



NEWCASTLE MAITLAND WOMEN'S RUGBY LEAGUE 2026 Competition By-Laws

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NEWCASTLE MAITLAND WOMEN'S RUGBY LEAGUE

COMPETITION INFORMATION

This handbook incorporates the rules and By-Laws for all Newcastle Maitland Women's Rugby League Competitions for all clubs participating. The Newcastle Maitland Region Women's Competition Committee and NSWRL staff will determine the requirements in terms of teams entering a Competition.

This document will be a 'living' document. It will see additions and changes as the seasons pass, when new policies and procedures are introduced, or existing ones are amended. As such, it is recommended not to print and instead access when required online.

These By-Laws should be read in conjunction with the [NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual](#).

Note: All correspondence regarding any Women's Tackle Competition matter can be directed to NSWRL staff or relevant association representative.



ADMINISTRATION

5. Registrations

- 5.1. All players and team staff must register via MySideline with their participating club as per the [National Registration Policy](#).
- 5.2. A player cannot participate in any competition until a clearance or permit, if applicable, has been fully approved (including player registration) via the MySideline database or new registration approved.
- 5.3. It is the responsibility of the member club to ensure all players are correctly registered before they take the field. If any player is found to have taken the field unregistered, the match will be recorded as a forfeit by the offending club. Fines for playing an unregistered player may also apply (See [NSWRL Policies and Procedures](#)).
- 5.4. Female players who participate in both League Tag and Tackle with the same club must complete separate registrations for each format.
- 5.5. Where a player participates across two (2) different clubs, the player must hold their primary registration with the Tackle club and obtain an approved Permit to participate with the League Tag club.

6. De-registration of Players from a Team

- 6.1. If a player registers to a club and does not participate in any competition match, they may be de-registered.
- 6.2. A player CANNOT be de-registered from the MySideline system if they have participated in a match for a club however, they can be unassigned from that team. Players remain as registered participants for insurance purposes for the remainder of the season.
- 6.3. All deregistrations requests must be received before June 30th.



7. Accreditation Requirements

- 7.1. Coaches must hold an appropriate accreditation as per the NRL National Coach Accreditation Scheme.
- 7.2. Sports Trainers must hold the appropriate accreditation for the role and team age group under the NRL On-Field Policy.
- 7.3. Any team found to have participated in a match with an unaccredited team staff member may face fines, suspensions or loss of competition points.
- 7.4. Clubs will be reminded at regular intervals throughout the season of any volunteers that do not meet the requirements as outlined by the NRL up until June 30. After this date, Squad Management will be locked in MySideline and unaccredited team staff removed from their team squads.
- 7.5. At all times, the NRL On-Field Policy must be complied with and minimum accreditation requirements need to be met by all teams before games can commence.
- 7.6. All Sports Trainers must comply with all aspects of the NRL On-Field Policy and related concussion management policies and procedures.
- 7.7. At all times, all Team Staff must comply with the direction of the Ground Manager/s and Match Officials.
- 7.8. At all times, all Team Staff should abide by the requirements of the NRL National Code of Conduct.
- 7.9. Only registered and appropriately accredited Team Staff are permitted to be inside the playing area.



8. Team Nominations

- 8.1. Teams must nominate under a singular club entity. That is, separate teams cannot merge and play as a non-existent entity.
- 8.2. Each club is limited to a maximum of two team nominations per season.
- 8.3. Where a club intends on nominating two teams, a squad list of fifteen (15) players for the highest graded team must be submitted on the Monday prior to Round 1. No members allocated to this team will be permitted to play down in the lower division team without prior approval.
- 8.4. The Women's Competition Committee in collaboration with NSWRL reserve the right to add teams up until the completion of round three (3). Under exceptional circumstances, application for a team nomination after round three (3) may be submitted to NSWRL for consideration.
- 8.5. Clubs must submit team nominations to NSWRL by a determined date and time prior to the commencement of the competition using the correct nomination form (NSWRL supplied).
- 8.6. The Women's Competition Committee in collaboration with NSWRL reserve the right to place conditions of entry on all clubs wishing to nominate for any competition e.g. sponsorship requirements. These conditions will be outlined as part of the team nomination process.
- 8.7. The Women's Competition Committee in collaboration with NSWRL shall be entitled to refuse the entry application of any club to enter a competition at their discretion.
- 8.8. Clubs entering more than one team will only be accepted when cause is shown that the additional team/s have been formed by way of retention (Junior pathways) or recruitment of new participants to the game. The forming of additional team/s at the detriment of an existing participating team will be declined.



9. Club Affiliations

- 9.1. Two participating clubs within Newcastle Maitland Region Women's Competitions may apply to enter into a Club Affiliation Agreement with each other.
- 9.2. Affiliation requests must be formally accepted by the Executive Committees of both clubs.
- 9.3. All Club Affiliation Agreements must be submitted in writing to NSWRL prior to the commencement of each competition season and will apply for the current season only. Affiliation Agreements are not ongoing and must be reapplied for annually.
- 9.4. A club may only enter into one (1) Club Affiliation Agreement in any competition season.
- 9.5. Where two clubs enter into an affiliation agreement, the higher graded club must provide a squad list of 19 players by the Monday prior to Round 1. No members allocated to this team will be permitted to play down in the lower division team without prior approval
- 9.6. A club that nominates a second team in any Newcastle Maitland Women's competition shall not be eligible to enter into, or be approved for, a Club Affiliation agreement.
- 9.7. Final approval of all Club Affiliation Agreements will be determined by the Women's Competition Committee in what it deems to be in the best interests of the competition.
- 9.8. The determination of the Women's Competition Committee in relation to Club Affiliation Agreements shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Player Participation Under Affiliation

- 9.9. Where a Club Affiliation Agreement has been approved, players may participate across both affiliated clubs under permit for the duration of the approved season.
- 9.10. All permits must be processed in accordance with NSWRL registration, clearance and permit requirements.
- 9.11. Players must remain registered to their primary club of registration at all times.
- 9.12. Club Affiliation Agreements do not override, amend or exempt compliance with any provisions relating to playing higher grade limitations, player transfers (including future transfers), representative requirements, or the grading and regrading of teams, as set out in these By-Laws or the [NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual](#).

