



FNQ RL

Competition Rules

2021

The FNQ RL shall abide by the Constitution and Rules set down by the Queensland Rugby League in conjunction with the following local rules.

The FNQ RL local rules shall be reviewed annually and amended as required.

9.3 Amendment 26th Feb 2021

10.0 & 19.0 Amendments ratified at FNQ RL Board Meeting 10th June 2021

SECTION	PAGE NUMBER
Definitions	3
1.0 Affiliation	4
1.1 Minimum Number of Teams	4
1.2 Affiliation Documents	4
1.3 Refusal of Affiliation	4
1.4 Player Affiliation Fees	5
2.0 Entry Fees	5
3.0 Financial Management	5
3.1 Changes to Financial Position	5
4.0 Defaulters	5
5.0 Insurance	6
6.1 Emails	6
6.2 Social Media	6
6.3 Grievance Procedures	6
7.0 Directives	7
8.0 Season Commencement	7
9.0 Player Registration	7
9.1 Carry Over Suspension	7
9.2 Registration Closing Date	7
9.3 Clearances and Quarantine Players	8
10.0 Coaching Staff/Volunteers	9
10.1 Coaches	9
10.2 Managers	9
10.3 Sports Trainers	9
10.4 League First Aid	9
10.5 Leaguesafe	9
11.1 Clearances	10
11.2 Pending Registrations	10
11.3 Unregistered Player Penalties	11
11.4 Portability	11
11.5 Registration Appeals	11
12.1 Team Capping	12

12.2 Team Levelling	12
12.3 Team Nominations	12
12.4 Team Withdrawal	13
13.0 Forfeits	13
14.0 Season Structure	14
14.1 Hosting Clubs	14
14.2 Hosting Club Responsibilities	14
15.0 Visiting Clubs	15
16.0 Team Staff Responsibilities	16
16.1 Team Benches	16
16.2 Monitoring Behaviour	16
16.3 Submitting Team Lists	17
16.4 Leaguesafe Role	17
16.5 Tee Runner	17
16.6 Melee	17
16.7 First Responders	17
16.8 Entering the Field of Play	18
16.9 Approaching Match Officials	18
17.0 Player Responsibilities	18
18.0 Recording of Games	18
19.0 Team Lists	19
20.0 On Field Apparel	19
20.1 Footwear	20
21.0 Footballs	20
22.0 Training and Game Resources	20
23.0 Field Sizes and Game Duration	20
24.0 Time Off	21
25.0 Mercy Rule	21
26.0 Dismissals	21
27.0 Points & Positions	22
28.0 Finals	22
29.0 Team Championships	23
30.0 Silver Medal	23
31.0 Trials and Carnivals	23
32.0 Referees and Scorers	24
33.0 Wet Weather/Cancelled Games	25

Definitions - In these Rules

Business Day means:

if determining when a notice, consent, game or event incident or other communication is given, a day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in the place to which the notice, consent or other communication is sent.

CDRL means Cairns District Rugby League Incorporated

CDRLRA means Cairns District Rugby League Referees Association Incorporated

Chairperson means the person elected as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of FNQ RL

Competitions Committee being the duly appointed committee to conduct the operations of the FNQ RL competitions

League means FNQ RL Ltd

Match & Disciplinary Review Committees mean the appointed committees to manage On Field and Off Field incidents as set down in the QRL Rules Part 5

NRL means National Rugby League Limited

QRL means Queensland Rugby Football League Limited

The FNQ RL must act in the conformity with the rules of the QRL and all clubs must always observe and support the rules and the constitution

FNQ RL shall exercise the following delegated powers:

1. The making and running of the competition
2. The levying of affiliation fees
3. Rules and regulations regarding the conduct of players, officials and spectators
4. The FNQ RL may form subcommittees to assist with other tasks.

1.0 Affiliation

FNQ RL club affiliations shall be submitted by the close of business on the last Friday of January each year. Clubs failing to submit their affiliations risk not be included in the draw for that year.

All clubs affiliated with the FNQ RL agree to play under the rules of League.

1.1 Minimum Number of Teams

Each club in the FNQ RL should demonstrate their viability and ability to field a minimum of 3 x teams, 1 being a competitive grade. The League may consider extenuating circumstances.

1.2 Affiliation Documents

Club Affiliation Process following the club's AGM.

- Affiliation Application (QRL/C1SJ)
- Club Affiliation Agreement (QRL/C2SJ)
- Copy of audited financials
- QRL Clearance Declaration (signed by outgoing committee)
- Advice of submission of Annual Return to the Office of Fair Trading

1.3 Refusal of Affiliation

FNQ RL has the right to refuse an affiliation, if the club has failed to meet its financial commitments, the club is in material breach of the QRL Rules or any other sub-ordinate rules and has failed to remedy such breaches or is not able to field the minimum number of teams for the season.

No club can sign on any players or have players train or play unless all Affiliation requirements have been met.

