



# 2026 GROUND SIDE COMPETITION CHEAT SHEET



## MATCH DURATIONS

Male Tackle Competitions	Game Times
U13 - U15	2 X 25 min
U16 - U18	2 X 30 min
Open age	2 X 40 Min

Mini Mod Competitions	Game Times
U6 - U9	4 X 8 min
U10 - U12	2 X 20 min

\*\* Open Age Match Durations may be set by Local Leagues. Please confirm with your Local Competition By-Laws.

Female Competitions	Game Times
U12 Women Tackle	2 X 20 min
U14 Women Tackle	2 X 25 min
U16 - U18 Women Tackle	2 X 30 min
Community Women Tackle	2 X 30 min
Premiership Women Tackle	2 X 35 min
Ladies League Tag	2 X 25 min

## MERCY RULE

Maximum 60 points differential in ALL Junior age groups.

GAMES **SHOULD** STOP ONCE LIMIT IS REACHED

Coaches may decide to continue play after MERCY differential is reached, if it is safe to do so, but no further scores will be recorded.

Both Coaches must agree for play to continue.

## DH / FR VESTS

DH and FR vests must be rotated after each ½ or ¼ Players **CANNOT** wear a vest twice in any one game.

U8s use FR vest ONLY.

## PLAYERS PLAYING UP

- **CAN'T** take the field before a correct aged player.
- **CAN'T** wear a vest (in U8-U12).
- **CAN'T** take a conversion attempt before a correct aged player (Mod games).
- **MUST** have a Playing Up Form completed.

## TEAM STAFF

The maximum amount of team staff permitted per match:

- **ONE (1)** Coach - Coach must hold an age-appropriate accreditation for the team playing.
- **THREE (3)** Trainers - Sports Trainers should also hold an appropriate accreditation for the age of the participants that meets the minimum standard as outlined in the NRL On-Field Policy.
- **ONE (1)** Team Manager
- **ONE (1)** Grounds Manager per team

## SIDELINE/BENCH CONDUCT

- 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.
- 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 with a requirement to be clearly identified with a vest or shirt and have official identification.
- Under **no circumstances** is a suspended/injured player permitted inside the playing area or on the bench.
- The Ground Manager may request any person on the bench to leave at any time.
- Players and Team Staff on the bench **must** at all times remain at the bench allocated to their team (except for warm-ups).
- No one besides the Ground Manager can approach the match officials.
- Whilst Team Staff are not expected to sit during the entire match, they **must not** leave the immediate area surrounding their allocated bench or approach the field of play under any circumstances.
- **No members** of the general public are permitted within the playing area.

**ANY BREACHES TO THE ABOVE MAY RESULT IN A CODE OF CONDUCT BREACH FOR THAT INDIVIDUAL OR TEAM.**

## MINIMUM / MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS

TACKLE				
Age Group	Min. Players On Field	Max. Players On Field	Max. Players On Bench	Minimum Game Time
6-7	4	6	4	2 x Quarters
8-9	6	8	4	2 x Quarters
10-11	8	11	5	1 x Half
12	11	13	6	1 x Half
13+	9	13	6	N/A
Blues Tag	8	11	6	N/A

## HIA / CONCUSSION

**Any player that leaves the field with a suspected head injury or is not allowed to retake the field under any circumstances.**

The Sports Trainer is to complete the **ONLINE INJURY REPORT FORM** through MySideline Manager.

## SPORTS TRAINERS – NRL ON-FIELD POLICY

### GROUND MANAGER MUST

- Check minimum requirement for game (as per table below).
- Check Sports Trainers accreditation using MySideline.
- Ensure Sports Trainer has signed the Sign on Sheet.

**IF THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS CANNOT BE MET THEN THE GAME CANNOT START**

AGE	MINIMUM PERSONNEL FOR CONTACT RUGBY LEAGUE	MINIMUM PERSONNEL REQUIRED FOR LEAGUE TAG	MINIMUM ACCREDITATION REQUIRED
U6-U7	1 First Responder for up to 4 matches being played on an International Field	1 First Responder for up to 4 matches being played on an International Field	League First Aid, or NRL Level 1 Sports Trainer, or NRL Level 2 Sports Trainer
U8-U9	1 First Responder for up to 3 matches being played on an International Field	1 First Responder for up to 3 matches being played on an International Field	
U10-U12	1 First Responder for each MATCH	1 First Responder for each MATCH	
U13-U15	1 First Responder for each TEAM		
U16+	1 First Responder for each TEAM	1 First Responder for each TEAM	NRL Level 1 Sports Trainer, or NRL Level 2 Sports Trainer

### LAWS OF THE GAME



### COMPETITION BYLAWS



### NSWRL POLICIES & PROCEDURES



### CLUB HUB



### GROUND MANAGER REPORT



### MATCH OFFICIALS REPORT