Match Participation Limits

- 9.13. To maintain competition integrity, a maximum of three (3) affiliated players may participate for an affiliated club in any one match, unless otherwise approved by the Women's Competition Committee.



Finals Series Eligibility – Affiliated Players

- 9.14. An affiliated player shall only be eligible to participate in the Finals Series for one (1) club in any competition season.
- 9.15. Where both affiliated clubs qualify for the Finals Series, the affiliated player shall be eligible to participate in the Finals Series only for their primary club of registration and deemed ineligible to participate in the Finals Series for the other affiliated club for the remainder of that season.
- 9.16. It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure compliance with this provision. Any breach may result in the offending team being deemed to have participated with an unqualified player, with penalties applied in accordance with these By-Laws and the NSWRL Policies and Procedures Manual.

10. Grading / Re-Grading

- 10.1. Grading of teams will be determined by the Women's Competition Committee.
- 10.2. Previous season results and player movement will be taken into consideration.
- 10.3. Clubs will have the ability to nominate a division, however, this will only be a recommendation and cannot be guaranteed.
- 10.4. The Women's Competition Committee will have the ability to move teams from their current division at any stage before the commencement of Round 6.
- 10.5. Once the regrade period has been completed, no further requests will be considered.
- 10.6. If a team is promoted or relegated to a different division, they will be placed in 4th position on the competition ladder with equal points and for and against as the current 4th placed team.
 - 10.6.1. If there are multiple teams in 4th position an average for and against points will be calculated



11. Trial Sanctioning

- 11.1. Requests for trials must be approved by NSWRL via submission through the [NSWRL Event Sanctioning Form](#).
- 11.2. It is the responsibility of the host club to apply for sanctioning of their trials.
- 11.3. Requests for trials must be lodged at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled time to allow for referee scheduling.
- 11.4. Clubs are encouraged to submit trial nominations at the beginning of the planning phase.
- 11.5. A trial will not be approved if the participating clubs have not registered a minimum number of registrations deemed required for the match/es to proceed. The minimum will generally be set as per the minimum number of players required to take the field as per the Laws of the Game.
- 11.6. Approval of trials will be dependent on referee and venue availability.
- 11.7. All trial matches must have team lists and match results submitted post-match to ensure compliance with the NSWRL Policies and Procedures and Laws of the Game.
- 11.8. NSWRL may from time to time arrange events during the pre-season which clubs will be invited to attend.
- 11.9. Trial match results may be used as part of the grading process for the regular competition season.



12. Representative Requirements

- 12.1. All players registered to participate in the Newcastle Maitland Region Women's Rugby League competitions are required to make themselves available for representative team selection when nominated or eligible.
- 12.2. Any player who declines selection, withdraws from, or makes themselves unavailable for representative duties without an approved exemption shall be ineligible to participate in any club match until all representative commitments for that program have been completed.
- 12.3. Requests for exemptions from Representative duties must be submitted in writing to NSWRL no later than 5pm Wednesday, where a decision for approval will be determined by the Women's Competition Committee.
- 12.4. Grounds for exemption may include, but are not limited to:
 - 12.4.1. Injury or Illness
 - 12.4.2. Employment or Education commitments
 - 12.4.3. Compassionate Circumstances
 - 12.4.4. All exemption requests must be accompanied by the appropriate supporting evidence.
- 12.5. A Player who has been granted an exemption from Representative duties shall continue to be classified as a Representative Player for the purpose of calculating and managing a Club's permitted Representative Player quota.
- 12.6. Players who participate in any higher level NSWRL Representative Competition (Lisa Fiaola, Tarsha Gale, Harvey Norman or NRLW) shall not be permitted to return and play in a Newcastle Maitland Regional Women's Competition within that same week, being Tuesday through to Monday, without prior approval.
 - 12.6.1. Request for consideration to participate in local competitions within the same week must be applied in writing to NSWRL no later than 5pm Wednesday preceding the scheduled match.



13. Player Transfers

13.1. Any player that has participated in five (5) or more competition matches combined across the previous two (2) competition seasons will be subject to the below Player Transfer rules.

13.2. NSWRL will refuse to grant Transfer Permission in any of the following circumstances:

Transfer Limits

13.2.1. If two (2) or more Transfer Permissions have already been granted in respect of Players, who played in the same team for the same Club in the last Season of Community Rugby League, to move to the same New Club for the next Season. This includes clubs both internal and external of the new club's association.

13.2.2. If four (4) or more Transfer Permissions have already been granted in respect of Players, who played for any Club within the Newcastle Maitland Region in the last Season of Community Rugby League, to move to the same New Club for the next Season.

Note: For the purposes of clearances, all Newcastle Maitland Region clubs are regarding as being in the one League.

13.2.3. If four (4) or more Transfer Permissions have already been granted in respect of Players, who played for any Club outside of the Newcastle Maitland Region in the last Season of Community Rugby League, to move to the same New Club for the next Season.

