

ILLAWARRA SOUTH COAST MERGED COMPETITION RULES AND BY- LAWS 2024 V2



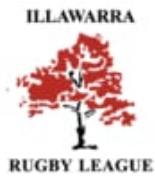
ILLAWARRA SOUTH COAST MERGED COMPETITION COMPETITION RULES AND BY-LAWS



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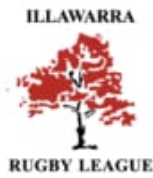


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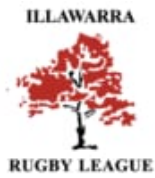
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MERGED COMPETITION INFORMATION

This handbook incorporates the rules and by-laws for the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition for the Districts, Leagues and Clubs participating. NSWRL will determine the requirements in terms of Districts, Leagues, Clubs and teams entering into the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition.

Any club competing in the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition (all age groups both male and female) will be bound by the regulations outlined in the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Rules and By-Laws regardless of if they are from clubs in the Illawarra Division or Group 7 Division.

Note: All correspondence regarding any competition matter is to be directed through your local League Administrator or NSWRL League and Club Support Coordinator.



COMPETITION HANDBOOK

1. Admission Charges

- 1.1 Admission charges for finals and grand finals only
- 1.2 Gate sheets for players and team officials for free admission can be provided for finals matches:
 - 1.2.1 TEAM OFFICIALS – maximum 5 per team
 - 1.2.2 PLAYERS (U/13's – U/15's): 25 min
 - 1.2.3 PLAYERS (U/16's) 30 min
- 1.3 Guideline for admission charges during finals: (excluding Grand Final)
 - 1.3.1 Adults: to a maximum of \$10.00
 - 1.3.2 Concessions and Children Under 16: FREE.

2. Accreditation Requirements

Coaches

- 2.1. Team Coaches must hold an accreditation commensurate to the team age they are coaching
- 2.2. NRL Community Coach 13-15 years & NRL Community Coach 16-18 years are the minimum accreditation requirements (this must be valid). All correspondence involving coaching accreditation to be forwarded to NSWRL Coach & Safety Education Co-ordinator Southern Zone at kwilliams@nrl.com.au
- 2.3. All coaches MUST register on MySideline via the playrugbyleague.com website by visiting <https://profile.mysideline.com.au/register>
- 2.4. Via MySideline, coaches must be assigned to the team of which they are coaching (club registrar / secretary to administer)
- 2.5. At all times, all coaches must comply with the direction of the Ground Managers and Match Officials
- 2.6. Only registered, accredited and assigned coaches are permitted within the playing area.

Trainers

- 2.7. NRL On Field Policy must be adhered to with respect to trainers
- 2.8. All trainers must register on MySideline via the playrugbyleague.com website by visiting <https://profile.mysideline.com.au/register>
- 2.9. Via MySideline, trainers must be assigned to their designated team (club registrar / secretary to administer)

- 2.10. Only registered and accredited trainers are permitted within the playing area
- 2.11. Minimum "League Safe" accreditation to enter the field of play
- 2.12. Games must not start unless adherence to the minimum requirements in the NRL On Field Policy are met with regards to accredited Sports Trainers

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

- 2.13. At all times, all trainers must comply with the direction of the Ground Managers and Match Officials.
- 2.14. Teams have a maximum of 3 trainers allowed inside the playing area during the match.

Team Managers

- 2.14. All team managers must register on MySideline via the playrugbyleague.com website by visiting <https://profile.mysideline.com.au/register>
- 2.15. Via MySideline, team managers must be assigned to their designated team (club registrar / secretary to administer)
- 2.16. Only registered managers are permitted within the playing area.

3. Appeals and Protests (Competition Related)

- 3.1 In relation to Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition rules, "Protests" can be lodged when a club believes the rules and / or procedures have not been adhered to (Clubs only can lodge appeals, not individuals)
- 3.2 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
- 3.3 All Protests should be in writing and addressed to NSWRL and be lodged to NSWRL via email at southcoastregion@NSWRL.com.au by 5.00pm on the Tuesday following the match.

- 3.4 In all finals series matches, a Protest will only be accepted if it is received within 15 minutes after the completion of the match
- 3.5 If a Club wishes to lodge an Appeal on the outcome of a Protest, a \$500.00 fee applies (payable to NSWRL). If the Appeal is upheld, the \$500.00 fee will be refunded to the club lodging the Appeal
- 3.6 All Appeals and Protests will be in line with the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual. Please refer to section 1.10 of the manual for detailed information relating to both Protests and Appeals.

4. Cancellation / Postponement / Abandonment of Matches

Emergency Circumstances

- 4.1. Emergency circumstances may include any circumstances deemed to be an emergency by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee, in collaboration with the stakeholders, or stipulated in the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual. If any such occurrence arises, the procedure shall be as follows:
 - 4.1.1. In collaboration with the stakeholders, Match Official, Ground Manager, Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee and the NSWRL League and Club Support Co-Ordinator shall make the final determination if the match will continue
 - 4.1.2. If a match is to be delayed due to severe weather conditions, the Ground Manager, in conjunction with the Match Official, will make a decision on the length of delay or cancellation
 - 4.1.3. If match is abandoned for any reason, the following will apply:
 - a. Regular Competition matches abandoned with less than one full half of a game being completed will need to be replayed within 14 days.
 - ii. The result of matches abandoned after half time shall be recorded as the final score at the point of abandonment.
 - iii. In the event of an injury during the second half of play the clock should continue to run. If the injury has not been cleared by the full-time bell, then the result shall stand as a full half was played.
 - iv. Note: See competition rules for conditions around replaying of matches and abandoning of games during the finals series.

- 4.2. If a game is abandoned due to a breach of the Competition Rules, Code of Conduct or Tough Love then the Merged Competition Committee will determine whether the game is to be replayed and/ or whether the score is to be recorded as per NSWRL Policies and Procedures, Section 3.1 - Abandoned Matches Due To Injury, Inclement Weather or Foul Play.
- 4.3. The League may postpone or cancel games in extreme circumstances where decisions of Local Government Authorities make play impossible. Any such games are to be played as directed by the League. This may be on a separate date available in the competition draw or within fourteen (14) days by mutual agreement of the clubs or as otherwise decided by the Merged Competition Committee or Board of Management as applicable.

Ground Changes / Deferred Games

- 4.4. If a change to the original scheduled venue is required, it must first be approved by the NSWRL League and Club Support Co-Ordinator, Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee and other relevant stakeholders
- 4.5. Any mass changes due to unforeseeable ground unavailability are required to be finalised and communicated by 5pm on the Friday prior to the match (note: a small amount of games may be moved in certain late notice circumstances due to unforeseeable reasons)
- 4.6. No venue changes will be accepted past this point in time
- 4.7. Abandoned matches (for any circumstances) required to be replayed MUST be played within 14 days of the original scheduling. All efforts must be made by both clubs to ensure this happens and If this cannot be achieved, zero points will be allocated to both teams involved. Any extenuating circumstances regarding this will be dealt with by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee with any decisions to be final.
- 4.8. It is the hosting club's responsibility to ensure that the District Administrator and NSWRL League and Club Support Co-Ordinator are notified of any abandoned/ forfeited matches that have occurred at the venue before 12pm on the Monday following the match
- 4.9. If a match was abandoned, it must also be clearly written on the front of BOTH team sheets with the reason for abandonment (For example, foul play, injury, electrical storm).

5. Changes To By-Laws

- 5.1 A notice of motion to change a by-law must be passed by a three-fifths (3\5) majority of those in attendance at any meeting of both the Illawarra Junior League and South Coast Group 7 Junior Competition Committee. Subject to prior notice of twenty-one

(21) days to the administrators of both leagues who will circulate the notice of motion to change a By-law to all voting bodies at least fourteen (14) days prior to the next Junior Competition Committee meeting.

