

# Illawarra Rugby League Shield Division Criteria 2026

## **1. PLAYERS TRANSFERRING INTO THE ILLAWARRA RUGBY LEAGUE SHIELD (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)**

**COMPETITION:** Players are **NOT ELIGIBLE** to play in the Illawarra Rugby League Shield Competition if they have played in any of the following competitions in the past three **(3) seasons**:

- **NRL**
- **Jersey Flegg (U20s)**
- **State Cup competitions (NSW and QLD)**
- **Divisional representative or competitions considered to be of comparable standing (e.g. NRL = ESL)**

For players transferring from the following competitions, they are **NOT ELIGIBLE** to play in the Shield competition if a player has played 5 games or more in one season within the past 3 years of the following competitions:

- **Illawarra Cup / Major Competition / Metro 1<sup>st</sup> or A Grade Competition**
- **Ron Massey Cup (NSW) and FOGS Cup (Qld)**

For players transferring from the following competitions, they are **NOT ELIGIBLE** to play in the Shield competition if a player has played 5 games or more in one season within the past 2 years of the following competitions:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade or A Grade in NSW Regional Areas (as determined by the NSWRL).**

**2. PLAYERS AGED OVER 35 EXEMPTIONS:** Players who are over the age of 35 before Round 1 of the current season, are exempt from Rule 1 unless they have played representative games in the last three (3) years.

**3. TRANSFERS:** The maximum number of players that can transfer from local Illawarra Rugby League clubs to an Illawarra Shield club in a year is three (3).  
***No limit on external transfers (other League Competitions)***

**4. QUARANTINE LISTS:** All clubs competing in the **Illawarra Cup & Plate** that also enter a team in the **Shield Division**, must submit lists of the following:

- **17 CUP (First Grade) players** - These players can **ONLY** play CUP & PLATE Division and are in effect "quarantined" from the Shield Division competition during the current regular season.

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- **5 players (not in the above 17)** – who can only play four (4) games in the Shield Competition during the current regular season.
  
- Both player lists are to be sent to the Illawarra Rugby League before the **Shield Division ROUND 1**.

**5. PLATE COMPETITION:** Where a club competes in the Illawarra Rugby League Plate and Shield Division ONLY., The club **MUST** nominate its top 10 players who will be “quarantined” from competing in the Shield Division competition in that regular season.

This player list is to be sent to the Illawarra Rugby League before the **Shield Division ROUND 1**.

**5.1.** Where a club has players who are quarantined in a PLATE team, a maximum of 3 players only from the quarantine list will be permitted to “drop back” to Shield Division in the following year for that club.

This is subject to meeting all other criteria.

**6. POINTS:** Points system to remain at 25 points for season 2026.

	YR1	YR2	YR3
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade experience but over 35	4 points	2 points	0 points
Local player from another IDRL club	4 points	2 points	1 point (will drop to zero points in 4 <sup>th</sup> year)
Player from outside the district.	2 points	1 point	0 points