13.2.4. In summary, a club can only recruit a maximum of eight (8) players via transfer:

13.2.4.1. Four (4) Internal Transfers from within the Newcastle Maitland Region, with a maximum of two (2) players from the same club.

13.2.4.2. Four (4) External Transfers from outside the Newcastle Maitland Region, also with a maximum of two (2) players from the same club.

Transfer Restrictions

13.2.5. NSWRL will also refuse to grant Transfer Permission if the Player has been registered in the Community Premiership or was a Community Cup Grand Finalist team at any time within the previous two (2) competition seasons, and where the Club which the Player intends on registering to play for qualified for the Community Premiership Grand Final within the previous season.



Transfer of Representative Players

- 13.2.6. A Representative Player will be any player that has participated in a three (3) Junior Pathways Competition matches, being Lisa Fiaola, Tarsha Gale or the QRL equivalent; or any player that has participated in one (1) NRLW, Harvey Norman Women's Premiership or BMD Premiership match within the previous two seasons.
- 13.2.7. The Representative Quota for each team will be set at six (6) for the 2026 season.
- 13.2.8. NSWRL will refuse to grant Transfer Permission if the Player is classified as a Representative Player, and where the new club which the Player intends on registering to already meets the allocation of Representative Players allowable under the Representative Quota.
- 13.2.9. Any Player who has participated in Representative Football outside of the Newcastle Maitland Region within the previous two (2) seasons shall, upon returning to participate in competitions conducted within the Newcastle Maitland Women's Rugby League, be required to register with their last club of registration within the Region.

Junior Players Transferring to Senior Clubs

- 13.2.10. Junior players progressing to Senior football shall be granted transfer permission, even where this exceeds the Representative Player Quota, where the player is progressing through their assigned community club pathway. Any movement outside of the recognised pathway shall be assessed in accordance with all other Player Transfer provisions contained within these By-Laws.
- 13.2.11. For the purposes of this clause, a Junior Player is defined as:
 - 13.2.11.1. Any Player who has been registered for the greatest number of seasons of junior international (Under 13s and above) rugby league with the subject Club's junior pathway.
 - 13.2.11.2. Any Player who has been registered for an equal number of seasons of junior international rugby league with the subject Club's junior pathway and one or more other clubs and is registering for their first season of Senior rugby league with the subject Club.
- 13.2.12. Any Player who has participated with multiple junior clubs will be recognised as a Junior Player with the club where the majority of their junior playing history occurred prior to and including their final junior international age season.
- 13.2.13. Any Player who has been registered for an equal number of seasons of junior international rugby league with the subject Club's junior pathway and another club within the same competition and has not yet registered for their first season of Senior rugby league, may be recognised as a Junior Player with either Club.



13.2.14. Any Player who has been registered for the greatest number of seasons of junior international rugby league with a club that does not field a Senior team in the relevant competition shall be allocated in accordance with the club pathways as determined by the Competition Committee in collaboration with NSWRL.

13.3. [Further information on the NSWRL Transfer Policy can be found here.](#)

13.4. It is the responsibility of the Destination Club to advise the applicant of the requirements in changing Clubs.

Transfer Reviews

13.5. A Transfer Review application can be made to the NSWRL Area Manager for any transfer requests that breach any rules stated above.

13.6. NSWRL may grant Transfer Permission which would otherwise breach this Policy in what it determines to be Exceptional Circumstances. In all examples, applications for consideration of Exceptional Circumstances will be assessed in the context of the best interests of the Game. These considerations are intended for use in providing some flexibility in the limiting of Player movement in lower divisions rather than compromising the application of the Transfer Restrictions or Transfer of Representative Players.

13.7. If the exceptional circumstance involves any reference to Mental Health of the player, a mental health plan provided by a Mental Health professional such as a psychologist, psychiatrist or Mental Health Nurse (not a regular General Practitioner), must be provided. Said player will also require a medical certificate from said specialist declaring they are fit to return to play.

13.8. If the exceptional circumstance involves the relocation of a player, said player shall not be registered unless they meet the Unreasonable Distance definition outlined within the NSWRL Policies and Procedures. To be considered an Unreasonable Distance, travel must be greater than 45 minutes from door to ground to participate in home games and training.

13.9. A player transferring due to their previous team folding will be allowed to transfer back to their previous club the following season if that club gets a team and will not be bound by the above Transfer Rules.

Transfer Appeals

13.10. Transfer Appeals will be heard by the Women's Competition Committee.

13.11. A refundable appeal fee of \$500 must be paid before a Leave to Appeal Request can be heard.

13.12. An appeal submission can take up to fourteen (14) days to be processed.

13.13. All decisions of the Women's Competition Committee will be final and binding.



14. Playing Higher Grade Competitions

- 14.1. Any player not nominated for the highest graded team within the same club (See Team Nominations), may play up in the higher division for a maximum of seven (7) games only. Following participation in an eighth game, the player will be regraded to be a permanent member of the higher graded team and ineligible to return to the lower grade without prior written approval. Any requests for a player to be regraded back down to the original team must be submitted by 5pm on the Wednesday prior to the day of the eighth match.
- 14.2. See Club Affiliations for conditions around participants playing up across clubs.
- 14.3. See Representative Requirements for participants playing up in Representative fixtures.
- 14.4. Clubs found with players not complying with the above shall be deemed to have participated unqualified and may face fines and/or forfeit the match in line with the [NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual](#).