6. Code of Conduct and Judiciary Procedures

- 6.1. All Judiciary (send-offs), 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.
- 6.2. The NSWRL League and Club Support Co-Ordinator will act as the Judiciary and Code of Conduct Administrator
- 6.3. All Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Code of Conduct and Judiciary incidents will be reviewed by the assigned NSWRL Match Review Committee
- 6.4. All Code Of Conduct incidents must be reported in the appropriate manner using the form on the included link:
<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewSouthWalesRugbyLeague/CODEOFCONDUCTINCIDENTREPORTFORMSouthCoastRegion>
No Code of Conduct reports will be accepted in any other manner.
- 6.5. The NSWRL “Tough Love in League” Policy will be implemented across all competitions (see appendix for Tough Love in League policy link)
- 6.6. Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents or carers of players, coaches, officials and club supporters
- 6.7. Breaches of the Rugby League Code of Conduct and “Tough Love in League” Policy may result in penalties, including but not limited to:
 - 6.7.1. Suspension of a match
 - 6.7.2. Termination of a match (including potential forfeiture of competition points)
 - 6.7.3. Monetary fines
 - 6.7.4. Suspension of a participant on a temporary or permanent basis
 - 6.7.5. Suspension of a club, League or Association on a temporary or permanent basis
- 6.8. The above penalties may be in addition to any penalty which may be imposed by a Judiciary Panel
- 6.9. Venue, day and times for potential Code of Conduct and Judiciary hearings will be advised and based on availability of locations.
- 6.10. NSWRL reserve the right to conduct Judiciary or Code of Conduct Hearings via online platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom or any other technology as they see fit

- 6.11. All Appeals and Protests in relation to Judiciary and Code Of Conduct matters will be in line with the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual. Please refer to section 1.10 of the manual for detailed information relating to both Protests and Appeals.

7. Competitions Format and Age Criteria

- 7.1. The League shall adopt the laws of the game as set down by the NRL Laws Of Rugby League and the NSWRL and all the amendments and alterations made by it.

Age Groups

- 7.2. Male (Tackle):
- 7.2.1. Under 13's – Premier Division, Second Division (North and South Pool)
 - 7.2.2. Under 14's - Premier Division, Second Division (North and South Pool)
 - 7.2.3. Under 15's - Premier Division, Second Division (North and South Pool)
 - 7.2.4. Under 16's - Premier Division, Second Division (North and South Pool)
- North and South pools will be allocated at the discretion of the merged competition board. Note – If team numbers are insufficient for North and South pools then one second division will be created.
- 7.3. Female (Tackle)
- 7.3.1. Under 14's
 - 7.3.2. Under 16's

Weight and Age Guidelines

- 7.4. NSWRL Weight and age guidelines will be applied in applicable age groups. Players beneath the specified weight limits for their specified age will be allowed to play down one age group upon application. Application must be forwarded to NSWRL League and Club Support Co-Ordinator. For more information on the application process, please refer to the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 2.28. Link included in Appendix.
- 7.5. 18-Month Registration Window policy will apply for male competitions. 15-Month Registration Window apply for female competitions as per NSWRL Policies and Procedures. For any further information contact NSWRL League and Club Support Coordinator.

Competition Points

- 7.5 Competition points are awarded as follows:
- a. Win = 2 points (also for a team receiving a forfeit)
 - b. Draw = 1 points
 - c. Loss = 0 points

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- d. Bye = 2 points
- e. Forfeit = 0 points (for the team forfeiting)
- f. Washout = 0 points (including BYES and forfeits in washouts).
- g. Byes and forfeits received will be regarded as games played on competition tables only. Washouts will not be counted as games played on competition tables.

Match Duration

- 7.6 Under 16's (Male) 2 x 30 minute halves
- 7.7 Under 13's, 14's and 15's (Male) 2 x 25 minute halves
- 7.8 Under 14's and 16's (Female) 2 x 25 minute halves
- 7.9 Half-time in all competitions is 5 minutes whistle to whistle maximum. All teams MUST remain on the playing field at halftime.

Forfeits

- 7.10 Forfeits must be notified to your Junior League Administrator **AND** the NSWRL League and Club Support Co-Ordinator via email southcoastregion@NSWRL.com.au by no later than 5pm of the Friday before the match.
- 7.11 Any forfeit after this point in time will incur a \$100 fine payable to the NSW Rugby League within 14 days of the forfeit (if not paid the team will be forced to forfeit the following match) – proceeds will be distributed to the clubs/district affected by the forfeit at the discretion of NSWRL
- 7.12 Any team that receives a forfeit will have Thirty (30) points added to their “points for” and zero (0) “points against”
- 7.13 The team that forfeits the game will have Thirty (30) added to their “points against”
- 7.14 Any team that forfeits / withdraws in the final four (4) rounds of the season will need to show cause to the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee and NSWRL League and Club Support Co-ordinator as to why they should not incur a \$250 fine payable to NSWRL and lose 2 competition points, regardless of the time of notification specified in Section 7.11 above
- 7.15 Any team forfeiting three (3) competition games may be withdrawn from the competition. Players registered with a team that has withdrawn from the competition, will be allocated to other clubs by Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee.
- 7.16 For eligibility purposes, a list of player names that were available to take the field for the scheduled match (20 maximum) must be submitted to the NSWRL League and Club Support Co-Ordinator by the club RECEIVING the forfeit before 5pm of the Friday following the forfeited match. Player lists will NOT be accepted past this point in time and players will not be granted a game for qualification purposes

- 7.17 See NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual for conditions around forfeits (Section 3.9) and minimum player numbers (Section 4.24) to commence or continue a match. For this purpose, the minimum number of players to commence or continue a match in International Games is nine (9). If the number of players falls below this after the game commences, the game must be abandoned. Note - temporary suspensions don't count for the total number and game will continue until temporarily suspended player returns to the field.

Fines

- 7.18 NSWRL are the only entity permitted to issue fines for Rules and By-Law breaches for clubs/teams playing in the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition
- 7.19 See NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual in relation to fines schedule (Section 1.5).

Mercy Rule

- 7.21 Any match in Under 13's to Under 16's competitions must cease when there is a points difference of 60 points.
- 7.22 Officials at the official table will sound the siren and the score at that point will be recorded as the final score
- 7.23 Scores must be entered into My Sideline as they stand, and the League Administrator will alter the table points difference to correctly reflect 60 points only margin after reviewing team sheets from the game.
- 7.24 If a try is scored resulting in the maximum points difference being reached or exceeded, then the kick for goal following the try must not be taken.
- 7.25 Should the referee and both team coaches agree, play may continue to full time if it is deemed safe. All must agree for the game to proceed. If the game does proceed, no further scores will be recorded.

Time Off and Scheduled Time Delays

- 7.26 Time Off will only be permitted in the last 5 minutes of the match and will be at the direction of the match official.
- 7.27 Matches abandoned with less than one full half of a game being completed MUST be replayed within 14 days after the scheduled match. The result of matches abandoned after half time shall be recorded as the final score at the point of abandonment.
- 7.28 A team is permitted a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes (without prior notification), from the scheduled starting time of a match to field its side, before a forfeit can be claimed against it. It is the responsibility of both the referees and clubs to ensure matches proceed on time. If unforeseen circumstances delay kick off times, common courtesy should be extended to all parties to ensure good relations.

- 7.29** If a match starts later than the appointed time and a following match required to start at an appointed time, the late starting match shall be played in two equal halves of the remaining time.
- 7.210 See NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual (Section 3.1) “Abandoned Matches Due to Injury, Inclement Weather or Foul Play” for more information however, in the event a match is unable to commence at the scheduled time for any unforeseeable reason, injury or extraordinary event, the following needs to be applied:
- a. Consideration needs to be taken for how many matches are left in the day, lighting and the minimum times. See NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual (Section 4.20) for more information.
 - b. Minimum times **when reducing time** (ensuring equal halves).
 - c. Any shortening of game time needs to be agreed upon by all stakeholders including NSWRL League and Club Support Co-Ordinator, Ground manager, match official and both teams. Any such shortening must be communicated to competition administrator and recorded on team sheets.
 - d. Under 13’s, 14’s and 15’s (Male) minimum 12.5 minute halves with 5 minutes half time break
 - e. Under 16’s: minimum 15 minute halves with 5 minutes half time break
 - f. Girls Under 14’s and 16’s: minimum 12 minute halves with 5 minutes half time break

Team Nominations

- 7.31 Teams must nominate under a singular club entity. That is, separate teams cannot merge and play as a non-existent entity unless an application is made to the appropriate League Administrator and NSWRL and granted approval under Section 1.2 of NSWRL Policies and Procedures to do so. Once a host club is determined as by definition in the above policy, the Presidents of both clubs are required to apply in writing to both NSWRL and the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee. The complete procedure is outlined in the NSWRL Policies and Policies Section 1.2 and there is to be no deviation from this procedure.
- 7.32 The Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee, in collaboration with the appropriate stakeholders, 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 the NSWRL Community Competitions Coordinator for consideration. If under these exceptional circumstances a team is admitted, they will commence the competition at this point on zero (0) competition points and zero (0) points for and against.

