a finals series and requires the use of players external to its regular team due to injury or illness, priority shall be given to select replacement players from the same calendar age group. Players from lower age groups are ineligible to participate

unless prior approval has been granted by the Competitions Administrator under special consideration.

vi. SENIORS ONLY: Players must have played three (3) or more matches in the local competition in the current season for their club prior to the completion of the final round fixtures. A player who has played in the majority of their games in the higher-level competition (e.g. A-Grade) but fails to gain selection, will be deemed eligible to play in the lower-level competition (e.g. Reserve Grade) provided the higher-level team is still active in their finals series and have played at least one (1) game in the lower-level team. Once the higher-level team has been eliminated from their finals series, that player will then be ineligible to play the lower-level competition.

Injury Dispensation for Finals

Any player who sustains an injury during a competition game or training, must provide a medical certificate and/or upload injury via MySideline within fourteen (14) days of the injury and a medical clearance to obtain eligibility for any missed fixtures. This must also be provided to the Area Manager/Female Competitions Coordinator or nominee.

Golden Point (Finals Only)

1. If scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time, a 2-minute break will occur (and coin toss) prior to a five (5) minute Golden Point period is played.
2. Remaining Interchange Cards to be handed to official and have 2x interchange cards returned for the Golden Point period if applicable.
3. In Golden Point, the first scorer of any point or points (e.g., field goal, penalty goal or try) will immediately be declared the winner.
4. If the score remains equal after the first five (5) minutes of Golden Point, teams shall immediately change ends for kick-off. Play shall continue for an unlimited time basis until the first point/s have been scored to determine the winner of the match.

Players temporarily suspended (sin-binned) are required to serve their full suspension, even if the match enters a Golden Point period. Golden Point is considered part of regular playing time, and all clocks are synchronized accordingly. For example:

- ↓ 73rd minute – 'Player A' gets sent to the sin bin
- ↓ 80th minute – Scores are locked at 18-18 so the match enters a Golden Point period
- ↓ 83rd minute – 'Player A' may enter back into the match

NRL On-Field Policy

All QRL Affiliated competitions adhere to the [NRL On-Field Policy](#). A-Grade Men's competitions will strengthen the rules by implementing the below for Level 1 (Blue Shirt) Trainers:

- Level 1 Trainers in Men's A-Grade fixtures are allowed access to the playing field:
 - When facilitating an interchange of players,
 - When a try has been scored,
 - During a time-out called by the Referee for an injury,
 - During a drop out,
 - On three (3) occasions per half to carry messages to individual Team members when their team is in possession
 - Each Level 1 Trainer will be supplied with three (3) cards for each half. On each occasion Level 1 Trainer must hand a card to a Ground Manager or Interchange Official prior to entering the field of play. Level 1 Trainer must only enter the field of play after their team gains possession of the football and leave the field at the completion of the 4th tackle, immediately returning to the team bench area (i.e. running) without interfering with play or running behind the opposition team's defensive line.

- Level 1 Trainers must return to their team's bench area as soon as possible after fulfilling their duties on field. Must not give general messages to the team or otherwise assist in the task of coaching (save for the carrying of messages to individual team members) while play is progressing
- A Coach cannot act in the role of both on-field safety person (i.e. LeagueSafe, Level 1 or Level 2) and Coach during the same game. One individual is required for each role.
- As per the International Laws of the Game, Match Officials reserve the right to remove trainers from the field of play if they deem the trainers to be interfering with regular match play, regardless of whether a tactical card has been used.

Maximum Team Staff Allowed on Team Bench

- ↓ U6 - U12s Competitions: 6 team staff.
- ↓ U13s - U18s Competitions: 6 team staff.
- ↓ Open's Community Grade Competitions: 6 team staff.
- ↓ Premier Grade Competitions: 8 team staff.

*No injured players on the bench are allowed. Only active players and named team staff on the match sheet are allowed to be situated in the team bench.

Junior Coach Positioning – Game Day

At all times, the coach must remain at the team bench. There are exemptions for Under 6 coaches and Under 7 coaches. Coaches should remain at the team bench from Round 7 in Under 7 competitions and above.

Senior Coach Positioning – Game Day

Coaches are permitted to view the match from the team's bench, or behind the goal posts. However, coaches are only allowed to coach from the team bench (and not behind the goal posts). E.g., messages must be provided from the team bench and not from behind the field. There must always be an accredited coach within the team bench.