15. Draws and Times

- 15.1. An annual season calendar, outlining dates of regular season and finals series rounds, will be distributed to all participating Clubs prior to the commencement of the season.
- 15.2. Draws will be created by NSWRL.
- 15.3. Clubs will be allocated matches of which they will be required to allocate times and venues (deadlines will be set to ensure a forward draw is available).
- 15.4. Once dates and times for fixtures have been allocated, any requests for change will be required to be received by NSWRL staff at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the current fixture date.



16. Forfeits

- 16.1. It is the responsibility of the Club to notify an intention to forfeit in writing to their scheduled opponent Club and the NSWRL at the earliest opportunity.
- 16.2. Teams that forfeit prior to 8:00pm on the Thursday before the weekend round of fixtures will be required to pay a forfeit fee of \$600.00 for an away fixture and \$200.00 for a home fixture. The forfeit fee will be used to offset claimed expenses incurred by the team receiving the forfeit.
- 16.3. Teams who forfeit after the stipulated time will be required to pay a forfeit fee of \$1000.00 for an away fixture and \$400.00 for a home fixture. The forfeit fee will be used to offset claimed expenses incurred by the team receiving the forfeit.
- 16.4. Any forfeit fines issued are payable to the NSWRL within 7 days of the forfeit. If not paid the team will be forced to forfeit the following match. Proceeds will then be distributed to the clubs affected by the forfeit at the discretion of NSWRL.
- 16.5. The result for a forfeited match will be set at 30-0.
- 16.6. All forfeits submitted will remain in effect if the match/round is later abandoned/washed out.
- 16.7. Any team that forfeits in the final three (3) rounds of the season and are final series contenders will need to show cause to the Women's Competition Committee as to why they should not be disqualified from the competition.
- 16.8. Any team that forfeits three (3) times throughout the regular season will be disqualified from the competition.
- 16.9. For finals eligibility purposes, all players listed in the Forfeit Receiving team's squad in MySideline will have the matches counted towards their participation. This team list must be submitted through MySideline Manager before the result of the match is finalised at 9am Monday.
- 16.10. See [NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual](#) for conditions around forfeits and minimum player numbers.

17. Fines

- 17.1. NSWRL are the only entity permitted to issue fines for Rules and By-Law's breaches for clubs/teams playing in Newcastle Maitland Women's Rugby League Competitions.
- 17.2. Payment is payable within seven (7) days of receiving the Fine Invoice. Non-payment will result in a forfeit by the offending team in the preceding competition match.
- 17.3. Fines will be issued in accordance with the [NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual](#) (Section 1.5 Fines and Fees) and Appendices contained within this document.



18. Appeals and Protests (Competition Related)

- 18.1. In relation to Newcastle Maitland Women's Rugby League Competition rules, Protests can be lodged unless expressly prohibited when a club believes the rules and/or procedures have not been adhered to.
- 18.2. Only clubs can lodge appeals, not individuals.
- 18.3. If a Club wishes to lodge a Protest, a \$500.00 fee applies (payable to NSWRL). If the Protest is upheld, the \$500.00 fee will be refunded to the club lodging the Protest.
- 18.4. All Protests must be in writing and addressed to NSWRL via email before 4.00pm on the Tuesday following the match.
- 18.5. In all finals series matches, a Protest will only be accepted if "intention to protest" is marked on the Official Match Sheet within 15 minutes of the completion of the match in question. The name of the Team Official and Club protesting must be included. Clubs will then need to outline the terms of the Protest as per 6.3.
- 18.6. The decision of the Women's Competition Committee is final and binding and cannot be appealed against.

19. Code of Conduct and Judiciary Procedures

- 19.1. Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, officials and Club supporters.
- 19.2. All Judiciary, Code of Conduct and Appeal procedures are to be in line with [NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual](#) and [NRL Code of Conduct](#).
- 19.3. All Newcastle Maitland Women's Rugby League competitions' Code of Conduct and Judiciary incidents will be reviewed by the NSWRL Incident Review Committee.
- 19.4. The NSWRL Tough Love in League Policy will be implemented across all competitions.
- 19.5. Breaches of the NRL Code of Conduct and Tough Love in League Policy will result in penalties, including but not limited to:
 - 19.5.1. Suspension of a match.
 - 19.5.2. Termination/abandonment of a match (including potential forfeiture of competition points).
 - 19.5.3. Monetary fines.
 - 19.5.4. Suspension of a participant on a temporary or permanent basis.
 - 19.5.5. Suspension of a Team or Club on a temporary or permanent basis.
- 19.6. Further penalties may also be imposed at the discretion of the Judiciary and Code of Conduct Panel.
- 19.7. All Judiciary or Code of Conduct Hearings will be conducted online via platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom or any other technology as required.



GAME DAY RULES

20. Ground Managers, Match Operations Officials and Interchange Officials

Premiership Competition

- 20.1. Match Operations Officials and Interchange Officials for all Premiership matches, including final series, shall be appointed by the Newcastle RL.
- 20.2. The Home team will be responsible for providing adequate security/crowd control.
- 20.3. Under no circumstances are match officials to be approached, questioned or harassed in any way by a club official, coach, trainer, player or spectator either during or after a match.
- 20.4. Match Operations Officials are responsible for managing the match day operations at each venue and fixture. Further and without limitation, the Match Operations Official is ultimately responsible for:
 - 20.4.1. Ensuring compliance in all respects with the requirements of these rules; and
 - 20.4.2. The formal recording of all compliance reporting, as required by these rules and as otherwise directed; and
 - 20.4.3. Post-game day reporting on all matters required by these rules and as otherwise directed.
- 20.5. Further and for the avoidance of any doubt, under no circumstances shall any match start in any circumstances where the Match Operations Official has for any reason whatsoever directed that the match not commence. Any conduct contrary to this requirement shall be dealt with in accordance with these rules and other applicable NSWRL rules and policies.
- 20.6. If a Match Operations Official or Interchange Official has not arrived at the venue 90 minutes prior to kick-off, please contact the Newcastle RL General Manager Adam Devcich on 0410 413 332.