- 7.33 Clubs must submit team nominations to their local Junior League Administrator by a determined date and time prior to the commencement of the competition using the correct nomination form (NSWRL supplied)
- 7.34 Clubs shall nominate the number of teams they wish to enter in relevant age divisions.
- 7.35 In the case where a club chooses to enter more than one team in any competition that has a final series, teams will be graded in accordance of their ability. The Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee shall be responsible for grading teams before the commencement of the competition
- 7.36 Minimum number of players required to be registered for a team to be nominated is the following:
- a. Under 13's to Open Age (Male) – Thirteen (13)
 - b. Under 14's, 16's (Girls) Thirteen 13

Grading / Re-grading

- 7.37 Grading of age groups will be determined by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee
- 7.38 Previous season results and player movement will be taken into consideration when grading divisions
- 7.39 Clubs will have the ability to nominate a division however, this will only be considered a recommendation and cannot be guaranteed
- 7.40 The Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee, in collaboration with appropriate stakeholders, will have the ability to move teams (Re-Grading) from their current division after 5 rounds have been played.
- 7.41 Clubs will have the ability to request a regrade of a team at this point, however this will only be a recommendation and cannot be guaranteed
- 7.42 Once the regrade has been completed no further requests will be considered
- 7.43 In the event of a team being regraded, the team will take their awarded competition points and accumulated points for and against into their new competition, subject to below:
- a- The maximum number of competition points a team regraded to a higher competition can take to their new competition will be equivalent to the competition points of the team standing in fifth position on the competition table of the new competition
 - b- Any competition points above the maximum will be forfeited and will not be awarded to any other team
 - c- For the purpose of 7.43, the number of points for the team running fifth will be the competition points awarded to that team as at the end of the competition round prior to the re-grading taking effect

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- d- If there are multiple teams in 5th position an average for and against points will be calculated.
- e- If a team is relegated to a lower division, their points will carry across along with for and against points.

Registration

- 7.44. All players in the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition shall be registered in accordance with the NRL National Clearance and Permits Policy and NSWRL Policies and Procedures Section 1.11, Registration Requirements.
- 7.45. No player shall register or play with two clubs in competition matches conducted by the league in any one season except where special permission is granted by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee or the player's team has withdrawn from the competition, in which case the withdrawing team's club shall advise the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee in writing the reason for withdrawing and include a list of registered players involved in that team.
- 7.46. All players must register via MySideline with their appropriate District through their participating club (this is the responsibility of the Club)
- 7.47. A player cannot participate in any competition until a clearance or permit, if applicable, has been fully approved via MySideline data base or new registration approved (this is the responsibility of the Club)
- 7.48. Players wishing to register under the NRL 18-month Registration Policy, Playing Up One or Two Age Groups or Playing Down One Age Group must complete the appropriate forms and forward these to NSWRL League and Club Support Co-Ordinator for approval if eligible. If this is the team the player is registering to play for the entire season, the form must be completed before participating in the age group being applied to play in (this is the responsibility of the Club).
- 7.49. June 30 is the cut off each season for players to register and de registrations to occur (players can only de register once)
- 7.50. Under 13's and 14's: maximum registration numbers per team in all competitions in these age groups is twenty-five (25) players (see interchange section for numbers who can participate during any given match)
- 7.51. Under 15's to 16's: maximum registration numbers per team in all competitions in these age groups is twenty-five (25) players (see interchange section for numbers who can participate during any given match)
- 7.52. Players returning to the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition at the completion of the NSWRL District Junior Representative competitions shall be cleared back to the club with which they played the previous year.
- 7.53. Girls Under 14's and 16's: maximum registration numbers per team in all competitions in these age groups is twenty-five (25)

- 7.54. It is the responsibility of each constituent club, to ensure that all its players, prior to their participation in any game/match/competition or otherwise training or trialling, are financial, registered and cleared in accordance with the requirements set out in NRL National Clearance and Permits Policy and NSWRL Policies and Procedures Section 1.11, Registration Requirements.
- 7.55. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in (but be not limited to) -
- I. The loss of competition points from any match in which the player participated whilst not registered, (*Note - Points for such matches SHALL be awarded to the non-offending team*).
 - II. The suspension of the player for a period not exceeding one calendar year.
 - III. A fine imposed on the player's club not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200), as determined by the Board of Management for each unregistered player.

De-registration / Unassigning Players from a Team

- 7.58 If a player registers to a club/team and DOES NOT participate in any match, they may be de -registered and will not count towards the maximum registration number quota
- 7.59 A player **CANNOT** be de-registered and removed from the 'active participants' list in the MySideline system if they have participated in a match for a team/club however, they can be unassigned from that team. Players remain as registered participants for insurance purposes but are ineligible to participate for that club for the remainder of the season
- 7.60 Once a player is unassigned from a team, they cannot be re-assigned and are no longer eligible to participate for that club for the remainder of the season
- 7.61 Under 13's to 16's and Girls Under 14's to 16's: maximum number of players that can be unassigned prior to June 30 is four (4) players. Players remain registered participants for insurance purposes but ineligible to participate for that club for the remainder of the season

Player Transfers / Clearances and Representative Players

- 7.62. Transfers/Clearances will be required to adhere to the NSWRL Transfer Policy, Section 2.22 of the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual and the NRL National Clearance Policy. All players playing in all Tackle and League Tag competitions, both male and female, will be subject to and adhere to these transfer rules and policies.
- 7.63. For the purpose of these applications, any club or team (in any age group both male and female) competing in the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition will be bound by the regulations outlined in the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition

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Rules and By-Laws regardless of if they are from clubs in the Illawarra Division or Group 7 Division.

- 7.64. The Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee shall reserve the right to specify a date, 30th June, whereby they will consider transfer requests. No requests will be considered after this date. Requests for transfers will not be prior to 1st November of the preceding season.
- 7.65. There is a transfer administration fee, as set annually by the respective Junior League Boards of Management, payable by the player(s) and debited against the club to which the player(s) transfers.
- 7.66. Any player who has previously registered to play junior grade rugby league for a club at any time in the previous 24 months must, before the player plays junior grade rugby league for any other Club:
- I- Obtain a Clearance from the relevant Existing Club (if required); and
 - II- Obtain a Transfer Permission from the Existing Club's League; and
 - III- Obtain a Registration Permission from the New Club's League;
- 7.67. Where the Existing Club's League and the New Club's League is the same League, the requirement to obtain a Transfer Permission shall be deemed satisfied upon the grant of a registration permission.
- 7.68. Any decision by an existing club on any request by a player for a clearance must be made in accordance with the National Clearance Policy and any other applicable rules. (National Clearance Policy link in Appendix) If any club unreasonably delays processing a transfer, the matter should be reported to the NSWRL Club and League Support Co-Ordinator for attention and appropriate action.
- 7.69. Player Transfers.**
- 1) Any Player who has previously Registered to play Junior Grade Football for a Club at any time in the previous 24 months must, before the Player plays Junior Grade Football for any other Club:
 - a) Obtain a Clearance from the relevant Existing Club (if required); and
 - b) Obtain a Transfer Permission from the Existing Club's League; and
 - c) Obtain a Registration Permission from the New Club's League.
 - 2) For the purposes of rules 1(a) and 1(b), where the Existing Club's League and the New Club's League is the same League, the requirement to obtain a Transfer Permission under rule 1(b) shall be deemed satisfied upon the grant of a Registration Permission.

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- 3) Any decision by an Existing Club on any request by a Player for a Clearance must be made in accordance with the National Clearance Policy and any other applicable rules.
- 4) All transfer clearances must be processed by clubs in order of being received. No transfers to be processed by clubs out of order of date received.
- 5) No player will be cleared to train with a club they are intending to transfer to until the clearance has been finalised. There will be no exceptions.
- 6) Subject to rule 6, a League or the NSWRL may refuse to grant a Transfer Permission in any of the following circumstances:
 - a) If two (2) or more Transfer Permissions have already been granted in respect of Players, who played in the same age group for the same Club in the last Season of Community Rugby League, to move to the same New Club for the next Season.
 - b) If four (4) or more Transfer Permissions have already been granted in respect of Players, who played for any Club within the League concerned in the last Season of Community Rugby League, to move to the same age group in the same New Club for the next Season.
 - c) In competitive football age groups where the Player is classified as a Representative Player, has been registered in a Division 1 team or a team in a higher age group within any NSWRL Competition (this includes competitions with only one Division) at any time within the previous 18 months, and where the Club which the Player intends Registering to play for qualified for the Division 1 Grand Final in that players current or correct age group in the previous season.
 - d) Where the Player has played Representative Football at any time within the last 24 months, and where the team which the Player intends Registering to play for with the New Club already contains the number of Representative which is equal to or greater than the League/Competition Representative Quota (see Definitions, P2 & 3).
- 7) Subject to rule 6, a League or NSWRL may refuse to grant Registration Permission in any of the following circumstances:
 - a) If two (2) or more Registration Permissions have already been granted in respect of Players, who played within the same age group for the same club in the last Season of Community Rugby League, to move to the same New Club for the next Season.
 - b) If four (4) or more Registration Permissions have already been granted in respect of Players in the same age group, who played for any External Leagues in the

last Season of Community Rugby League, to move to the same New Club for the next Season.