1.4 Player Affiliation Fees

Player affiliation fees for the 2021 season are as follows:

Players in Coast Conference Teams included in the season draw

- \$50.00 - U6 - U7
- \$50.00 - U13 - U17 females
- \$100.00 – U8 - U16 males

Players in the Eacham Conference Teams included in the season draw

- \$10.00

2.0 Entry Fees

Gate Fees for all venues hosting trial and regular season games are set at \$5.00 for 1 adult and \$3 for Aged Pension.

3.0 Financial Management

Club Treasurers shall prepare and table a report including a copy of bank statements at every general club committee meeting.

FNQ RL does not support two (2) members of the same family signing club cheques or online banking authorisations together and it is advised that clubs arrange banking authorities to preclude this from happening and advise FNQ RL in writing of the process.

All monies received by members of a club (other than the Treasurer) should be given to the Treasurer without delay. It is a breach of rules for any other club member other than the Treasurer to retain club funds, unless authorised by the committee.

3.1 Changes to Financial Position

FNQ RL or the QRL can request financial records of any club if there are concerns or issues identified as set down in the QRL Affiliation Application Terms and Conditions.

Any club within the FNQ RL is required to notify the league of any significant change to the club's financial position that could affect the financial viability of the club to the extent that it could place the club in a position where it cannot meet its debts as and when they fall due and/or where its anticipated liabilities will exceed its assets.

4.0 Defaulters

At the end of each Junior Rugby League season any defaulter's names are to be sent to the QRL League & Club Coordinator and details will be entered into My Sideline. Defaulters cannot be registered with another club until their debt is paid in full /resolved and the Defaulter status is removed.

5.0 Insurance

All QRL Insurance requirements & timelines (Group Sport Personal Accident Insurance, Group Sport Liability Insurance and Club Management Liability Insurance) shall be in place (Declaration and any supporting documentation submitted) by the 28th February or a date advised by AJ Gallagher Insurance.

Clubs failing to meet this requirement by the nominated date must cease training as well as all player activities and risk not be included in the draw for that season.

6.0 Correspondence & Communication

All correspondence, including emails, shall be directed through the FNQ RL Secretary or other designated League administrator.

6.1 Emails

Emails are a communication tool and users are advised to use this tool in a responsible, effective and lawful manner. It is important that users are aware of the legal risks of email and social media.

- a. If you send emails with any defamatory, offensive, racist or obscene remarks you or your club can be held liable.
- b. If you unlawfully forward personal, confidential information, you and your club could be liable
- c. A breach of these rules may result in the offender/s facing a disciplinary tribunal.

6.2 Social Media

Social Media and Club/Referee officials, members, players or supporters shall not comment or partake in media or social media that is inappropriate, threatening, intimidating or which brings, or is likely to bring the game of rugby league into disrepute. All club officials should be conversant with the QRL Social Media Policy. [QRL-policy---social-media.pdf](#)

Anyone providing photographs, video footage or unauthorised comments to any media outlet will face disciplinary action.

6.3 Grievance Procedures

Players, caregivers, and officials must discuss any issues with their club executive/Member Protection Officer and if the matter cannot be resolved at club level, the Club Representative may discuss/refer to the FNQ RL or relevant outside agency.

Generally, any communication from players, caregivers and club members received by the League will be referred back to the club executive. If the matter is of a sensitive or urgent matter or is unresolved at club level, a letter detailing the issue and evidence of trying to resolve the matter with your club will be requested.

League and Club officials should be conversant with the NRL Member Protection Policy which includes Complaint Handling Procedures.

7.0 Directives

Clubs failing to obey any reasonable directive from the FNQ RL and/or rules of the Queensland Rugby League may face a fine up to a maximum sum of \$1000.00.

Club Officials, players, spectators and members failing to follow a directive, or the rules and Code of Conduct of the FNQ RL and/or the rules of the NRL/QRL shall be dealt with as set down in QRL Rules Part 5.

8.0 Season Commencement

The FNQ RL season will commence at a date set by the FNQ RL Competitions Committee, taking into consideration school term dates.

Grades will cover Under 6 to 16 inclusive and Female U13, U15 & U17.

9.0 Player Registration

Clubs may open My Sideline registrations as of the 1st of December or from a date advised by the NRL.

- a) A player must be fully registered in the current season as a player with FNQ RL before being able to train and/or play in any trial/fixture game.
- b) New players will need to have a proof of age document uploaded to their My Sideline profile for the registration to be approved by the League. The name for registration must be exactly as per the proof of age document. Acceptable documents, Birth Certificate or extract or a Passport. Statutory declarations will not be accepted. Any other form of identification will require approval from the QRL.

9.1 Players with “Carry Over” Suspension

(QRL Rule 5.2.1.13) Any suspensions not completed within their current season will carry over to the following season and in this case any player who is suspended or disqualified from playing Rugby League.

- a) A player serving a suspension for Grade 1 or 2 offences can participate in preseason club trials and must serve their suspension in competition fixtures only.
- b) A player serving a suspension for Grade 3 or higher offences cannot participate pre- season club trials and must serve their suspension in competition fixtures only.
- c) Any residual suspension that carries over to the next season will commence once the player has registered in that subsequent season.