Community Competitions

- 20.7. Home clubs are responsible for appointing Ground Managers to venues during matches.
- 20.8. Ground Managers are responsible for:
 - 20.8.1. Ensuring sign on processes are adhered to,
 - 20.8.2. Liaising with match officials when required,
 - 20.8.3. Enforcing correct trainer/manager/coach and spectator behaviour,
 - 20.8.4. Results sheets are filled in correctly and in a timely manner after each match,
 - 20.8.5. Ensuring appropriate judiciary reports forms/sheets are available to the match officials and provided to all parties concerned in the event of an incident.
 - 20.8.6. General control of matches in accordance with [NSWRL Policies and Procedures](#).



- 20.9. Ground Managers are required to be visible at all times during matches either at the officials table or on the sideline and wearing the NSWRL provided purple Ground Manager vest.
- 20.10. They will be heavily involved in the enforcement of the NRL Code of Conduct for off-field concerns, in particular being aware of these Newcastle Maitland Women's Rugby League Competition By-Laws and reporting of incidents.

21. Sign on Sheets / Results Sheets

- 21.1. All clubs must use Match Sheets as generated from MySideline.
- 21.2. A player may be signed on at any time during a match.
- 21.3. If a player does not sign on, they will not be deemed to have played in that match for finals eligibility purposes.
- 21.4. All sin bins and send offs must be recorded on the sign on sheet.
- 21.5. Once signed on, teams are permitted to carry out warmups or return to change rooms.
- 21.6. The MOO and/or home team manager is responsible for ensuring result sheets are collected and entered onto MySideline.

Women's Premiership

- 21.7. Initial submission of Women's Premiership team lists must be completed in MySideline no later than 5:00pm on the Wednesday preceding the scheduled match to accommodate the inclusion of returning pathways players.
- 21.8. The MOO (Community Premiership) will be responsible for ensuring digital sign on procedures are completed in a timely manner.
 - 21.8.1. For Premiership matches, all team sheets to be presented to the MOO minimum 1 hour prior to match.

Community Competitions

- 21.9. Team lists for Community competitions can be submitted on the day of the scheduled fixture.
- 21.10. The Ground Manager (Community) will be responsible for ensuring digital sign on procedures are completed in a timely manner.
- 21.11. Both Cup and Plate teams are required to go through the same process when signing on (this isn't to be different between home and away teams).
- 21.12. If scores are not updated prior to 9am Monday following the scheduled match date, the offending club may be subject to fines (See Appendix 1).



22. First Aid / Sports Trainers

- 22.1. The [NRL On Field Policy](#) must be adhered to with respect to all trainers.
- 22.2. At a minimum, a League Safe accreditation is required to enter the field of play.
- 22.3. All trainers who enter the field of play must possess proof of accreditation in the form of NRL Trainers accreditation and have it available for inspection when requested.
- 22.4. Each team must ensure that they have meet the minimum Sports Trainer requirements as per the NRL On Field Policy i.e. One (1) Level 1 Sports Trainer per team.
- 22.5. If, for any reason, a team does not meet the minimum requirements as per the NRL On Field Policy then the match **MUST NOT** commence.
- 22.6. Coaches and players cannot act as a trainer in any match.
- 22.7. Head trainers (level 1 or level 2) are permitted unlimited access to attend to injured players but not provide messages that distract from their primary player safety responsibilities.
- 22.8. Trainers conducting interchanges, will only be permitted access the field to assist with the interchange of players, only when the interchange player is positioned with the Interchange official ready to take the field.
- 22.9. LeagueSafe trainers may access the field at goal line drop out stoppages and after a try is scored.
- 22.10. Trainers must not enter the field of play in the line of sight of a player or interfere with an opposition player.
- 22.11. Monitoring of players must be done from the sideline, not on the field
- 22.12. Trainers must comply with any direction or instruction from the match officials or ground manager.
- 22.13. Trainers must not make argumentative, disparaging, derogatory or offensive comments to any Match Official or Ground Manager/MOO.

23. Head Injury and Concussion Management

- 23.1. See [NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual](#), the [NRL Concussion Policy and Management Guidelines](#), and the [NRL On-Field Policy](#).
- 23.2. All players suspected of suffering a concussion must complete a [Medical Clearance Form](#) before being allowed to return to full contact training or match play.
- 23.3. Additional information and resources can be found on the [Play Rugby League Concussion Hub](#).



24. On Field Playing Apparel (Uniforms)

- 24.1. All clubs and teams must adhere to the NSWRL Licensing Program. See [NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual](#) (Policy 2.10 Licensing Program) for more information.
- 24.2. When team colours clash, the away team should arrange to play in a different set of jerseys.
- 24.3. All jerseys are to be clearly numbered with NO duplicates.

25. Time Keeping

- 25.1. The home team, in conjunction with the away team if they so wish, will be responsible for the keeping of match time.
- 25.2. If the away team does not nominate anyone for this purpose, they must accept the timekeeping of the home team.
- 25.3. All decisions of the official timekeeper shall be final and not open to review or appeal unless the Women's Competition Committee determines so.
- 25.4. In all cases, the referee will be the sole judge of when play shall cease after the half-time or full-time siren has sounded. The referee may extend the match to award a penalty or to complete the play currently underway at their discretion.