- c) In competitive football age groups where the Player has been registered in a Division 1 team or a team in a higher age group within any NSWRL Competition (this includes competitions with only one Division) at any time within the previous 18 months, and where the Club which the Player intends Registering to play for qualified for the Division 1 Grand Final in that players current or correct age group in the previous season.
- d) Where the Player has played Representative Football at any time within the last 24 months, and where the team which the Player intends Registering to play for with the New Club already contains the number of Representative which is equal to or greater than the League/Competition Representative (see Definitions, p2 & 3).
- 8) The League or NSWRL may grant a Transfer Permission or a Registration 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 rules in Division 1 competitions, particularly with regard to Grand Final teams. **For the purpose of this Policy, “Exceptional Circumstances” that may be considered are:**
- a) If the Existing **Club** is disbanded, merges with any other Club, or ceases to exist.
- b) If the Player is a child of, or otherwise under the guardianship of, a person who has relocated their usual place of residence:
- i) in connection with that person’s employment; or
- ii) for compassionate reasons; and where the Player lives with that parent or guardian, and where as a consequence of that relocation, the Player would have to travel an unreasonable distance to play “home” matches in Competitions for the Existing Club.
- c) If the Player is in a situation where his/her parents, guardians or family unit has separated, and where court ordered custody arrangements are in place in relation to the Player meaning that would be unreasonable for the Player to play for, or train with, the Existing Club. Please note this does not mean living with a relative to facilitate the avoidance of the transfer policy.
- d) Mental health issues are extremely important and as such any claims are treated very seriously. Please note that mental health may not necessarily form an

exceptional circumstance. Mental health issues will be considered only when accompanied by an independent psychologist report.

- 7) Club Right to Deny a Clearance: Under the terms of the Transfer Policy a Club has the ability to deny a transfer if:

The Club has already approved 4 INTERNAL Transfers within the same age group.

The Club has already approved 4 EXTERNAL Transfers within the same age group.

Enforcement of this rule is solely at the discretion of the club.

- 8) Denied Clearance – Transfer Case Review Process for participants who wish to move to a new League or move to a new Club that participates in a NSWRL Conference Competition

A parent or guardian who believes a Transfer Permission or Registration Permission has been unfairly denied under the scope of the Policy has the option of submitting a request for a Transfer Case Review. This “Case Review” must be approved by an authorised person from the receiving club before it is submitted. Please refer to Exceptional Circumstances within the Policy (Section 6), which outlines circumstances in which a Transfer can be approved over and above the Transfer Policy.

This can be done by applying to the NSWRL Regional or Zone Manager who shall assess the merits of the Transfer Review and either:

1. Approved the Transfer Permission or Registration Permission

OR

2. Deny the Transfer Permission or Registration Permission

To apply for a Transfer Review under Section 7 of this Policy, please complete the online form at

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/NewSouthWalesRugbyLeague/NSWRLSouthernZonePlayerTransferDenialCaseReviewForm>

Should the Transfer Permission or Registration Permission be denied under the terms of the Transfer Review, the aggrieved party shall have the right to Appeal this decision to the Appeals Committee of the NSW Community Rugby League Association (see Section 8). Local Leagues will have internal processes for the Review of internal League transfers.

- 9) The only right of appeal available to a Player, Club or District League (together an “Appellant”) in respect of any decision made under this Policy in relation to a Player is set out in this rule 8.

Where the Existing Club’s League and the New Club’s League is the same League and teams involved participate in a Community Rugby League competition conducted solely by that League

- a) An Appellant may appeal a decision (an “Appeal”) to grant or refuse to grant a:

- i) Clearance;
- ii) Transfer Permission; or
- iii) Registration Permission;

(a “Transfer Decision”) to the General Manager/Administrator of the League, by written notice addressed to the General Manager/Administrator setting out the grounds on which the Appeal is made and attaching all relevant documents and information relied on by the Appellant.

- b) Any Appeal made pursuant to rule 7(a) must be made within five (5) days of the Appellant receiving notification of the Transfer Decision which is appealed against. The appeal must be approved by the receiving club before submission.

- c) The only basis on which an Appellant may Appeal a Transfer Decision is:

- i) If this Policy has been incorrectly applied by the Existing Club or the League in making a Transfer Decision;
- ii) If a Transfer Decision has been made on the basis of incorrect or incomplete information in relation to the Player concerned; or
- iii) If Exceptional Circumstances exist in relation to the Player, and those Exceptional Circumstances have not been properly taken into account in relation to the Transfer Decision the subject of the Appeal.

- d) The League General Manager/Administrator shall, after having reviewed the Appellant’s Appeal, refer the Appeal on to the nominated Head of the Appeals Committee either:

- i) Refuse the Appeal, in which case the original Transfer Decision stands; or
- ii) Grant Leave to Appeal, in which case the General Manager/Administrator shall organise for an Appeals Committee to adjudicate on the matter. This Appeals Committee will be made up of nominated representatives of the relevant League.

- e) The decision of the Appeals Committee in relation to any Appeal is final and shall not be capable of review or be otherwise justiciable.

Where the Existing Club’s League is different to the New Club’s League or the teams involved participates in NSWRL Conference Competitions

- f) In any case where an Appeal concerns a Transfer Decision involving or concerning more than one League:
- i) The application for Leave to Appeal shall be made to, and determined by, the NSW CRLA Appeals Chairperson(s); with rules 7 (a), (b), (c) and (e) applicable.
 - ii) Appeal Applications are to be completed on the NSW Community Rugby Leagues Association 'Request for Leave to Appeal NSWRL Player Transfer Policy Decision Form'. This appeal must be authorised by the receiving club before submission.
 - iii) The presiding NSW CRLA Appeals Chairperson's shall, after having considered the Appellant's Appeal, either;
 - (1) Deny the Appeal having considered the evidence provided,
 - (2) Uphold the Appeal without holding a formal hearing, based on the evidence provided, or
 - (3) Grant a formal appeal hearing, requiring the attendance of the Appellant who may bring with them one parent/guardian as a representative.
- 10) For the purpose of this policy, a Development player will be defined as any player who has been selected and participated in any Development Programs administered by affiliated NSWRL Districts in the past 12 Months.
- (a) Development players who are included in the NSWRL Protected Players List (those included will be notified of their inclusion as selected by the District Leagues), will not be eligible to transfer to any Division 1 Grand Final teams from the previous season, or any teams that have Four (4) or more Development players currently in their squad.
 - (b) Development Players who play in a Division 1 team, will not be permitted to transfer to any other Division 1 team who has Four (4) or more Development players currently in their squad.
 - (c) Division 1 teams will only be permitted to receive One (1) Development Player who played in a Division 2 team the previous season, if that team does not already have Four (4) or more Development players.
 - (d) No Transfer Case Reviews based on Development Player policies will be heard until final team nominations have closed and finalised by a date to be determined by Merged Competition Committee .
 - (e) As Development player transfers come under the jurisdiction of the Illawarra South coast Merged Competition by-laws, all Appeals in regards to declined Case Reviews in relation to Development Players will be heard by an appeals panel convened by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition

Committee and any subsequent decisions will be final. Appeals process will follow that as described in NSWRL, Policies and Procedures Manual.

Washout Policy

- 7.70. In Merged Competition divisions, where one Local Government Area (LGA) is washed out due to field unavailability, all other competition matches scheduled in other LGA's will be played as scheduled. (i.e. if Illawarra District matches are washed out, and South Coast District matches are playable, all competition matches scheduled for South Coast will be played as per the draw
- 7.71. If 50% (fifty percent) of matches are completed in any one competition (i.e. Under 16 Premier Division) on one weekend, the round will be deemed as COMPLETED.
- 7.72. Any match not played in that competition due to ground closures / wash outs in what is deemed as a COMPLETED round (with 50% or more games played) will receive a WASH OUT DRAW (i.e. both teams will be allocated 1 competition points and a 20-20 draw recorded)
- 7.73. For the purposes of player qualifications, any match deemed a WASH OUT DRAW will count towards both Finals Series Qualifications and count as a game served for any suspended participant.
- 7.74. Should less than 50% of competition matches in any one competition be completed, the whole round for that particular competition will be deemed as CANCELLED and no competition points will be recorded, regardless of if a match has been played or not. All results will be reset to PRE-MATCH, including BYES and FORFEITS.
- 7.75. Any game played in a round that is subsequently CANCELLED due to less than 50% of competition matches being played in any competition will count towards Finals Series Qualifications for any players that participated in those matches.

