

THE GREATEST GAME OF ALL



CIRCULAR 369

**TO: Region Managers, General Manager, Major Competitions Referees'
Academy Manager Referees' Operations**

DATE: 20.12.2019

**RE: QRL Rule Changes approved at the November 2019 QRL Board
Meeting**

The purpose of this Circular is to advise of changes to various Parts of QRL Rules as per the attached schedule.

The Schedule references the current rule, the amended rule and rational behind amending the rule which the QRL Board have considered in approving these changes.

These changes will be amended and posted on the QRL website on 6 January 2020.

If you have any further questions in relation to use of these changes you should contact your Region Manager.

Yours sincerely

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MANAGING DIRECTOR



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Part 2, 3 and 5		
Existing Rule	Proposed Change	Rationale for Change
<p>Add as rule for:</p> <p>2.11 ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND TRIBUNALS</p> <p>3.10 ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL LEAGUE COMMITTEES AND TRIBUNALS</p> <p>5.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF TRIBUNALS AND MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEES</p>	<p>All acts done at a meeting of the Committee Members, including all Tribunals, or by any person acting bona fide as a Committee or Tribunal member shall be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed or had duly continued in office and was qualified and had continued to be a Committee or Tribunal Member, notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment or continuance in office of any of such persons acting as aforesaid or that any of them were disqualified or had vacated office.</p>	<p>Ensures that decisions made by appointed Committees and Tribunals cannot be challenged on the technicality of an 'incorrect' appointment process.</p> <p>Noted: This is consistent with the provisions in the QRL Constitution (Clause 7.9)</p>
Part 4		
Existing Rule	Proposed Change	Rationale for change
<p>4.1.3 AGE ELIGIBILITY</p> <p>A Junior Player is a player who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years during the course of the Football Year and is not otherwise entitled to register under these Rules as a Senior Player.</p> <p>Any entitlement by a Junior Player to register as a Senior Player is subject to the following exemptions and consents having been obtained at the time of registration.</p> <p>A Junior player is only permitted to register in QRL sanctioned competitions (including Senior Competitions and trial matches) as a Senior Player</p>	<p>4.1.3 AGE ELIGIBILITY</p> <p>A Junior player who will attain the age of five (5) prior to July 1, in the current year of competition, that player may with the written consent of the relevant Regional Manager, Coach and his or her Parent or Primary Care Provider, register in any under six (6) age group competition.</p> <p>A Junior Player is a player who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years and</p>	<p>Provide greater clarity on who is considered a junior player. Establishes a process for exemption that is consistent with Major Competitions.</p>

<p>once the following have been obtained;</p> <p>a) Confirmation by the Club that the Junior Player has fulfilled all commitments to their Junior Grade competitions,</p> <p>b) Written consent to the registration by the Coach, Regional Manager and Parents or Primary Care Provider.</p> <p>c) Where a Junior player has attained the age of seventeen (17) years (prior to one (1) July, that player may with the consent of the Club and his or her Parent or Primary Care Provider, register and play in any Senior grade competition in that year not withstanding there is no under eighteen (18) competition in that league.</p>	<p>is not otherwise entitled to register under these Rules as a Senior Player.</p> <p>Any entitlement for a player who has attained the age of 17 years to register as a Senior Player is subject to the following consents, unless they qualify for exemption via rule 4.1.3 (c). Exemption must be obtained at the time of registration and prior to participating in a Senior Competition:</p> <p>As a senior player either of the following must occur;</p> <p>a) Confirmation by the Club that the Junior Player has fulfilled all commitments to their Junior Grade competitions and consent to the registration by the Coach, Regional Manager and Parents or Primary Care Provider.</p> <p>c) Where a Junior player has attained the age of seventeen (17) years (prior to one (1) July, that player may with the consent of the Club and his or her Parent or Primary Care Provider, register and play in any Senior grade competition in that year not withstanding there is no under eighteen (18) competition in that league.</p>	
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<p>ADDING NEW RULE 4.1.4.1</p>	<p>4.1.4.1 FINALS QUALIFICATION A player who is dual registered with a Local League Club Competition and a Major Competitions Club may participate in Local League Competition finals if he or she has;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Participated in at least 1 game previously in the current season and is contingent on the Major Competition team for which they have played most matches in the relevant season still being active in the competition. Noting that once a player has played a finals in a Local League Competition match he/she is deemed eligible for that finals series; <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Once the team becomes inactive in the Major Competition the player must have played the required number of games prescribed in the local league by-laws to participate in finals matches. 	<p>Provides consistency across all competitions that have portability between Local League and Major Competitions</p> <p>Note: possible transition period for Rugby League Gold Coast, where Major Competition Clubs also participate in Local League competition.</p>
<p>4.1.6 TRANSFER OF JUNIOR REGISTRATION <i>4th paragraph</i></p>	<p>4.1.6 TRANSFER OF JUNIOR REGISTRATION</p>	<p>We do not have full visibility of school sport participation.</p>

A Junior Representative Player as defined in these rules is a player who has played in any one or more of the following competitions:

- Under 11 School Sport Region
- Under 12 School Sport Region
- Under 13 Local League
- Under 14 Local League
- Under 15 School Sport Region
- Under 16 Local League
- Under 17 School Sport Region
- Under 18 School Sport Region

A Junior Representative Player as defined in these rules is a player who has played at a Local League representative level or higher. This is not inclusive of school sport participation