9.2 Registrations Closing Date

Registrations close on the 30th of June. After this date, any applications for registration will be referred to the QRL for exceptional circumstances consideration.

9.3 Clearances and Quarantine Players

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

For players aged 16-18, a junior representative player as defined in these rules is a player who is participating in a QRL performance academy program delivered by an Intrust Super Cup club or equivalent. These players shall not be eligible to apply for a transfer of registration in the football season following the participation as a junior representative player.

Representative players from the previous two years shall not be permitted to transfer to another club in the current year without requesting an exemption from the Chairman of the league.

The League reserves the right to grant a transfer to a player if the relinquishing club has not provided the league with a suitable explanation as to why the transfer should not be granted.

Administration of these rules is at the discretion of the FNQ RL Competitions Committee (Interim Rugby League Cairns Juniors appointed officials) with no avenue for appeal via the relevant Region.

A parent or caregiver may appeal the Competition's Committee ruling in relation to transfers by submitting a written appeal through their club. Such appeals attract a fee of \$100.00 and must be paid on submission of the appeal. Any refund of this fee is at the discretion of the League.

The FNQ RL together with the Region and QRL specifically reserve the right to

- a) Refuse to register any player
- b) Cancel any existing registration where any of the special circumstances as set down in the QRL Rules 4.1. Administration of these rules is at the discretion of the FNQ RL Competitions Committee (Interim Rugby League Cairns Juniors appointed officials) with no avenue for appeal via the relevant Region.

The FNQ RL together with the Region and QRL specifically reserve the right to

- a) Refuse to register any player
- b) Cancel any existing registration where any of the special circumstances as set down in the QRL Rules 4.1.

10.0 Coaching Staff/Volunteers

All coaches & volunteers taking a role within a club or the league must register online through Sideline prior to commencing their duties. Any volunteer that has a role with a club must have a current Approved Positive Blue Card with details uploaded to My Sideline and recorded in the League/Club Blue Card Register.

10.1 Coaches/Assistant Coaches

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

10.1.2 Hold a current Blue Card

10.1.3 Registered to the club via My Sideline

10.1.4 Appointed to a team

(No team is to participate in trial games, competition fixtures or training without an accredited coach identified on the National Database.)

The FNQ RL together with the Region and QRL specifically reserve the right to refuse to register any Coach where any of the circumstances as set down in QRL Rules 4.2.3 apply.

10.2 Managers

A person appointed by a Club as a Team Manager

must register to the club via My Sideline.

Hold a current Blue Card (if over 18 years)

Appointed to a team

10.3 Sports Trainers

Must hold a current NRL Sports Trainer accreditation including current CPR qualification

Register to club(s) for the current season

Have obtained a Blue Card which is to be uploaded onto My Sideline

10.4 League First Aid

Must hold a current NRL League First Aid accreditation

Register to club(s) for the current season

Have obtained a Blue Card which is to be uploaded onto My Sideline

10.5 Leaguesafe

Must have completed a NRL League Safe course

Register to club(s) for the current season

Have obtained a Blue Card which is to be uploaded onto My Sideline

Coaches and Team Staff who hold multiple roles i.e., Assistant Coach and Leaguesafe must register for each role.

Staff registering for the first time will need to upload proof of name/age document to My Sideline.

- (a) Coaches, Manager, Sports Trainers, League Safe Officers who participate with a team and who are not registered and/or hold correct accreditation for the current season face the following penalty. Club being fined \$250.00.

11.0 Transfer/Clearances/Pending Registrations

All players shall be registered with the FNQ RL before being permitted to play.

11.1 Clearances

Once a player has signed for a club, that player shall not play for another club without first obtaining a clearance.

The clearance shall be initiated by the player (caregiver) through the My Sideline platform.

The club will approve/deny the request. Once the player clearance has been approved at club level the FNQ RL will review the clearance, approve or deny or cancel the transfer.

Non-competitive grades are able to play for any other team or club as long as they are a registered player in FNQ RL Cairns District Competition.

A clearance may be denied for the following reasons.

- Fees in default
- Fees on property owing
- Pending tribunal or judiciary matters
- Contractual agreements in dispute
- Quarantine Player
- Excessive player numbers in gaining club

A player requesting a transfer shall not play any games until the clearance and registration to the gaining club has been finalised.

Registration and Transfers of players shall cease on the 30th of June each year. After this date, the only exemption is as per QRL Rule 4.1.5

11.2 Pending Registrations

Pending Registrations waiting for approval from the FNQ RL are not registered players and will not be able to be added to their team through Team Manager until all registration requirements are met and approval from the League. These players cannot take the field at any time until the process has been completed.

Club Registrars should check each pending member's ID to ensure it is correct for approval, including name & DOB matches exactly as member registering.

11.3 Unregistered Players Penalties

If a club or coaching staff allow a player to play while being unregistered or in the process of a transfer, clearance or pending and are awaiting approval will be in breach of the rules and the following will apply:

1st Offence

- Team will lose 4 competition points
- Non-Competitive Grades will be fined \$100.00 per team that plays an unregistered player

2nd Offence

- Team will lose 4 competition points
- Club fined \$100.00
- Non-Competitive Grades will be fined \$150.00 per team that plays an unregistered player.