Player Movement

- 7.76. Players may move between lower and higher grades throughout the competition season (age and division specific conditions below), however during finals series, qualifications and eligibility will apply.
- 7.77. Players wishing to play down and up an age group may do so by application as per guidelines in NSWRL Policies and Procedures.

Under 13's to 16's International Age

- 7.78. When playing up an age see NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 2.19 (consent and application required). Playing Up an

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Age application must be completed and signed by player, parent/guardian and club representative and forwarded to League Administrator as soon as practicable.

- 7.79. Players are not permitted to play up one age group, down one division e.g. under 13-1's cannot play under 14-2's. The club may apply to the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee for consideration of exceptional circumstances to allow identified players to move during the season.
- 7.80. Within the same age group, a player may play in a higher division a maximum of five (5) matches. On the sixth occasion, a player will be considered to be part of the higher competition team and are no longer permitted to play in the lower division team.
- 7.81. Any player can play in as many games as desired over their age group, in equal or higher standing (i.e. 'B' division to 'A' division, 'A' Division to 'A' division), in competitions conducted by the Age Competition, and still be qualified to play in their respective age group.
- 7.82.** Players cannot play in a lower division in their age group to which they hold their primary registration. If clubs have teams in 2 divisions in the same age group, that club will be required to nominate a squad of seven (7) players that will be quarantined to the higher division team and will not be eligible to play for the lower division team in any matches for the entire season. This list must be provided to Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee and NSWRL Club and League Support Co-Ordinator at southcoastregion@nswrl.com.au before the commencement of the competition. Failure to do so will be viewed as fielding ineligible players and clubs could be sanctioned in the same manner. The club may apply to the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee for consideration of exceptional circumstances to allow identified players to move during the season. Representative/Development players MUST be included in the 7 quarantined higher division players. Player lists must be ratified by the Merged Competition Committee and these quarantine lists can be reviewed and amended at any time by the Merged Competition Committee.
- 7.83. A player may not participate for a secondary team at the expense of players registered to that team as their primary team
- 7.84. Players moving between divisions and age groups only count towards registrations numbers in their primary team registration cap (primary team may change considering above conditions)
- 7.85. Where a club has a team in a player's rightful age, such players must firstly fulfil their obligations to that age before playing up an age. However, while playing down an age is not permitted, permission may be granted for a player to play up an age for that season. Such permission can only be given when a club submits an application to Merged Competition Committee.

- 7.86. Any club playing an unqualified/ non-eligible player shall lose 2 competition points per match in which such player took part and may incur a penalty as set down by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee. Competition points for the match will be automatically reallocated to the non-offending team.

Higher Level Competitions

- 7.87. Players who participate in any Junior Representative Competitions (Harold Matthews, SG Ball and Tarsha Gale), shall not be permitted to return and play in Merged Competition on that same weekend
- 7.88. Should a team involved in the Final Series of either Andrew Johns Cup, Harold Matthews Cup, Laurie Daley Cup, SG Ball or Tarsha Gale Competitions be deemed after their game to be eliminated from that competition then this would be the only exception to this rule and would be permitted to play on the same weekend pending District approval and completion of relevant registration / clearances

8. Constituent Clubs

- 8.1 The Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition shall comprise of constituent clubs from the Illawarra Division Rugby League and South Coast Group 7 Competition clubs whose names appear in the Appendix of these By-laws. In order for a club/organisation to be listed in the Appendix, it must satisfy the qualification and admission criteria as set out in the relevant Junior League Constitutions.

9. Dismissed Players

Temporarily Dismissed Players (Sin Binned)

- 9.1. A player who is temporarily suspended (sin-binned) must immediately retire from the playing field to an appropriate area designated by the Ground Manager until the period of temporary suspension has expired.
- 9.2. Time of suspension begins only when the player has left the playing field.
- 9.3. 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 at the same time
- 9.4. The official match timer shall keep the time in relation to the offence and shall inform the player when the time has elapsed.
- 9.5. The referee shall be guided by the timekeeper, if one is employed, otherwise they themselves will determine the end of the suspension for a temporarily suspended player

- 9.6. When the temporary suspension expires, the player can only re-enter the playing field after reporting to the touch judge or referee who shall clear the player to re-enter the field and must enter the field of play from an onside position
- 9.7. Temporary suspension does not include half time. The period of temporary suspension is the actual time that the ball is in play.
- 9.8. Periods of temporary suspension:
- | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|------------|
| 9.8.1. | All International Rugby League | 10 minutes |
| 9.8.2. | Girls U/14's, U/16's | 10 minutes |

Permanently Dismissed Players

- 9.9. A player who is permanently dismissed (sent off and not sin-binned) must immediately retire to the team's dressing room, or an area outside of the playing area designated by the Ground Manager until they have changed out of their playing uniform
- 9.10. After changing, the player must not re-enter the playing area, under any circumstances and will be deemed as a spectator
- 9.11. Ground Managers must ensure that any permanently dismissed players are made aware that a formal Notice of Charge will be issued by 12.00pm, the second business day following the match under the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual, (Section 7.1).

10. Facilities

- 10.1. The Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee, in collaboration with the stakeholders, reserves the right to deem a venue unfit to play and either move or postpone the match
- 10.2. It is to be noted that some local Junior League venues have environments which may alter the rules of the game or bench/sin bin areas (i.e. kicking for touch for penalties). These will be explained at each venue and are to be determined by the Ground Manager, Match Officials and NSWRL League and Club Support Coordinator (approval required by stakeholders' group prior to commencement of season).

Lighting Standards

- 10.3. The following lighting standards shall be required for training and competition matches:
- | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 10.3.1. | Ball training and physical training: | 50 lux |
| 10.3.2. | Competition matches: | 100 lux |

11. Finals Series

Illawarra South Coast Merged Competitions

- 11.1. All Finals Series matches are under the control of the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee and are considered neutral matches.
- 11.2. Top four finals series for all Merged Competitions unless otherwise changed by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee in agreement with the key stakeholders
- 11.3. If Age Divisions are broken into pools, then the top two teams from each division will be progressed into the Semi Finals. Positions will be determined by competition points and then as per section 11.10.
- 11.4. Top four finals series involves Major and Minor Semi Finals followed by a Final and then a Grand Final.
- 11.5. In semi-finals and finals, the home team will be the team finishing higher on the competition ladder. In grand finals, the home team shall be the winner of the major semi-final.
- 11.6. In the event of a clash of playing strips, the away team will arrange and wear an alternate set of jumpers
- 11.7. Venues for all finals matches will be allocated by Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee and will be made public at a time deemed appropriate by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee. The Merged Competition Committee will issue specific requirements to each club which qualifies to host Final Series matches.
- 11.8. If any of the Final Series Host Club Requirements are not met by the Host Club, the Merged Competition Committee may impose penalties.
- 11.9. Grand Final matches only may be played across Friday, Saturday and Sunday pending availability of appropriate venues
- 11.10. If teams are on equal points at the end of the competition regular season, “for and against” points difference will determine semi-final placings 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 (no play offs)
- 11.11. Any team breaching Competition By-Laws in any Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition finals series match, regardless of their position, may be disqualified from the Competition. The Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee reserves the right to admit the next highest ranked team into the finals.
- 11.12. If a team withdraws from any competition or is disqualified from any finals series match, any subsequent matches will be deemed a forfeit. No adjustment for previous matches will occur.

Drawn Matches and Extra Time

11.13. **In semi-final and finals matches**, if scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time:

- a. A period of ten (10) minutes Golden Point extra time (5 minutes each half) will follow
- b. The commencement of the period of extra time shall be determined by the toss of a coin as described under the Laws of the Game
- c. If a team scores a try or kicks a goal / field goal at any stage within this extra time period, the referee will terminate the game with the team scoring the points declared the winner.
- d. After the first half of five (5) minutes, if no points are scored, the referee shall cease play and teams shall immediately change ends. The team that did not kick off to commence the initial half of extra time will kick off to commence the second half
- e. Play will continue until there is a point scored up to a maximum of one half of football for the respective age group e.g. 13-15's a maximum of 25 minutes and 16's a maximum of 30 minutes inclusive of 5 minutes already played.
- f. If a try is scored in this further period of extra time the conversion kick will not be permitted
- g. If at the completion of this time, if scores are still even, the winner will be determined by the first try scorer. If no tries are scored, first goal. If, no goal, first field goal. If no points are scored, the winner will be the team that RECIEVES the first penalty. The match officials will be responsible for keeping a record of the first penalty awarded.