Coach On Field Communication

As per [QRL Rules Part 4.2.5](#), no communication equipment is to be used for the purposes of on field communication or any communication between on-field staff and coaching staff whilst the game is in progress. To clarify, no communication equipment is to be taken on to the field of play.

Match Officials

Match officials are not to be approached, questioned, or harassed in any way by club officials, player or spectators either during, or after a match.

Clearance Special Considerations

- ↓ Junior appeal for special circumstances fee is \$200.00 and must be paid prior to online application. If appeal is successful or participant takes up the option provided, \$100.00 will be refunded.
- ↓ Online application and any supporting documentation must be submitted via [Special Considerations form](#).
- ↓ All special consideration requests related to wellbeing are required to be supported by a qualified Mental Health Practitioner.

Tribunal

All QRL Affiliated competitions align with [QRL Rules Part 5](#).

PART 3 | LOCAL BY-LAWS - RUGBY LEAGUE BRISBANE

Rugby League Brisbane – Competitions

Rugby League Brisbane will be offering the following competitions in 2026:

Juniors (Min – Mod)	Juniors (Internationals)	Seniors:	Premier Grade (Men's):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 6 Under 7 Under 8 Under 9 Under 9 Girls Under 10 Under 11 Under 11 Girls Under 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 13 Under 14 Under 15 Under 16 Under 17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 19 Community Under 21 Open Div. 1 Open Div. 2 North Open Div. 2 South Open Div. 3 North Open Div. 2 South Over 35 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 21 Reserve Grade A-Grade

*Divisions will be confirmed once team nominations are finalised.

Appointment of Match Officials and Payment

Referees and touch judges will be allocated by the RLB Referee Appointment Officers. Depending on the number of match officials available, host clubs may be asked to provide a touch judge.

In the event touch judges need to be supplied by the host club, a person qualified and registered as a referee will have precedence over a qualified touch judge and a qualified touch judge will have precedence over any unqualified person. The use of unqualified touch judges is to be avoided.

Referees and touch judges are to be escorted on and off the field of play by the duty officials.

UNDER 6 -11	Host clubs are responsible for appointment and payment of match officials.
UNDER 12	Zone allocators responsible for appointment, however the Brisbane Rugby League Referees Association (BRLRA) are responsible for payment.
UNDER 13 – SENIORS	RLB Appointment Officers are responsible for the appointment, the Brisbane Rugby League Referees Association (BRLRA) are responsible for the payment.
REFEREE OR TOUCH JUDGES (JUNIOR GAMES)	<p>Not Accredited – at least sixteen (16) years of age; or</p> <p>Accredited – at least fourteen (14) years of age.</p>

The match officials for Senior Competitions will be appointed by Rugby League Brisbane Referees' Appointments Officer. The Brisbane Rugby League Referees Association (**BRLRA**) are responsible for the payment of match officials.

Rugby League Brisbane – Finals Structure

- ⇓ RLB Competitions (Juniors and Seniors) will apply the following finals structures to relevant competitions
- ⇓ Competition sizes are determined after the finalisation of the regrading period (Round 4).

Competition Size	Finals Structure														
≤8 teams	<p>Top 4 Finals Series (3 weeks)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Week 1</th> <th>Week 2</th> <th>Week 3</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <div style="background-color: #ADD8E6; padding: 10px;"> 1st Position Match A - Major Semi Final 2nd Position </div> </td><td></td><td> <div style="background-color: #FFDAB9; padding: 10px;"> Winner A to GF </div> </td></tr> <tr> <td> <div style="background-color: #FFB6C1; padding: 10px;"> 3rd Position Match B - Minor Semi Final 4th Position </div> </td><td> <div style="background-color: #FFF176; padding: 10px;"> Loser A Match C - Preliminary Final Winner B </div> </td><td> <div style="background-color: #90EE90; padding: 10px;"> Winner A Match D - Grand Final Winner C </div> </td></tr> <tr> <td> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Loser B Eliminated </div> </td><td> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Loser C Eliminated </div> </td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	<div style="background-color: #ADD8E6; padding: 10px;"> 1st Position Match A - Major Semi Final 2nd Position </div>		<div style="background-color: #FFDAB9; padding: 10px;"> Winner A to GF </div>	<div style="background-color: #FFB6C1; padding: 10px;"> 3rd Position Match B - Minor Semi Final 4th Position </div>	<div style="background-color: #FFF176; padding: 10px;"> Loser A Match C - Preliminary Final Winner B </div>	<div style="background-color: #90EE90; padding: 10px;"> Winner A Match D - Grand Final Winner C </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Loser B Eliminated </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Loser C Eliminated </div>	
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- ↓ RLB retains the option to alter the format of the Finals Series increasing or reducing the numbers of teams eligible to contest finals.
- ↓ All dates, times and venues for all finals series matches will be determined prior and adequate notification provided.