Players are not covered by insurance unless they are full registered with the club.

11.4 U16 / U17 Portability to Senior Clubs

Junior players wishing to play in senior competition, who register with their junior club, must seek a portability permit to play in the senior competition. U16 players (males) & U17 (female) players (who have attained the age of 17 yrs) can move from junior to senior competition at any time during the season if they have obtained a portability permit and have parental consent.

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

The FNQ RL does not support payments of players and prefers not to involve itself in contract or agreements. If a club finds themselves in a disagreement with another club in respect to the contracting and signing of players, it will be their responsibility to come to a satisfactory agreement.

11.5 Registration Appeals

Any appeals regarding registration should be lodged in writing to the FNQ RL, stating the reason for why your registration should be reconsidered. Any person lodging an appeal cannot participate in the game of Rugby League until the appeal has been heard.

12.1 Team Capping

The FNQ RL encourages clubs to use the following team capping guide:

- Under 6 to 7 = Maximum of 10 players
- Under 8 to 9 = Maximum of 12 players
- Under 10, 11 = Maximum of 16 players
- Under 12 & 13 = Maximum of 20 players
- Under 14 & 15 = Maximum of 22 players
- Under 16 = Maximum of 25 players

12.2 Team Levelling

All clubs with more than 1 registered team in the same age group in the FNQ RL Cairns District Competition must have an equal distribution of players and playing ability.

In Competition age groups, players who have been developed through the same team will not be required to change teams, however any new players joining should be allocated to teams to best balance ability.

Representative Players must be spread equal through both teams.

The Competitions Committee may request that a club present justification in relation to the split of representative players across their teams within an age group and may direct a club to move a representative player/s from one team to another to have teams within a club as even as possible.

A club failing to undertake the team levelling directive of the FNQ RL board, may be fined

\$1,000.00 and the team in question will receive no competition points for that season, this decision may be made at any time throughout the season.

12.3 Team Nominations

Clubs shall be required to nominate teams for the upcoming season by close of business on a nominated day and time each year.

Once clubs have advised their team nominations for the upcoming season by the stated date, no further teams will be accepted without prior approval from the FNQ RL. Acceptance of team nominations by the FNQ RL will be assessed on the following criteria

- a) Number of players registered to the team
- b) Should player number be less than the table below, strong player registrations in grade below will need to be demonstrated to provide “emergency players”. Discretion is given to the Competitions Committee
- c) Coach & team staff appointed

Players who play up a grade, where there is more than one team in a grade shall only play for one team.

Players registered to a team must be played before any “emergency” players are used. All players must be allocated to a team in the season.

Once a player has permanently played in a higher team they cannot return to the lower team. The Competitions Committee may consider extenuating circumstances.

No more than two players in the same age group can move up a team in the season without FNQ RL permission.

12.4 Team Withdrawal

Any club that withdraws a team after the start of competition must report the reason of why to the FNQ RL. The withdrawn team will be considered a forfeit for the remainder of the season or all points will be deducted from team that has been withdrawn and will become a bye for the remainder of the season with teams that have already played being awarded the bye.

13.0 Forfeits

Forfeiting club shall notify each of the below mentioned no later than 6.30pm Thursday preceding the Friday and Saturday fixtures – (Notification can be done verbally but must be confirmed in writing e.g., email or text)

Secretary FNQ RL

The Opposing Club and Venue

Referee’s Junior Coordinator

The following fees will apply in all age groups when a club arrives to find that the opposing team has forfeited: a minimum of \$200 penalty (amount depending on circumstances e.g., Travel) to be paid to the FNQ RL. The penalty will be per club.

In the case of a forfeit the non-forfeiting team is still required to submit a team sheet for qualification purposes.

If forfeits occur then it is the responsibility of the club to investigate the reason for the forfeit and notify the league in writing of their finding and what action the club is going to take to prevent reoccurrence.

Points awarded for a forfeit will be 50-0 (Coast Competition) 30-0 (Eacham Competition) and will count as a win.

Any team that forfeits 3 consecutive games will be asked to show cause as to why they should not be withdrawn from the competition.

Any team forfeiting 4 games in the season will be automatically excluded from the competition.

Players affected by such a team suspension may apply for a clearance from their original club.

14.0 Season Structure

All trial/pre-season games and carnivals must be sanctioned by the QRL with a Match Sanctioning Application submitted to FNQ RL.

FNQ RL (Coast Competition) will host Friday night games during the season, predominantly Under 15's & 16's boys and Under 17's Girls at Jones Park.

All FNQ RL Coast Competition competition finals will be played at Jones Park. Finals will be played for teams Boys Under 13 to 16, Girls U13, U15 and U17.

Under 6's and Under 7's will play 9 rounds with no finals and will play a Gala Day for their 10th round at the end of their season. (Maximum of 10 rounds permitted)

U8's to Under 12's will play 13 rounds, with no finals and an end of season Gala Day.