11.14. **In Grand Finals**, if scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time:

- a. A period of ten (10) minutes Golden Point extra time (5 minutes each half) will follow
- b. The commencement of the period of extra time shall be determined by the toss of a coin as described under the Laws of the Game
- c. If a team scores a try or kicks a goal / field goal at any stage within this extra time period, the referee will terminate the game with the team scoring the points declared the winner.
- d. After the first half of five (5) minutes, if no points are scored, the referee shall cease play and teams shall immediately change ends. The team that did not kick off to commence the initial half of extra time will kick off to commence the second half
- e. Play will continue until there is a point scored up to a maximum of one half of football for the respective age group e.g. 13-15's a maximum of 25 minutes and 16's a maximum of 30 minutes inclusive of 5 minutes already played.

- f. If a try is scored in this further period of extra time the conversion kick will not be permitted
- g. If at the completion of this time, if scores are still even, both teams will be declared Joint Premiers.

Loss of Time and Time Off

- 11.15. In Semi-finals, Finals and Grand Finals, should the appropriate amount of continuous minutes for that age group of play be lost due to injury or for any other reason (foul play will be at the discretion of the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee and may result in the match being forfeited), the game will be terminated and be replayed at a venue and time determined by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee.
- 11.16. In all international age groups, time off as indicated by the referee shall only be allowed during the final fifteen (15) minutes of Final Series matches. However, in the event of a serious injury (e.g. where an ambulance is called), the referee may direct time to be taken off at any stage of the game.

Eligibility

- 11.17. The eligibility of a player to participate in any final series match (Semi-final, Final and Grand Final) will be determined based on the participants playing record on the completion of the regular rounds of competition.

Under 13's to 16's

- 11.17.1. All players in all U/13's to U/16's competitions must have played a minimum of five (5) regular competition matches over the course of the season for the same team to be eligible for that team in finals matches
- 11.17.2. Once a player qualifies for one team, they may be eligible and permitted to play for another team at the same club by application only to the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee. That is, players can seek to play in another age group or division other than the one they qualified for.
- 11.17.3. Byes will not be counted as games played in relation to finals eligibility. Please see washout policy in regard to finals eligibility for washout matches.
- 11.17.4. 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 if a list of player names that were available to take the field for the scheduled match (20 maximum)

must be submitted to the NSWRL League and Club Support Co-Ordinator and District Administrator by the club RECEIVING the forfeit before 5pm of the Friday following the forfeited match as per Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Rules and By-Laws Section 7.16. This is the responsibility of the club RECEIVING the forfeit. Player lists will NOT be accepted past this point in time and players will not be granted a game for qualification purposes

All Competitions Conditions

- 11.17.5. If a player fails to play enough regular season matches to qualify for finals series games due to injury, adequate medical proof is required to be submitted to the Merged Competitions Committee for approval or denial within 14 days of when the injury occurred. Adequate medical proof will not be accepted after 14 days. NOTE: If there were sufficient remaining available rounds for a player to qualify OUTSIDE of the period of injury, then an application on medical grounds will be denied
- 11.17.6. If the player was registered late and there were limited matches available due to wet weather, then application can be made to the Merged Competitions Committee for approval or denial for exception to these rules. NOTE: If there were sufficient remaining available rounds for a player to qualify OUTSIDE of the washout rounds, then an application on limited available rounds will be denied
- 11.17.7. 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
- 11.17.8. It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that any player who participates in a final series match has successfully met the minimum qualification requirements.

12. First Aid / Trainers

- 12.1 NRL On Field Policy must be adhered to with respect to trainers and can be viewed via the link in the Appendix
- 12.2 Minimum “League Safe” accreditation is required to enter the field of play
- 12.3 Each team must ensure that they have meet the minimum Sports Trainer requirements as per the NRL On Field Policy (Tackle - U13 to U15 One League First Aid per team / Tackle – U16 and above one Level 1 Sports Trainer per team)

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	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

- 12.4 For any reason if a team does not meet the minimum requirements as per the NRL On Field Policy then the match MUST NOT commence
- 12.5 Coaches and players must not act as a trainer in any match
Trainers must comply with any direction or instruction from the match officials or ground manager. Teams have a maximum of 3 trainers allowed inside the field of play during the match.
- 12.6
- 12.7 Trainers must not make argumentative, disparaging, derogatory or offensive comments to any Match Official or Ground Manager
- 12.8 All trainers who enter the field of play must possess proof of accreditation in the form of NRL Trainers accreditation and have it available to the Ground Manager
- 12.9 Trainers must not enter the field of play in the line of sight of a player or interfere with an opposition player
- 12.10 The use of 'walkie-talkies', mobile phones or other electronic devices on the field of play OR within the playing area is prohibited.

13. Head Injuries and Concussion Guidelines

- 13.1. See NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 4.17 and links attached to appendix of these rules and by-laws. Head injury replacements must be marked on the team sheet clearly for review by NSWRL.

14. Heat Guidelines

- 14.1 See NRL Guidelines for more information located in Section 10.2, Policy 17 of the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual.
- 14.2 https://playrugbyleague.com/media/1936/heat-guidelines_with-changes1.pdf?_ga=2.175778082.104195672.1700453063-882589696.1652143184

15. Match-Day Administration

Sign On Sheets / Result Sheets

- 15.1. All clubs must use Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition sign on sheets accessible from MySideline.
- 15.2. Players are required to sign on a minimum 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time in front of a club official

- 15.3. Both teams will sign on at a designated Sign On location at each venue where digital cards are to be presented if requested
- 15.4. An appropriate home ground official will be responsible for sign on sheets to be completed in a timely manner
- 15.5. Both teams are required to go through the same process when signing on (this isn't to be different between home and away teams)
- 15.6. To be eligible to play in a game, players must be signed on before the completion of the first half
- 15.7. It is a requirement to participate in any match that a player MUST sign the team sheet. If a player does not sign on, they will NOT be deemed to have played in that match for eligibility purposes
- 15.8. A player whom takes part in a different age group to their primary team is required to be marked on the sign on sheet accordingly and the appropriate Playing Up and Age form completed and forwarded with team sheets if not already completed.
- 15.9. All sin bin and send offs must be recorded on the sign on sheet
- 15.10. Once signed on, teams are permitted to carry out warm up or return to change rooms
- 15.11. An official from each club (e.g. team manager) competing in the match must sit at the Officials table to fully and correctly complete the team sheet, including names of players, registration numbers, full and half-time scores, individual point scorers, team, match official(s) and Club signatures, in addition to monitoring the timing of the game. Team Managers at all games may check all registrations in the presence of both teams.
- 15.12. At the completion of matches, both home and away team sheets are to be collected by ground manager and are the responsibility of the home club.
- 15.13. Home clubs are required to submit both home and away team sheets and any other appropriate forms or documents for games played at their grounds to southcoastregion@nswrl.com.au by 9am Monday after the game was played.
- 15.14. **CLUBS ARE NOT TO TAKE TEAM SHEETS HOME WITH THEM. TEAM SHEETS MUST BE LEFT AT HOST CLUB IF YOU WANT A COPY PLEASE TAKE A PHOTO.**

Interchange

- 15.15. Under 13-16 tackle competitions: Up to a maximum of twenty (20) players are allowed to participate in each match. This includes the starting thirteen (13) and up to seven (7) reserves
- 15.16. Girls U/14, U/16's: Up to a maximum of twenty (20) players are allowed to participate in each match. This includes the starting Thirteen (13) and up to seven (7) reserves
- 15.17. Unlimited interchange will apply for all tackle competitions

Draws and Times

- 15.18. Competition Rounds will be determined by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee in collaboration with the relevant Stakeholders group
- 15.19. All competition games shall be played in accordance with the League's competition draw and/or by any direction of the Board of Management (or its representative).
- 15.20. No club is to be given permission for teams to leave the district on any day Aged League competition games are listed for play, without the express permission of the Board of Management.
- 15.21. No club shall participate in any fixtures on representative, semi-final, final or grand final days. Functions will not be held at any time when an official fixture is being held.
- 15.22. The competition will be based on a home and away format as much as practical.
- 15.23. In the event of a clash with Country Championship / Junior Representative Commitments, any team with three (3) or more players in a Country Championships or Junior Representative team may have their affected competition game deferred. Deferred matches will be played at the determination of the Merged Committee.
- 15.24. By mutual agreement, clubs may defer individual matches on the condition that the competition is not delayed and shall notify the NSWRL Club and League Support Co-Ordinator within two days of the draw being released. If mutual agreement on an alteration or deferment cannot be reached, the decision shall be left in the hands of the NSWRL Club and League Support Co-Ordinator
- 15.25. Draws and times will be created by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Coordinator in collaboration with the relevant Junior League Administrators
- 15.26. If there are any issues with scheduled times or locations of matches, notification of this MUST be communicated to the NSWRL League and Club Support Co-Ordinator in the first instance. Any club guilty of altering a venue or time of a game or games as allocated in the Aged League competition draw without approval may be fined fifty dollars (\$50).