RLB Finals Hosting

Club's hosting finals games conducts these games for and on behalf of RLB. The RLB Board sets an admission fee for these finals, which the host club collects from all persons that enter the grounds, excepting persons nominated by RLB. Total gate receipts for the day are to be paid to RLB and/or any agreed hosting fee set by RLB. Host clubs as a minimum are to supply the following:

- ↓ At least five (5) Duty Officials and 1 Ground Manager per field.
- ↓ A public-address system and announcer
- ↓ Gate staff
- ↓ A qualified Level 2 Sports Trainer
- ↓ External security guards
- ↓ Suitable timekeeping equipment and timekeeper (field manager) who shall act as the recorder in the event of a drawn match.
- ↓ A suitable area for teams to warm-up (spare international field or mod-field).

Rugby League Brisbane – Juniors

RLB Junior Player Points System (Under 13 – 17 years)

Clubs will have a limit of 14 points per age group for the intake of players previously registered with another junior RLB club. All current registered junior RLB players are rated based on their previous season only. Please find Player Points System below:

TEN (10) POINTS	Representative Player (HPC CC/MM)
FIVE (5) POINTS	Division 1 Player
THREE (3) POINTS	Division 2 Player
ONE (1) POINT	Division 3 Player
ZERO (0) POINTS	Division 4 and below

Moving Between Age Groups (Junior Players)

On those occasions where there are insufficient players available, lower age group players may be used in the premiership fixtures and finals, but they must not play in a higher age group graded competition that is:

- ↓ For core players, more than one division lower than the player's normal graded division in his own age group. Example, a player playing in the Under 13 Division 1 may play for his club in the Under 14 Division 1 and 2 grades but not Under 14 Division 3 or below.
- ↓ For non-core players, more than two grades lower than the player's normal graded division in his own age group. Example, a non-core player playing in the Under 13 Division 1 may play for his club in the Under 14 Division 1, 2 and 3 teams but not Under 14 Division 4 or below.
- ↓ Under 16 core players may play up in the Under 17 age group in a grade no more than two grades below his normal grade in his own age group. Under 16 non-core players can play up in any Under 17 age group competition.
- ↓ Where lower division or lower age group players are being used as temporary reserves during fixtures and/or finals, RLB requires that permanent members of the team take the field first and be used prior to the lower grade or age group player entering the game.

Nev Blair Rules

The **Nev Blair Shield** is a Premier grade competition for the Under 17 age group.

The RLB Area manager (or Nominee) will determine the format for the Nev Blair Shield competition prior to the commencement of each season.

Eligibility rules for players participating in a Nev Blair Shield team are as defined in QRL Rules Age Eligibility, with the following additional clauses.

- ⇒ A dual registered junior player who is called up and participates in an NRL competition is not eligible to return to a junior competition.
- ⇒ Any Junior player called up to play in a senior grade from the junior club he is registered with, during the competition season, will be entitled to return to his junior club and will be regarded as a core player in the highest graded team in that age group of that junior club. A revised Player Grading Register must be submitted if required.
- ⇒ A player, who in the previous football year played most matches in the Under 16 Division 1 competitions, cannot play in an Under 17 Division 2 competition or below subject to the RLB Area Manager's (or Nominee) review and approval.
- ⇒ Any club withdrawing a team from the Nev Blair Shield competition after the first premiership fixture will not be refunded the team nomination fee.

Rugby League Brisbane – Seniors

Interchanges

In addition to the interchange parameters outlined in Part 2 of the SEQ Operations Manual, Rugby League Brisbane will enforce limited interchanges in the following competition:

Competition	Game Duration	Interchanges	Players / team list
U19 Division 1/U21/Open Division 1	2 x 35-minute halves, 10-minute half time break.	12 Interchanges	19 players

LeagueSafes – Premier Reserve Grade

The LeagueSafe field access parameters allowed for Local A-Grade competitions (see Part 2 of the SEQ Operations Manual), will also apply to BRL Premier Reserve Grade competition.