14.1 Hosting Clubs

All clubs will be given the opportunity to host games, which will be factored into the compilation of the season draw with the criteria including

- a) COVID-19 Action Plan including EVA Check is activated to record attendance
- b) Covid-19 Co-ordinator appointed
- c) Availability of referees for multiple venues. Regional clubs will need to demonstrate they are self-sufficient with local referees.
- d) Aligning club teams playing at the same venue to support families, club unity, maximising volunteer resources and travel support
- e) Club Events, Super Saturdays with Senior Clubs etc.
- f) Venue Facilities

Hosting clubs to advise final game times no later than 8.00pm Tuesday prior to the Game Day to ensure correct game times are uploaded. Any changes after this time will be the responsibility of the hosting club to advise the visiting club(s), the referee coordinator and the League.

14.2 Hosting Club Responsibilities

Hosting clubs are responsible for the following matters:

- (a) Completing and submitting to the League a Facility Safety Checklist prior to all FNQ RL fixtures
- (b) Appointment of a Game Day Manager, name & contact details to be advised to visiting club and the League by Tuesday prior to the game day.
- (c) Correct ground/field markings
- (d) Providing correct size and number of match footballs and cleaning station

- (e) Entry Recording and sanitisation stations
- (f) Cleaning Procedures activated
- (g) Designated areas for scorers. Children under 14 years are not permitted to score. If there is only one scorer in the designated area his/her score is the only official score.
- (h) Supply of ice and ambulance access to all fields
- (i) Keeping unauthorized persons outside the playing area
- (j) Appoint Referees if required in consultation with the CDRLRA.

It is the responsibility of clubs conducting home games to advise the league of any send offs, misconduct or bad behaviour immediately which shall include the following information, offenders name, club, position, and age group.

In the case of issues between the hosting and visiting clubs where issues can be resolved with an agreed outcome, the host club shall advise the league of such outcome. The league may take further action if outcomes are unacceptable or notification is not received within 3 days.

If you feel an incident has taken place at a game, you must immediately report this matter to the Game Day Manager or Club official who will deal with the matter directly or take a report and present it to the home club or your club executive committee for further action. This must be done in the time frame set by the QRL.

All game day scoring will be via the My Sideline Team Manager in 2021.

<https://support.playrugbyleague.com/hc/en-us/sections/360000177656-MySideline-Manager>

All match officials shall be registered with the Cairns District Referees Association.

All match official appointments for competition grades shall be the responsibility of the Cairns District Referees Association.

15.0 Visiting Clubs

Visiting clubs must advise the hosting clubs of any changes that are required by Monday preceding the game day.

Visiting clubs are responsible for the following:

- (a) Support and assist the home club where they can
- (b) Ensure supporters, parents, players and club officials adhere to the Code of Conduct and act on any issues.
- (c) Provide a scorer for their game(s)
- (d) Assist to keep unauthorised persons outside the spectator fence
- (e) Provide Sports Trainer/League First Aid for own teams as per NRL On Field Policy.

16.0 Team Staff Responsibilities

Coaches, Managers, Sports Trainers, League First Aid, League Safe Officers, carers or any other person working with or caring for players prior to or during training, matches or while on tour are prohibited from partaking of alcohol or drugs, and if have been found to have done so will face disciplinary action.

16.1 Team Benches

At any one time, there is a maximum of 5 team staff on the bench in the playing areas. These can include:

- (a) Coach
- (b) Manager
- (c) Sports Trainer
- (d) League First Aid (U6 to U15 only)
- (e) League Safe (No more than 2)

All Coaches, Managers, Sports Trainers and League Safe must wear suitable enclosed footwear.

Coaches, Managers, Sports Trainers and League Safe Officers are to remain seated or standing beside their team bench and not walk up and down the sideline.

Any team staff not remaining in designated bench area face the following penalties:

- (a) First Offence – Offender will be advised of the rules and asked to take a seat
- (b) Second Offence – Offender will be asked to leave the grounds for that game
- (c) Third Offence – Offender will face a disciplinary tribunal

Sports Trainers, League First Aid Officers, League Safe Officers have any negative interaction with referee's the game will be stopped until that person leaves the field, and it shall be referred to the league and further action may be taken.

Any Officials, who direct derogatory or abusive remarks towards a referee, touch judge, player, club officials or spectators, shall be referred to the league and further action may be taken.

Clubs shall be accountable for their officials. If a club does not act or assist the league in acting against bad behaviour by the officials than a fine will be placed on the club, the fine shall be determined by the league.

Only players dressed and listed on the team sheet can sit on the bench. Once the game has commenced players cannot be added to the team sheet.

16.2 Monitoring Behaviour

Coaches, Managers, Sports Trainers and League Safe will be recognised as club officials and are required to monitor and deal with bad behaviour of parents and spectators associated with their team/club.

16.3 Submitting Team Lists

Managers will submit their team lists via Team Manager and must include Coach, Sports Trainer and Leaguesafe. Teams receiving a forfeit also need to provide a team list for finals qualification purposes.