Part 5		
Existing Rule	Proposed Change	Rationale for Change
<p>5.1.1 PROCEDURES FOR MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEES</p> <p>c) Referral by Chairperson of competing Club – Where a Chairperson of a competing Club considers that a Player is guilty of On-field player misconduct then that Chairperson can refer the incident to the local league Chairperson direct by way of a written report of the incident together with supporting video evidence. The Chairperson considers if there may be a case to answer.</p>	<p>5.1.1 PROCEDURES FOR MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEES</p> <p>c) Referral by Chairperson of competing Club – Where a Chairperson of a competing Club considers that a Player is guilty of On-field player misconduct then that Chairperson can refer the incident to the local league Match Review Committee direct by way of a written report of the incident together with supporting video evidence. The Match Review Committee considers if there may be a case to answer.</p>	<p>Consistency in decision making process via the Match Review Committee</p>
<p>5.2.1.3 DEMERIT POINTS <i>2nd Paragraph</i></p> <p>Demerit points allocated to a player shall be taken to be allocated on the day when the offence was committed and subject to any reduction arising out of serving a suspension, shall remain so allocated for one (1) year from that day or for a period that the QRL may determine in any given case.</p>	<p>5.2.1.3 DEMERIT POINTS</p> <p>Demerit points allocated to a player shall be taken to be allocated on the day when the offence was committed and subject to any reduction arising out of serving a suspension, shall remain so allocated for one (1) year from that day.</p>	<p>Removes any discretion and therefore correct a consistent application of this rule</p>

<p>5.2.1.8 Increase for Other Cases Involving One or More Previous Convictions</p> <p>Subject to Rule 5.2.1.7 where a player charged with an offence has been previously convicted of an offence in the two (2) year period immediately preceding the incident giving rise to the charge, the Elective Penalty shall be the number of demerit points calculated in accordance with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) All similar offences within a 2-year time period will attract a 50% loading; b) All non similar offences within a 2-year time period will attract a 20% loading. 	<p>5.2.1.8 Increase for Other Cases Involving One or More Previous Convictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) All similar offences Grade 2 or higher within a 2-year time period will attract a 50% loading; b) All non-similar offences Grade 2 or higher within a 2-year time period or higher will attract a 20% loading. 	<p>Aligns with rule 5.2.1.7</p>
<p>5.2.1.11 Service of the Period of Suspension Adding clause g.</p>	<p>5.2.1.11 Service of the Period of Suspension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. In cases where a player is suspended they are prohibited from participating in any capacity within the League of which the offence occurred for the period of the suspension. Players are also suspended from playing in any competition for which they are dual registered. 	<p>Clarifies expectation of suspended players being able to fulfil other roles. E.g. Captain /Coach.</p>
<p>5.2.1.14 Suspensions – Fixture Matches/Weeks <i>2nd paragraph.</i></p> <p>A player’s suspension shall be served in the grade in which the suspension was incurred. A junior player suspended when playing senior grades must serve the suspension in that senior grade and cannot play junior grades until his senior suspension is completed</p>	<p>5.2.1.14 Suspensions – Fixture Matches/Weeks</p> <p>A player’s suspension shall be served in any QRL competition in which the player is eligible.</p> <p>If a player is sent off during any match the player is provisionally suspended and cannot participate in further matches until the match review has considered and graded the incident.</p>	<p>Provides greater clarity on serving suspensions across competitions</p> <p>Clarity on suspend players participating in matches on the day of their charge (eg participating in u14/u15, A Grade / Reserve Grade)</p>

<p>5.3.1 REFERRAL TO JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL</p> <p>d) The Chairperson of a relevant Region decides that the matter warrants a referral to a Judiciary Tribunal for determination;</p>	<p>5.3.1 REFERRAL TO JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL</p> <p>d) The Manager or Chairperson of a relevant Region decides that the matter warrants a referral to a Judiciary Tribunal for determination;</p>	<p>Removes any perceived conflict of interest given the Chairperson is an elected position.</p>
<p>5.2.1.13 Participation in the Game of Rugby League <i>2nd paragraph</i></p> <p>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 cannot participate as a player in a preseason trial match.</p>	<p>5.2.1.13 Participation in the Game of Rugby League</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Aligns with current NRL Judiciary Code</p>
<p>Base Penalty Schedule for Competitions with shortened seasons.</p>	<p>Refer to the attached spreadsheet.</p>	<p>Balance across the period of suspension relative to the length of season.</p>
<p>BASE PENALTIES – SENIORS SCHEDULE (applies to Senior International players)</p>	<p>Align Senior Base Penalty Schedule to Major Competition Schedule</p>	<p>Consistency across all open age competitions.</p>

<p>5.1.2 REFERRAL TO JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL</p> <p>Where any of the following circumstances apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f) The Match Review Committee is of the opinion that the offence charge is more serious than the maximum grading for that offence; g) The player is charged with making a grade 3 or higher intentional high tackle, shoulder charge or dangerous throw; 	<p>5.1.2 REFERRAL TO JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL</p> <p>Where any of the following circumstances apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f) All charges considered by MRC to be higher than grade 3 are directly referred to Judiciary 	<p>Aligns to Major Competition Judiciary Tribunal process</p>
<p>5.6.1 PROCEDURES BEFORE DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL HEARINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) such further orders or penalties as may be deemed appropriate by a Disciplinary Tribunal at its absolute discretion. 	<p>5.6.1 PROCEDURES BEFORE DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL HEARINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) such further orders or penalties as may be deemed appropriate by a Disciplinary Tribunal at its absolute discretion and inclusive of increased fines for repeat offences. 	<p>Allow for discretion when maximum financial penalty has been previously applied</p>
<p>Circulars</p>	<p>Add as a separate Part 8 to QRL Rules noting that these Circulars are under review with only current Circulars to be included</p>	<p>Enable greater accessibility to this information</p>