Classification of Players

Every player within the RLB Senior Competitions will be classified as either a **core player** or **non-core player** and are subject to the rules relating to the movement of players. The following table represents the classification of players:

Level 1	NRL Telstra Premiership
Level 2	QLD Statewide Competitions (Hostplus Cup)
Level 3	Local League Competitions – Open Age (BRL Premier Grades)
Level 4	Underage Competitions (Cyril Connell Cup, Mal Maninga Cup) RLB Open Men's Competitions

Player Eligibility – Hostplus Cup to BRL

- ⇒ HostPlus Cup (HPC) contracted players will be permitted to participate in BRL Reserve Grade provided they have played fifteen (15) or less HPC games over the past two years (rolling average).
- ⇒ HostPlus Cup contracted players will not be permitted to participate in BRL Under 21s unless given written permission by the QRL Area Manager.

Player Eligibility – BRL to Open Men's

- ⇒ Clubs that have teams participating in both Premier Grade and RLB Senior Men competitions can have player movement between both competitions. During the season, a player is not permitted to play more than two (2) divisions below what they have played.

Under 21 Competitions

- ⇒ BRL Clubs will not be permitted to nominate a Community Under 21s competition in 2026.
- ⇒ Community Under 21s players will be permitted to permit up to BRL clubs to participate in BRL U21s, under the below parameters.
 - I. Permits will only be accepted from Community U21 clubs to BRL clubs in the catchment/geographical area of the BRL Club (see appendix below).
 - II. Permits must be agreed upon by both clubs and the player. Players will not be forced/coerced into playing for other clubs.
 - III. Community Under 21 players will only be allowed to play for one BRL club throughout the season, unless a transfer occurs.
 - IV. Community Under 21 players that participate in A-Grade or Reserve Grade will no longer be eligible for Community Under 21s.
- ⇒ Community Under 21 Players will be permitted to play in any Open Men's Competitions (Division 1, 2 and 3)

Under 21s Community Portability to BRL U21s

Albany Creek	Brighton Roosters
Aspley	West Brisbane Panthers/Valleys
Banyo	West Brisbane Panthers/Valleys
Brisbane Natives	West Brisbane Panthers/Valleys
Brothers	West Brisbane Panthers/Valleys
Brothers St Brendans	Carina Tigers
Browns Plains	Souths Juniors
Bulimba Valleys	Carina Tigers
Burpengary	Brighton Roosters
Capalaba	Wynnum Juniors
Dayboro	Brighton Roosters
Eagleby	Souths Juniors/Logan Pride
Easts Mt Gravatt	Carina Tigers
Easts Springwood	Carina Tigers
Flagstone	Carina Tigers
Greenbank	Souths Juniors
Logan Brothers	Souths Juniors

Logan City Hawks	Souths Juniors/Logan Pride
Moreton Bay Raiders	Brighton Roosters
Mustangs	Souths Juniors
Narangba	Brighton Roosters
Normanby	Souths Juniors
North Lakes	Brighton Roosters
North Stradbroke	Wynnum Juniors
Pine Central	Brighton Roosters
Pine Rivers	Brighton Roosters
Redlands	Wynnum Juniors
Rochedale	Carina Tigers
Samford	West Brisbane Panthers/Valleys
Slacks Creek	Wynnum Juniors/Logan Pride
Souths Sunnybank	Souths Juniors
Waterford	Souths Juniors/Logan Pride
West Arana	West Brisbane Panthers
West Inala	Souths Juniors/Logan Pride
Wests Brisbane	West Brisbane Panthers
Wests Mitchelton	West Brisbane Panthers

The table above provides the portability options for players that participate in Community U21s to play for BRL clubs based on geographical areas, if clubs nominate Community Under 21 teams.

RLB Senior Men's Clubs

RLB Senior Clubs with more than one (1) team across divisions will be required to submit a Core Player Register for each of its teams competing in the RLB Senior Competitions. A player's name must only appear on one (1) team list.

The register shall list a [Club's core players and non-core players](#) and are subject to the rules relating to the movement of players. To replace a core player – a written submission must be presented to the RLB Area Manager (or nominee) for determination.

RLB Community Player Payments (excluding BRL Premier A Grade & Reserve Grade)

- ⇒ In community rugby league competitions, players cannot be paid. Teams or clubs who are found to have violated this rule, may face penalties. These could include point deductions, suspensions for players or officials, and removal from the competition. Each case will be assessed individually.

Game Footage

- ⇒ Rugby League Brisbane will manage the Premier Grade game footage.
- ⇒ All Open Men's fixtures are required to be recorded with suitable cameras. Recording via a mobile device is not allowed.
- ⇒ Open Men's Clubs are required to upload match footage by 10:00am Monday (immediately following the game) to RLB's Dropbox account via [RLB Dropbox Video Footage Upload](#). Failure to do so may attract a fine.
- ⇒ All incidents referred to the league by Club Presidents, **must be reported by 5pm on the Monday** after the incident has occurred.