16.4 Leaguesafe Role

The role of the Leaguesafe trainer during a match is to provide water to players and to assist with the interchange process as required. Leaguesafe must be at least 14 years of age, have completed the NRL Leaguesafe course and be registered for the current season.

Field of Play access for Leaguesafe varies depending on age as set down in the NRL on Field Policy which must be adhered to.

League Safe must at all times during a match

- Wear a yellow shirt, vest, or jumper with the words “Leaguesafe” clearly labelled on the back and wear appropriate enclosed footwear

16.5 Tee Runner

Any person entering the field of play to provide a kicking tee must have attained the age of 10 years and be registered as a player with the league. The child doing this role is not permitted to collect the tee from kick offs.

16.6 Melee

At no time is a League Safe, League First Aid or Sports Trainer allowed to touch a player during a melee, they are to stand back and call the players to them. The control of the on-field behaviour is the duty of the match referee, the only exception to the above would be when an injured player needs shielding from possible further harm.

16.7 First Responders

First Responders (League First Aid, Level 1 & 2 Sports Trainers) must at all times when “on duty” wear the appropriate shirt for their qualification/role and suitable enclosed footwear.

First Responders must always during a match be able to respond quickly and access the field of play:

- To attend an injured or ill player
- After a try has been scored
- During a timeout called by the referee

First Responders shall determine (in their absolute discretion) whether a player should continue in a match and, if so, when it is appropriate to resume playing.

Injuries requiring a Medical Clearance prior to the resumption of training/playing must be presented to the Club’s Accredited NRL Sports Trainer. All minor injured players are to make their way off the field of play the quickest route possible.

16.8 Entering Field of Play

Coaches, Managers, Parents or spectators who enter the field of play while a game is in progress shall face a disciplinary action and could be excluded from participating or attending any rugby league game sanctioned by the QRL.

Coaches are only allowed on the field in Under 6 and 7 to direct players only.

If the game has been stopped due to an injury, a Coach, Manager can enter the field of play providing approval has been granted by the Field Marshal. (Parents or guardians are not to enter the field of play unless permission has been given by the attending first aid officer)

16.9 Approaching Match Officials

At no time, will Coaches, Managers, Sports Trainers or League Safe approach or talk to a match official in relation to their performance.

If the League receives complaints from game stakeholders e.g. (referees, parents, field marshals etc.) in relation to officials e.g. (Coaches, Managers, Sports Trainers, Leaguesafe, club officials) behaviour/actions the league will refer the matter to the Disciplinary Review committee for further action.

17.0 Players Responsibilities and Penalties

All players are to be fully registered before taking the field.

Players must remain seated on the reserve bench while not on the field.

Players will not approach match officials in relation to their performance at any time. Players are not allowed to touch a match official at any time.

Players on the team bench who enter the field of play e.g., during a melee will be charged and disciplinary action will be taken.

Clubs shall be accountable for their players, if a club does not act or assist the league in acting against bad behaviour by the players than a fine will be placed on the club, the fine shall be determined by the league.

18.0 Recording of Games

Clubs are encouraged to record all international grade games.

Clubs and individuals shall provide a copy of any game incident footage where available and if requested to the league for match review and/or disciplinary review and action.

19.0 Team Lists

It is the responsibility of the club to ensure all players are allocated to a team.

Team lists will be entered via Team Manager a minimum of 15 minutes prior to kick off. Once the game has commenced no additional players can be added. Games cannot commence until teams have been uploaded. If there are difficulties with uploading teams, the team list must be messaged/emailed through to fnqrugbyleague@gmail.com ASAP.

Team lists are to show the names of 20 registered players only, Coach, League Safe, and League First Aid or Sports Trainer.

Regular audits of the team sheets will be conducted and discrepancies will be referred to the club for action. Team lists that are not submitted, or filled out incorrectly, will incur a \$250.00 fine to the club. Extenuating circumstances may be considered by the Competitions Committee.

Should an unregistered player escape the attention of the league, the penalty of 4 competition points will apply from the moment of detection.

20.0 On Field Apparel

All players must play in designated team uniform displaying the QRL logo

Permission must be obtained from the FNQ RL prior to teams taking the field in non-designated uniforms; the opposing team will be notified prior to the commencement of the game if permission is granted.

On Field apparel must be purchased from a licenced Queensland Rugby League supplier.

Clubs with multiple teams in the one grade are to ensure that uniforms are not similar when playing each other. Referees may refuse to officiate where team uniforms are similar.

Compression Garments can be worn with the following conditions:

- (a) The garments do not extend below the elbow or knee
- (b) They must be black or match the colour of the club uniform
- (c) They do not have any markings other than the manufacturer's name
- (d) An exception letter has been obtained from the QRL for medical

reasons. Swapping of jerseys between players is not permitted.

Under no circumstances are jerseys to be worn inside out. All jerseys shall be clearly and suitably numbered.

20.1 Footwear

All players shall wear footwear:

- (a) Screws in tags are permitted. Studs on boots and shoes shall be no less than 8mm diameter at the apex and, if made of metal, shall have rounded edges.
- (b) Any person entering the field of play must have suitable covered footwear when officiating, this includes running the lines.