Ground Managers

- 15.27. Home clubs are responsible for appointing Ground Managers to venues during matches
- 15.28. Home clubs will be required to be setup for play with the appropriate on field goal post pads, ground markings, tables, ropes, chairs and any other appropriate equipment required in place for the matches at that ground to commence
- 15.29. Ground Managers are responsible for ensuring sign on processes are adhered to, results sheets are filled in correctly and in a timely manner after each match, general control of matches in accordance with NSWRL Policies and Procedures, liaising with match officials, enforcing correct trainer/manager/coach and spectator behaviour,

ensuring appropriate judiciary reports forms/sheets are available to the match officials and provided to all parties concerned in the event of an incident

- 15.30. 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, coloured Ground Manager vest
- 15.31. Ground Managers will be heavily involved in the enforcement of the NRL Code of Conduct for off-field concerns, always being aware of the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Handbook and reporting of incidents
- 15.32. Ground Managers are responsible for collection of all game related documentation at the completion of the match e.g. team sheets, incident reports etc. and to ensure these are signed by the appropriate match officials and are completed appropriately.
- 15.33. When undertaking the Ground Manager role, it is expected that all requirements, policies and procedures are followed. Link to Play NRL.com education module for Ground Manager course as follows:
<https://learn.playrugbyleague.com/ilp/pages/coursedescription.jsf?courseId=5561854&catalogId=5479955>

Digital Registration/Playing Cards

- 15.34. A condition of Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition is that a player is NOT permitted to participate in a match without a digital player registration identification card being present or available to be viewed
- 15.35. Cards must be available to be presented prior to the commencement of any competition match if requested with all players to sign on accordingly.
- 15.36. If the digital cards are not available on request, clubs will be able to use printed copies of screen shots of the registration cards
- 15.37. In the event of exceptional circumstances, the local Junior League Administrators and NSWRL League and Club Support Co-ordinator should be contacted. If the circumstances were unforeseeable, the teams will be instructed to continue the match with the players' names to be recorded and checked post-match by competition administration
- 15.38. Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Administrators in collaboration with the NSWRL League and Club Support Co-Ordinator have the ability to approve individual circumstances if it can be proven that registration on MySideline with a photo exists.
- 15.39. It is the club's responsibility to ensure that all digital registration cards are available and valid.

Team Uniform (On Field Playing Apparel)

- 15.40. All clubs and teams must adhere to the NSWRL Licensing Program. See NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 2.9 for more information
- 15.41. When team colours clash, the away team should arrange to play in a different set of jerseys
- 15.42. All jerseys are to be clearly numbered with NO duplicates.

Team Songs

- 15.43. No team songs to be sung on the playing field after the game. All team songs to be sung in the dressing shed.
- 15.44. No team song to include any offensive language. Teams found to have team songs containing offensive language will be sanctioned by the Merged Competition Committee.

16. Match Official Appointments and Fees

Appointments

- 16.1 The appointment of match officials to all Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition matches (and any other match as determined by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee) held within both the Illawarra and Group 7 Divisions shall be administered by a qualified person elected by the relevant Referees Associations
- 16.2 This person in both Illawarra and Group 7 Divisions, shall oversee the operations of an advisory sub-committee of qualified assessors that will evaluate the performances of match officials and make recommendations to the Appointment's Co-ordinator with regard to match appointments.
- 16.3 Where practicable, Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition matches played in the Illawarra and Group 7 Divisions will have match officials appointed by the relevant associations to that division where the match is being played. If circumstances prevent this from happening, the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee and Referees Associations reserve the right to appoint alternate match officials to ensure that the game will proceed.

Referee Fees

- 16.4 Cost of referees' fees, after consultation with the Referees' Association, will be determined by the relevant Board of Management prior to the first Junior Competition Committee meeting for the forthcoming season. Such fees will be put to the Junior Competition Committee for ratification prior to the commencement of the season. The Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee will adopt this same policy for both Referees Associations.

17. Merged Competition Committee Responsibilities and Structure

- 17.1 A competition shall exist, comprising of teams (13 — 16) from both South Coast Junior Rugby League Group Seven and Illawarra Division Junior Rugby League. A Merged Committee shall be responsible for the management and government of this competition. The Merged Competition Committee has the authority of both the Boards of South Coast Junior League Group Seven and Illawarra Division Junior Rugby League to administer the Junior International Aged Competition.

Appeals and Protests

- 17.2 A person, club or other affected party aggrieved by a decision of the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee or a sub-committee of the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee shall have the right of appeal from such decision. Grounds and procedures for appeals and protests against the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee or a sub-committee of the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee shall follow those procedures outlined in the appropriate district constitutions.

Structure

- 17.3 Competitions will be administered by a management committee comprised of Nine (9) persons:
- 17.3.1 Two (2) persons to be appointed by Illawarra Division
 - 17.3.2 Two (2) persons to be appointed by South Coast Group Seven
 - 17.3.3 One (1) person representing clubs in Illawarra Division
 - 17.3.4 One (1) person representing clubs in South Coast Group Seven
 - 17.3.5 Illawarra Division Registrar
 - 17.3.6 South Coast Group Seven Registrar
 - 17.3.9 Secretary (Non-voting member) (League and Club Support Co-Ordinator)
 - 17.3.10 A Chairperson shall be appointed by the Committee.
- 17.4 The Merged Competition Committee Responsibilities include the management and governing of the U13s-U16s competition that includes teams from both Illawarra Division Rugby League and South Coast Group Seven.

Voting

- 17.5 All members of the Committee (with the exception of the Secretary) will be entitled to vote.

- 17.6 Any member of the Merged Competition Committee may be replaced by a proxy member provided the Secretary is advised prior to the meeting.
- 17.7 The Chairperson will have the casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

Meetings

- 17.8 Where possible, venues of the Merged Competition Committee meetings will alternate between South Coast and Illawarra areas. Meetings may also be conducted via digital media platforms should this be deemed appropriate
- 17.9 Minutes of all meetings will be made available to all clubs if required
- 17.10 The Merged Competition Committee may convene general forums. Forums will consist of representative of all clubs competing in the competition and may make recommendations to the Merged Competition Committee.

General

- 17.11 The NSWRL Club and League Support Co-Ordinator in co-ordination with the appropriate League Registrars shall regulate/oversee the correct registering of players by clubs, monitor player qualifications and transfers, ratify team sheets, monitor the recording of player/team scores and results.

18. Misconduct By Players, Officials, Clubs Or Supporters

- 18.1 A match official who has been appointed by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee to a match, shall, without delay, report to the League Administrator of any instance or instances of misconduct during the progress of that match which led to the dismissal/removal of a player(s), club official(s) or supporter(s) from the playing area.
- 18.2 A match official who has been appointed to a match by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee must report any instance of misconduct by a player(s), club official(s) or supporter(s) irrespective of whether such misconduct occurred before, during or after such match, and whether it shall have led to the player(s), club official(s) or supporter(s) being ordered from the playing area or not.
- 18.3 Any report received by the League pursuant to the preceding rules shall be referred to the NSWRL Club and League Support Co-Ordinator who may, after due enquiry, determine whether the player(s), club official(s) or supporter(s) concerned should be dealt through the NSWRL Match Review Committee procedures or called on to appear before the NSWRL Code Of Conduct Review Panel to answer charges relating to alleged offence.
- 18.4 Where the League received a complaint from a member of the League concerning the conduct of a player(s) registered with the League, an official(s) of the League, a constituent club of the League or a supporter(s) of a constituent club immediately prior to, during the course of or immediately subsequent to a match and such conduct has not been the subject of a report to the League by a match official

pursuant to the preceding rules, the NSWRL League and Club Support Co-Ordinator will call upon the person making the complaint to lodge this through the NSWRL Code Of Conduct reporting tool:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/NewSouthWalesRugbyLeague/CODEOFCONDUCTINCIDENTREPORTFORMSouthCoastRegion>

to ensure that the complaint is dealt with under the correct procedures outlined in the NSWRL Policies and Procedures.