26. Time Off and Scheduled Time Delays

- 26.1. Time off for all circumstances will be allowed in the final ten (10) minutes of the SECOND HALF ONLY.
- 26.2. Matches abandoned with less than one full half of a game being completed will be replayed at the first available scheduled Wash Out Round.
- 26.3. If a match cannot be replayed, the result will be recorded as 0-0 with one (1) competition point awarded to each team.
- 26.4. The result of matches abandoned after half time shall be recorded as the final score at the point of abandonment.
- 26.5. A team shall be allowed a maximum of 15 minutes after a match's scheduled starting time to take the field without any prior confirmation of delay. After 15 minutes the match will be deemed a forfeit.
- 26.6. The game times will remain as is after the 15-minute period with consideration around shortening half time break.
- 26.7. See [NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual](#) (Policy 3.1 Abandoned Matches Due to Injury, Inclement Weather or Foul Play) for more information.



27. Sideline Area / Bench Locations

- 27.1. Both the home and away team benches must be on the same side of the field.
- 27.2. Where team benches are located within the playing area, e.g. inside the fence, the following provisions must be adhered to:
 - 22.2.1 Under no circumstances is barracking or abuse from the bench permitted. This also refers to advice or assistance to the match officials in relation to their performance or how they should carry out their duties.
 - 22.2.2 Personnel on the bench may comprise only those people directly related to the conduct of the match itself, e.g. coaches, reserve players, trainers and team manager.
 - 22.2.3 Under no circumstances is a suspended player permitted inside the playing area, including on the bench.
 - 22.2.4 The MOO or Ground Manager may request any person on the bench to leave at any time.
 - 22.2.5 Players and Officials on the bench must always remain at the bench allocated to their team (except for warm-ups).
 - 22.2.6 No one besides the MOO or Ground Manager can approach the referees.
 - 22.2.7 Whilst Team Staff are not expected to sit during the entire match, they must not leave the immediate area or approach the field of play under any circumstances.
 - 22.2.8 No members of the general public are permitted within the playing area.



28. Interchange

Policy

- 28.1. Subject to the Rules of Rugby League, a team participating in Newcastle Maitland Women's Rugby League Competition or Finals Series matches shall be permitted the following:
 - 28.1.1. Premiership: No more than eighteen (18) interchanges of a maximum six (6) reserves.
 - 28.1.2. Community Cup and Plate: Unlimited interchanges of a maximum six (6) reserves.
- 28.2. Interchange officials shall be operational in all Premiership matches.
- 28.3. Interchange Officials will utilize interchange cards under the Interchange provisions contained herein.
- 28.4. NSWRL will provide each Club with a suite of interchange cards at the commencement of each season. These cards will comprise of standard interchange cards numbered one through eighteen, and an additional Free Interchange card.
- 28.5. NSWRL may impose a fine not exceeding \$250.00 per match upon any Club which fails to present and/or make available to Match Officials its interchange cards for any Premiership competition or Finals Series match.
- 28.6. Teams may only have the maximum number of players allowed to participate in each match, as outlined above, dressed for a match (i.e. where the maximum number of players is 19, a team cannot dress 20 players for a match).

Process (All Competitions)

- 28.7. Interchanges may only occur during general play e.g.:
 - 28.7.1. when the ball is in motion,
 - 28.7.2. after any scoring has been completed or
 - 28.7.3. if play has been temporarily suspended by the referee i.e. injury or caution.
- 28.8. A maximum of 2 interchanges may take place at any one time.
- 28.9. Interchanges must not be made after the referee has ordered a scrum, until the scrum has been completed, unless it is to replace a bleeding player and the referee has:
 - 28.9.1. Signalled a stoppage in play.
 - 28.9.2. The trainer has first advised the referee that an interchange is to take place.
- 28.10. A player being replaced must have exited the field of play by crossing the touchline or dead ball line prior to their replacement taking the field of play.
- 28.11. Any player removed from the field for a suspected concussion/HIA cannot return to the field and must follow the NRL Return-To-Sport Protocols before returning to contact training and match play.



Variations For Premiership

- 28.12. In Premiership competition matches, the player coming on to the field must hand the interchange official the interchange card, and only when the interchange official has taken the card is the player permitted to take to the field of play.
- 28.13. If the player throws the card on the ground, they will be asked to come back and hand it to the official.
- 28.14. If the player does not comply, the Interchange Official will notify the Touch Judge, who will inform the Referee. The player will then be sent to the Sin Bin for an illegal interchange, and may face being charged with re-entering the field of play without the permission of the Referee or a Touch Judge
- 28.15. If a team elects to interchange a bleeding player, who leaves the field, this interchange will be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges.
- 28.16. Any player removed from the field for a suspected concussion/HIA will be allowed to be interchanged without being counted as part of the number of allowable interchanges (free). This player must follow the NRL Return-To-Sport Protocols before returning to contact training and match play.
- 28.17. If a player is fouled by an opponent, who is then dismissed from the field or sin-binned, and the fouled player is caused to leave the field as a direct result of that incident, this interchange will not be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges (free), provided that it is made without delay and by the time the referee has acted on the incident.
- 28.17.1. The phrase “caused to leave the field as a direct result of that incident” means without having taken any further part in the game after the incident before they leave the field. If play continues while the player is still out of play being treated, this does not negate access to a free interchange.
- 28.17.2. In addition to this, the next available interchange, after the foul play, will not be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges (free); giving two free interchanges for the incident.
- 28.17.3. In situations where a player is being interchanged without counting towards the allowable interchange limit, the Interchange Official will display the Free Interchange card.
- 28.18. All other interchanges will be acknowledged using the appropriately numbered interchange card that relates to the number of interchanges used by that team within the match.