Rugby League Brisbane – Over 35's

The RLB Over 35s caters for players over the age of 35 years, who still wish to play rugby league football. This includes players who have moved on from participation in competitive opens football, and those who may have never otherwise played the game before.

All matches must remain uncompetitive, no points will be awarded for a win or draw. No competition ladder will be kept. For further information, refer to [NRL Masters Rules](#).

The Over 35s will be administered by the RLB Office and therefore comes under the QRL Rules and those other applicable rules contained within this Operations Manual including registration, judiciary, and disciplinary processes.

Players over forty (40) years of age must refer to QRL Rule 4.1.16 Medical Clearance.

Rugby League Brisbane – Team Levy

TEAMS	NOMINATION FEE PER TEAM
U6	\$76.23
U7	\$146.68
U8	\$146.68
U9	\$219.45
U10	\$219.45
U11	\$294.52
U12	\$396.14
U13	\$584.43
U14	\$584.43
U15	\$584.43
U16	\$584.43
U17	\$584.43
U19 and Under 21	\$2,500
Open/Senior Men	\$2,500
BRL Reserve Grade	\$2,500
BRL Premier Grade	\$2,500
Over 35's	\$1,250
MEMBER FEE (PER CLUB)	\$494.55

Rugby League Brisbane – Schedule of Fees

OFFENCE	PENALTY
Playing an ineligible player	JNR - \$300 fine and \$500 bond and automatic forfeit of the game SNR - \$500 fine and automatic forfeit of the game (other penalties may be applicable)
Late notification of Forfeit	JNR - \$200 fine SNR - \$700 fine
Forfeit on Game Day	JNR - Up to a maximum of \$1500 SNR - \$1500 fine (\$750 to be retained by RLB). The host club to receive other \$750, however this is not applicable to host clubs that forfeit matches.
Forfeit to avoid travelling to North Stradbroke Island.	\$750 per team.
Withdrawal of player or teams from the field of play	\$250 fine and \$500 bond and loss of premiership points
Withdrawal of Teams	SNR - \$2000 bond (Bond to be returned if the team plays the next season in full)
Failure to produce Open Men's Game Footage	\$1,000 per breach
Failure to comply to SEQ Game Day Process (e.g ID Checks)	1 st offence – Warning 2 nd offence – \$200 3 rd and subsequent offences - \$500
Poaching Players (Juniors only)	\$500 fine and \$1000 bond and/or suspension from the game of rugby league
Deliberately excluding core players from the Core Player Register	\$500 fine for each breach identified
Failure to submit a Core Player Register	\$100 per round for each Core Player Register not submitted by due date
Clubs with Teams failing to have all players in the registered Club Uniform	\$100 fine for each breach identified

	<p><u>1st Offence</u> – Warning Letter <u>2nd Offence</u> - \$200 fine per breach <u>3rd Offence</u> - \$200 fine per breach and loss of two (2) competition points.</p>
Failure to enter Team List by required due date and time	<p>**Continual Breaches may result in withdrawal of team from competition or withdrawal of club from ALL competitions**</p> <p><i>Fines applicable for Under 12 to Senior Competitions only.</i></p>
	<p><u>1st breach by a team</u> - Loss of Premiership points for that match.</p> <p><u>2nd breach by a team (in a different match to the first breach)</u> - Loss of Premiership points for that match. A loss of an additional two (3) Premiership points; and \$500 fine.</p>
Interchange Breaches	<p><u>Subsequent Offences</u></p> <p><i>Loss of all Premiership points for the season (includes future matches where the team will not be able to accumulate Premiership points, although the opposition may). \$500 fine for each offence (multiple fines may apply in each match if more than the maximum number of interchanges take place). Withdrawal of participation in the game (applicable to Coach).</i></p>
RLB Finals Series Entry Fees	<p><u>Junior Competitions and Open Men's Competitions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇓ Adults (18+) - \$7 ⇓ Children (17 years and under) – free ⇓ Pension Card Holders – free ⇓ Free entry for team staff and players (on team list) <p><u>BRL Premier Grade Competitions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇓ Adults (18+) - \$10 ⇓ Children (17 years and under) – free ⇓ Pension Card Holders – free ⇓ Free entry for team staff and players (on team list)