21.0 Footballs

- (a) Hosting clubs are to supply footballs for all games
- (b) Game footballs shall be Steeden (brand) displaying the QRL logo
- (c) All games should commence with 2 balls available
- (d) Each club shall provide 1 extra ball each per game to be used if

necessary. Under 6, 7, 8, 9 – Mini Size 3

Under 10, 11, 12 – Mod Size 4

Under 13 to 17 – International Size 5

22.0 Training and Game Resources

Training & game day resources including footballs, vests, league-tags & course vouchers are available for purchase from [Play Rugby League Shop](#)

23.0 Field Sizes and Game Duration

Games shall be timed and scored at the official bench on each field. Maximum of 20 players permitted for competition grades. Play periods and field size will be as follows:

Age	Field Size	Max Players on the Field	Game Duration	Break
U6 & U7 (League tag)	40m x 20m	6 Each player must play a minimum of 2 x periods unbroken play	4 x 8mins	1 min, 3 min H/T (optional)
U8 & U9	68m x 30m	8 Each player must play a minimum of 2 x periods unbroken play	4 x 8mins	1 min, 3 min H/T (optional)
U10 & U11	80m x 48m	11 Each player is to play a minimum of an unbroken half	2x20mins	5mins
U12	100m x 68m	13 Each player is to play a minimum of an unbroken half	2x20mins	5mins
U13-U17	100m x 68m	13 Minimum of 9 players on the field	2 x 30mins	5mins

Competition Teams are allowed a maximum of 20 players per team.

24.0 Time Off

No time off will be allowed except for the following circumstances

- (a) During the general season if more than 20 minutes is lost due to waiting for an ambulance/managing an injury, it will be the discretion of the Game Day Manager to decide if time should continue. The Game Day Manager has the authority to move games to another field should circumstances require.
- (b) During the finals series the time clock will be stopped when indicated by the referee when assistance by anyone other than the game Sports Trainer is required to enter the field to attend to an injury.

Should a team not have a Sports Trainer as per the NRL On Field Policy guidelines, at the commencement of the game, the team has 15 minutes to find one or game will be counted as a forfeit. The clock will commence as per allocated game time and once 15 minutes has lapsed the game will be a forfeit.

If a Sports Trainer is found time will commence from what has passed once the Sports Trainer is on the bench. It is not the responsibility of the league/hosting club to supply a Sports Trainer. Any Sports Trainer can be used as a fill in as long as they are accredited and registered for current season.

Any team not prepared to commence a match after 15 minutes will be deemed a forfeit.

25.0 Mercy Rule

All matches in competition rounds will stop immediately when there is a differential of 50 Points. i.e., teams cannot continue to “play” without scoring. Officials will sound siren at the appropriate time. Note, not applicable in Eacham Competition in 2021.

26.0 Dismissals

- a) Any player dismissed from the field for ten (10) minutes must retire immediately to the scorers’ bench or other designated area. Time off commences once the player crosses the sideline.
- b) A player in the Sin Bin cannot be approached or addressed by any person other than team or league official.
- c) Any Player U13 – U17 who are dismissed from the field must retire immediately from the playing field supported by an adult from that club for the remainder of the game.
- d) Any player who removes their jersey during, or at the conclusion of a game to avoid identification will face disciplinary action.
- e) A copy of the On Field Incident Report should be provided to the player’s club representative prior to the end of the game day and to the FNQ RL Secretary by COB of the next business day following the game.
- f) Referee reports in relation to player sends offs will be referred to the Match Review Committee, who will determine the charge and grading.
- g) The player’s club will receive notification in relation to the charge, grading, points loading and reduction in relation to an early plea. It is the responsibility of the club to inform the player and parent/caregiver of the outcome and options.

- h) A complaint, including any video evidence, may be lodged with the League Chair (within 1 business day) regarding the On-field behaviour of any player. The Chairperson will decide as to whether the complaint requires further investigation and, if so, the Chair will forward the complaint to the Match Review Committee.

27.0 Points & Positions

Competition points will be awarded as follows:

- (a) Win 2 points
- (b) Draw 1 points
- (c) Bye 2 points
- (d) Forfeit 2 points

Teams will lose points for the following:

- (a) Playing an unregistered player
- (b) Playing a suspended player
- (c) Playing a player from another team in the same age group in competitive grades
- (d) Playing a player from another club
- (e) Having more than the allowable number of players on the bench/field during a game.
- (f) Turning jerseys inside out to participate in a game
- (g) Not abiding by the rules set down by the league
- (h) Players not playing in their designated club colours (unless prior approval has been obtained from the league)
- (i) Players playing in incorrect age
- (j) Team officials not being fully registered with the league and/or holding relevant accreditation.

Loss of points shall only apply to affected games and clubs shall be notified in writing. There will be no appeals in relation to teams losing points for any of the breaches.

Positions on the ladder will be determined by - Team with the highest competition points to least competition points, if teams are on the same points, then points for and against will determine the top position.