- 18.5 Such a complaint must be forwarded to NSWRL Club and League Support Co-ordinator southcoastregion@nswrl.com.au not later than 5.00 pm on the second business day following the date of the match prior to, in which or after which the conduct complained of is alleged to have occurred.
- 18.6 Any club that becomes aware that players from one of the club's teams have refrained from registering because of encouragement from another club or official to transfer and further, because of that situation there is a real possibility that the club will be unable to nominate or field a team in that age group, the club shall contact the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee supplying any evidence to support such a report. The matter shall be investigated by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee and appropriate action taken.
- 18.7 Any club official who has allegedly encouraged a player(s) to leave their registered club to join another, the official or officials will be cited to appear before a Management Committee. Coaches, managers etc and including parents in this instance, will be deemed officials and appropriate action will be taken with the possibility of fine, suspension or other penalties.

19. Playing Area, Sideline Area and Bench Locations

- 19.1. Clubs having unenclosed playing areas shall have them roped off to the satisfaction of the Referee before any competition game or games are played thereon. Ropes should be of a suitable material and highly visible.
- 19.2. All spectators shall remain outside the playing area (off the grounds as enclosed or outside the roped area, as the case may be) while teams are playing.
- 19.3. Players and officials inside the rope or playing area of the field are under the jurisdiction of the referee and are therefore governed by the Codes of Conduct and Laws of the NSWRL and NRL. Conduct considered to be in breach of these will be dealt with by the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee, NSWRL Match Review Panel and Code of Conduct Review Panel as it deems fit.
- 19.4. Both the home and away team benches must be on the same side of the field
- 19.5. Where team benches are located within the playing area e.g. inside the fence, the following provisions must be adhered to:

- 19.5.1. 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
- 19.5.2. Personnel on the bench may comprise only those people directly related to the conduct of the match itself ie. coaches, trainers and team manager (no more than 5 in total) and reserve players (no more than 7) with a requirement to be clearly identified with a vest or shirt and have official identification.
- 19.5.3. Under no circumstances is a suspended player permitted inside the playing area / on the bench
- 19.5.4. A player who is temporarily suspended must immediately retire from the playing field to the dressing shed or area designated by the Ground Manager until their temporary suspension has expired.
- 19.5.5. The Ground Manager may request any person on the bench to leave at any time.
- 19.5.6. Players and Officials on the bench must, at all times, remain at the bench allocated to their team (except for warm-ups) unless they are fulfilling their specific roles/duties.
- 19.5.7. **No one besides the Ground Manger can approach the match officials**
- 19.5.8. Whilst officials are not expected to sit during the entire match, they must not leave this immediate area or approach the field of play under any circumstances
- 19.5.9. No members of the general public are permitted within the playing area.

20. Sub-Committees

- 20.1. The Board of Management has the right to appoint sub-committees to consider matters relating to, but not limited to player transfers, team gradings, player qualifications and team qualifications.

21. Timekeeping

- 21.1. The home team, in conjunction with the away team if they so wish, will be responsible for the keeping of match time
- 21.2. If the away team does not nominate anyone for this purpose, they must accept the timekeeping of the home team

- 21.3. All decisions of the official timekeeper shall be final and not open to review or appeal, unless the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee determines so in collaboration with the stakeholders
- 21.4. The Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee reserves the right at all times to appoint an official timekeeper, but the club concerned shall have the right to appoint check timekeepers. All matches are to proceed at the times scheduled in the draw.
- 21.5. 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
- 21.6. The referee may extend the match to award a penalty or to complete the play currently underway, at their discretion.

22. Trophies

- 22.1 The Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee shall have the power to regulate and control trophies played for in the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition. The rules of all trophies shall be approved by the Committee and no trophy shall be introduced into play without the sanction of the Committee. The Board may restrict play for such trophies in the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition and may debar clubs from playing for trophies controlled by other Leagues.
- 22.2 A Club Championship trophy shall be awarded in the Illawarra Division and Group 7 division separately to a Club as follows:
 - 22.2.1. Two (2) points shall be awarded for a win, a bye, or forfeit; one (1) point for a draw;
 - 22.2.2. Nil (0) points for a loss in any competition rounds. Competition points in Division 1 will be multiplied by two (2) and all subsequent divisions by one (1).
 - 22.2.3. The total number of points each week shall be divided by the number of games scheduled to play. The club with the highest tally at the end of the Competition proper will be declared the Club Championship winners.

23. Situations Not Covered

- 23.1 NSWRL and the Illawarra South Coast Merged Competition Committee determination shall be final should any situation arise that is not covered under these rules including making adjustments to these rules where applicable.

APPENDIXES

1. Judiciary Offence Points Index (Please refer to NSWRL Policies and Procedures Section 7 for most current table)

<https://www.nswrl.com.au/siteassets/community/2023-policies-and-documents/nswrl-community-rugby-league-policies--procedures-manual-2023-final-2-feb.pdf>

2. Code of Conduct Points Index (Please refer to NSWRL Policies and Procedures **Section 6** for most current table)

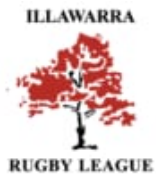
<https://www.nswrl.com.au/siteassets/community/2023-policies-and-documents/nswrl-community-rugby-league-policies--procedures-manual-2023-final-2-feb.pdf>

3. Constituent Clubs

<u>Illawarra DRL</u>	<u>South Coast Group 7 JRL</u>
Avondale Rhinos JRLFC	Albion Park-Oak Flats JRL
Berkeley Junior Rugby League Football Club	Berry-Shoalhaven Heads Junior RLFC
Collegians Junior Rugby League Football Club	Bomaderry Junior RLFC
Corrimal Junior Rugby League Football Club	Culburra Junior RLFC
Dapto District Junior Rugby League Football Club	Gerringong Junior RLFC
Helensburgh Junior Rugby League Football Club	Jamberoo Junior RLFC
Northern suburbs Junior Rugby League Football Club	Kiama Junior RLFC
Port Kembla Junior Rugby League Football Club	Milton Ulludulla Junior RLFC
Thirroul District Junior Rugby League Football Club.	Nowra Junior RLFC
Western Suburbs Junior Rugby League Football Club	Southern Highlands Storm Junior RLFC
Windang Junior Rugby League Football Club	Shellharbour Sharks Junior RLFC
Woonona-Bulli Junior Rugby League Football Club	Stingrays Of Shellharbour Junior RLFC
	Sussex Inlet RLFC
	St Georges Basin Junior RLFC
	Warilla-Lake South Junior RLFC

4. Links to Referenced Policies

- NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures
<https://www.nswrl.com.au/siteassets/community/2023-policies-and-documents/nswrl-community-rugby-league-policies--procedures-manual-2023-final-2-feb.pdf>
- NSWRL Tough Love In League Policy
<https://www.nswrl.com.au/siteassets/documents/2021-documents/nswrl-tough-love-in-league-policy--update-june-2021-final.pdf>
- NSWRL Community Rugby League Concussion Policy
<https://www.nswrl.com.au/siteassets/documents/concussion/nswrl-policy-4.17-head-injury-and-concussion-guidelines.pdf>
- NSWRL Community Rugby League Playing Higher Age Group Form
<https://www.nswrl.com.au/siteassets/community/2023-policies-and-documents/nsw-crla-playing-in-higher-age-division-consent-form-tackle-2023.pdf>
- NRL Code Of Conduct
https://www.playrugbyleague.com/media/9949/2020nrl-dev19_code_of_conduct_v4.pdf
- NRL Clearance and Permits Policy
https://playrugbyleague.com/media/11091/nrl-clearance-and-permits-policy_p003_1122019-1.pdf?_ga=2.5393712.2045571797.1696394569-882589696.1652143184
- NRL On-Field Policy
https://www.playrugbyleague.com/media/4916/nrl-on-field-policy_v4_0.pdf?_ga=2.45014692.1416523640.1629352181-204313518.1619139183
- NRL Heat Policy
<https://www.nswrl.com.au/siteassets/documents/nrl-heat-guidelines.pdf>



ILLAWARRA SOUTH COAST MERGED COMPETITION COMPETITION RULES AND BY-LAWS



- NRL 18 Month Registration Policy

<https://www.playrugbyleague.com/framework/pdfprograms/18-month-registration-window/>