29. Dismissed Players

Temporarily Dismissed Players (Sin Binned)

- 29.1. A player who is temporarily suspended (sin binned) must immediately retire from the playing field to an area designated by the MOO or Ground Manager until the period of temporary suspension has expired.
- 29.2. Time of suspension begins only when the referee restarts play or indicates time on (time is to be in accordance with actual playing time).
- 29.3. If more than one player is temporarily suspended in relation to the same incident, the period of temporary suspension commences at the same time and players will return to the field together.
- 29.4. When the temporary suspension expires, players must enter the field of play from an onside position.
- 29.5. Temporary suspension does not include time off and half time. The period of temporary suspension is the actual time that the ball is in play.
- 29.6. Periods of temporary suspensions (sin bin) will be 10 minutes across all competitions.

Permanently Dismissed Players (Sent Off)

- 29.7. A player who is permanently dismissed (sent off) must immediately retire to the team's dressing room, or an area outside of the playing area designated by the MOO or Ground Manager until they have changed out of their playing uniform.
- 29.8. After changing, the player must not re-enter the playing area under any circumstances and will be deemed as a spectator.
- 29.9. MOOs or Ground Managers must ensure that any permanently dismissed players are made aware that a formal Notice of Charge will be issued following the match under the [NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual](#) (Policy 7.1 Judiciary Code of Procedure).



30. Washout Policy

- 30.1. Every reasonable effort will be made to minimise the impact of wet weather on competitions. This may include relocating matches to alternative or neutral venues to maximise the number of games played.
- 30.2. For Community Premiership fixtures, no changes to match venues or kick-off times will be made after 5:00pm on the Friday preceding the scheduled round.
- 30.3. For Community Cup and Plate fixtures, no changes to match venues or kick-off times will be made after 5:00pm on the Thursday preceding the scheduled round.
- 30.4. Any matches unable to proceed as scheduled due to wet weather or ground closure will be rescheduled to the first available designated washout round where available.
- 30.5. When allocating matches to a scheduled washout round, priority will be given to the round with the highest number of postponed fixtures.
- 30.6. NSWRL reserves the right to schedule mid-week fixtures for rounds partially affected by weather. Clubs involved in the affected match will be given the opportunity to mutually agree on a new date. If agreement is not reached within fourteen (14) days of the original fixture date, NSWRL shall determine the rescheduled date at its discretion. Any fixture scheduled by NSWRL under this clause is compulsory. Failure to fulfil the fixture will result in a forfeit.
 - 30.6.1. Where a weather-affected abandoned match falls within fourteen (14) days of the commencement of the Finals Series and cannot be rescheduled prior to Finals, NSWRL reserves the right to record the match as a Wash Out Draw.
- 30.7. In extreme circumstances, the Women's Competition Committee in consultation with NSWRL reserves the right to abandon an entire round. Where a round is abandoned, no matches may take place under any circumstances.
- 30.8. Any match that cannot proceed due to ground closure or washout will be recorded as a Wash Out Draw (0–0), with each team receiving one (1) competition point.
- 30.9. All teams scheduled for a Bye during a washed-out round will receive two (2) competition points.
- 30.10. Any forfeits submitted in a round affected by washouts shall stand and will not be rescheduled, even if the round is subsequently replayed.
- 30.11. Where a washed-out match involves a team that is subsequently regraded or withdrawn from the competition, the result shall be recorded as follows:
 - 30.11.1. If a team is regraded to a higher division, the match will be recorded as a 0–0 draw, with each team receiving one (1) competition point.
 - 30.11.2. If a team is regraded to a lower division or withdraws from the competition, the match will be recorded as a forfeit by the team exiting the competition.
- 30.12. Any match deemed a Wash Out Draw shall count towards Finals Series Qualifications, provided a team list has been submitted at the time the result is determined.
- 30.13. Any match deemed a Wash Out Draw shall count as a match served for any suspended participant.



30.14. In extreme circumstances, the Women's Competition Committee in collaboration with NSWRL retain the right to extend the season as required, in consultation with the participating Clubs.

31. Cancellation / Postponement / Abandonment of Matches

Emergency Circumstances

- 31.1. Emergency circumstances may include any circumstances deemed to be an emergency by the MOO or Ground Manager or stipulated in the [NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual](#).
- 31.2. If any such occurrence arises, the procedure shall be as follows:
 - 31.2.1. In collaboration, the participating clubs, match officials and MOO/Ground Manager shall make the final determination if the match will continue.
 - 31.2.2. If a match is to be delayed due to severe weather conditions, the MOO/Ground Manager, in conjunction with the Match Officials, will decide on the length of delay or cancellation.
 - 31.2.3. See [NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual](#) for more information.

Ground Changes / Deferred Games

- 31.3. If a change to the original scheduled venue is required, it must first be approved by NSWRL.
- 31.4. Any mass changes due to unforeseeable ground unavailability are required to be finalised and communicated by 4pm on the Friday prior to the match (note: a small number of games may be moved in certain late notice circumstances due to unforeseeable reasons).
- 31.5. No venue changes will be accepted past this point in time.
- 31.6. Abandoned matches (excluding foul play abandonments) will be replayed at the earliest scheduled Washout Round. Should a Washout Round not be available, the Washout Policy will be applied.
- 31.7. It is the Hosting Club's responsibility to ensure that NSWRL are notified via email of any abandoned matches that have occurred at the venue before 9am on the Monday following the match.