28.0 Finals

Finals will be played for teams Boys Under 13 to 16, Girls U13, U15 and U17. Finals Format Males (Girls Format dependant on number of teams)

- a) 1st Semi – 1 v 2 and 3 v 4. Winner of 1 v 2 goes through to the Grand Final. Loser of 1 v 2 plays in the 2nd Semi Final against the winner of 3 v 4. Loser of 3 v 4 drops out of the competition.
- b) 2nd Semi – Loser of 1 v 2, and winner of 3 v 4. Winner of this match plays the team in the Grand Final.
- c) Grand Final – Winner of 1 v 2 and winner of 2nd semi-final.

In the event of a tied game at full time: The game will go into 10-minute extra time, 2 x 5- minute halves. If no points are scored after the end of 10 minutes, the game will be awarded to the first team that scored a try. The full 10 minutes will be played in a game goes into extra time.

No player shall be eligible to take part in the finals unless they have previously **played 3 games** for that team during the season and have fulfilled their commitment to their own team first.

Player may request exemptions in writing in the case of injuries where doctor's certificates have prevented them from playing all rugby league (certificates to be attached to the request), it will then be up to the discretion of the league to grant such exemptions.

Players are eligible to play up a grade in finals providing they have **played 3 games** in the higher grade with that team during the season.

The league reserves the right to disqualify teams from participating in the competition or finals if there have been continued indiscretions by that team.

Any players found to be playing in a team that they have not qualified to play for, will forfeit their place in the Final Series, the club will be fined \$200.00.

Any protest regarding a game result for a final must be reported to the FNQ RL Secretary once the game has concluded, advising what the protest is regarding, video evidence may be required to prove the protest, and must be received by the FNQRL Secretary on the day, otherwise the protest will not be considered.

29.0 Team Championships

Team Championships shall be determined by the highest amount of competition points for that team.

30.0 Under 16 Silver Medal

4 x Under 16 Players will be selected for the Silver Medal, who will attend the Gold Medal Dinner of the CDRL. The player is supplied with two tickets.

Nominated players are selected from each Under 16 game played, referee will use a 3, 2, 1- point system to select the players who they feel should be awarded for the effort in the game.

31.0 Trials/Carnivals

Pre-season/trial games can be played with the following conditions

- (a) Insurance has been paid for current year
- (b) All players are registered for the current season
- (c) All staff hold appropriate accreditation and are registered for the season
- (d) COVID-19 Co-ordinator appointed and COVID Plan in place
- (e) Facility Safety Check list submitted to the League Secretary
- (f) League approval to Host/Travel for intra-league (local) games.
- (g) QRL approval for inter-league games i.e., Cairns team playing a Townsville game

32.0 Referees/Scorers

It is a firm policy of the Junior League not to interfere with the result of a match due to a referee error on field.

The FNQ RL may consider errors or interfering made by officials at the official table recording the match, if proof is provided

Clubs may lodge a complaint to the League against a decision of a referee, or on the grounds of misconduct of a referee.

Any complaints or protest must be put in writing and forwarded by the club President/Secretary to the League Secretary by COB the next business day following the game.

The Referee has the discretion to terminate a game whenever because of climatic condition, interference by spectators or any other cause the referee deems necessary. In this instance the Referee must advise their co-ordinator of the reason, who will then be on-forwarded to the FNQ RL Secretary.

In the event of the CDRLRA inability to appoint a referee the League will carry out this function.

In the event of the referee appointed not attending the game within 15 minutes of scheduled kick off time, then any qualified referee may be appointed by the ground manager or officials of the opposing team. A written report must be sent to the FNQ RL Secretary. The referee association to absorb the cost.

It is a breach of rules for anyone to approach a referee or touch judge during or immediately after a game seeking a rule explanation or for any other reason directly relating to the game.

All approaches to a referee and/or touch judge shall be made through the Junior Co-ordinator, the referees association or the Chairman or Secretary of the league, in writing from the Club to the League.

All complaints by referees must be received by the FNQ RL Secretary by COB the next business day following the match.

Any referee appointed to games by the Referee's Association, must declare a conflict of interest if appointed to games involving teams from that person's club in Finals and Grand Final Day. A Dispute Panel of three League Chairman, Referee Coordinator and an Independent will look at it on a case-by-case basis and make a decision.

The Referee Association will be charged a forfeit fee for any referee that does not turn up to their scheduled game. The Referee Association to absorb the cost.

33.0 Wet Weather/Cancelled Games

During wet weather, all clubs will be called to inspect their grounds and advise the League Secretary via text message or email by 7.15am of the morning of the scheduled games as to the status of their grounds, either playable or unplayable.

Jones Park will notify the League by Thursday 6:30pm for cancellation of Friday night games and 5.00pm Friday for cancellation of Saturday games.

If games are cancelled club President and Secretary will be notified by text message and email and via the Cairns Juniors Facebook page

Cancelled competition games that have not been played due to wet weather will be rescheduled to be played at a time and place agreeable by both parties, if an agreement cannot be made the game will be classed as a draw of 20 all.

Ends/