32. Recording and Live Streaming of Matches

- 32.1. All matches within the Women's Premiership Competition will be subject to match-day filming. Selected matches within Community Competitions may also be subject to match-day filming.
- 32.2. Clubs participating in the Women's Premiership Competition will be provided access to match recordings for the purpose of post-match review.
- 32.3. All Women's Premiership Competition matches will be subject to the Match Officials' On Report system, with match review and judiciary processes conducted in accordance with these By-Laws





FINALS SERIES

33. Finals Series Structure

33.1. The format of Competition Finals Series will be a five (5) team format played over four (4) consecutive weekends.

5 Team, 4 Week Format

Week 1

Game 1 (Qualifying Final) – 2nd v 3rd

Game 2 (Elimination Final) – 4th v 5th

Week 2

Game 3 (Major Semi Final) – 1st v Winner Game 1

Game 4 (Minor Semi Final) – Loser Game 1 v Winner Game 2

Week 3

Game 5 (Preliminary Final) – Loser Game 3 v Winner Game 4

Week 4

Game 6 (Grand Final) – Winner Game 3 v Winner Game 5

33.2. If teams are on equal points at the end of the competition regular season, For and Against points will determine final standings for all positions. If equal, most points For will determine placings followed by least points Against. If the same, then individual results of both teams playing each other will be taken into account.

33.3. Any team breaching Competition By-Laws in any final's series match, regardless of their position, may be disqualified from the Competition.

33.4. If a team withdraws from any competition or is disqualified from any final's series match, any subsequent matches will be deemed a forfeit. No adjustment for previous matches will occur.

33.5. At all Finals matches, each participating Club must provide a Ground Manager to assist with crowd control on game day.

33.6. All Finals Series matches are to be played under the conditions of the [NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures](#) and this Competition By-Laws document.



34. Finals Eligibility

- 34.1. The eligibility of a player to participate in any final series match (Semi-final, Final and Grand Final) will be determined based on the player's participation record at the completion of the regular season.
- 34.2. In all competitions, the minimum number of matches required to qualify for the final's series will be three (3) regular season fixtures. This is inclusive of both junior players playing up and age group, and senior players from within the same club playing up divisions.
- 34.3. Excluding affiliate players, a player will qualify for finals in the team where they have played the majority of their matches during the regular season.
 - 34.3.1. Where a player has participated in the majority of matches in a higher division, they cannot play in a lower division. This includes Representative competitions i.e., Harvey Norman.
 - 34.3.2. Where a player has participated in the majority of matches in a lower division, that player remains eligible to participate in a higher-grade competition within the same club provided they meet the minimum number of matches played at the higher grade.
 - 34.3.3. If matches played across competitions are even at the end of the regular season, the player will be eligible for both the higher and lower division.
- 34.4. A Junior player that has also qualified to participate in Senior competition finals must fulfill their commitment to their Junior team prior to participation in Senior competitions.
- 34.5. If a player fails to play enough regular season matches to qualify for the final's series due to serious injury, adequate medical proof is required to be submitted for review.
 - 34.5.1. If there were sufficient available rounds remaining for a player to qualify, then an application on limited available rounds will be denied.
- 34.6. If the player was registered late and there were limited matches available, then application can be made for review.
 - 34.6.1. If there were sufficient available rounds remaining for a player to qualify, then an application on limited available rounds will be denied.
- 34.7. For Finals qualification purposes, matches forfeited by the opposition count towards the minimum regular competition matches required to qualify for the team receiving the forfeit.
- 34.8. Playing unregistered or unqualified players in any Finals Series match will result in the match to be deemed a forfeit and the offending team being disqualified from the Finals with possible further breaches applied.
- 34.9. It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that any player who participates in a final's series match has successfully met the minimum qualification requirements.



35. Loss of Time and Time Off (Finals)

- 35.1. In all finals series matches, all time off shall be allowed in both halves.
- 35.2. For Community Matches, in Semi-finals, Finals and Grand Finals, should thirty (30) continuous minutes of play be lost due to injury or for any other reason (excluding foul play), the game will be terminated and be replayed at a venue and time determined by Women's Competition Committee in collaboration with the NSWRL and the participating clubs.

36. Drawn Matches and Extra Time (Finals)

- 36.1. In the event of a drawn match after normal time during the finals series, in all grades, the match shall continue in to extra time.
- 36.2. The commencement of the first period of extra time shall be determined by the toss of a coin as described under the Laws of the Game.
- 36.3. Extra time shall begin with one 5-minute period. The referee shall cease play in the event any point (try, goal or field goal) is scored.
- 36.4. After the initial 5 minutes of play, and if no points have been scored, the referee shall cease play and teams shall immediately change ends. The match will restart via kick-off by the team that did not kick-off to commence the first period of extra time.
- 36.5. Play shall continue in the second period of extra time until a point is scored.
- 36.6. In the event a try is scored in extra time, the conversion attempt will not be permitted.



SITUATIONS NOT COVERED

37. Determinations

- 37.1 The Women's Competition Committee determination shall be final should any situation arise that is not covered under these rules including adjusting these rules where applicable.





Appendix 1

Breach of Conditions to Team Entry Fines

First Offence	\$500
Second Offence	\$1000
Third Offence	Removal from the competition

Appendix 2

Missing Match Data Entry Fines Scheduled

First Offence	Warning
Second Offence	\$100
Third Offence	\$200
Subsequent Offences	Any continued offences will result in the fine amount continuing to double in reference to the prior indiscretion, as well as a potential loss to the offending team.