

# 2026 Senior Competition Ground Managers Guide

For EVERY match day each club is to appoint a Ground Manager who must be clearly identified by a **PURPLE** vest. It is the responsibility of the home club to make every effort to ensure the safety of all referees prior to, during & post games. This guide is to be printed and laminated and accessible for all Ground Managers.

Senior Rugby League Competitions	Game Times	Maximum/Minimum Players on	Time Outs During Games
Harrigan Cup (First Grade)	2 X 40 mins	Max 13 – Min 9	As indicated by ref
Harrigan Plate (Reserve Grade)	2 X 35 mins	Max 13 – Min 9	Last 5 Mins for Injury
Harrigan Shield (Third Grade)	2 X 35 mins	Max 13 – Min 9	Last 5 Mins for Injury
Under 18's	2 X 30 mins	Max 13 – Min 9	Last 5 Mins for Injury
Open Women's Tackle (Gold)	2 x 35 mins	Max 13 – Min 9	Last 5 Mins for Injury
Open Women's Tackle (Silver)	2 x 30 mins	Max 13– Min 9	Last 5 Mins for Injury
Ladies League Tag Division 1 & 2	2 x 25 mins	Max 11– Min 8	No time outs for injury

## CONCUSSION PROTOCOLS

The below is in-line with the 2025 Community Rugby League Policy and Guidelines for the Management of Concussion. In the event of a head injury or concussion in a game with **LIMITED** interchange, a **FREE** Interchange will be given for the player leaving the field.

The injured player will not be permitted to return to the field of play for the remainder of the match with **no exceptions** and regardless of any assessment by a Sport Trainer. If the HIA Free Replacement card is used, it must be marked on the Sign on Sheet and Head Injury/Concussion Protocols will apply.

Any player who is diagnosed with a concussion cannot return within the time-frames outlined below and **MUST** be cleared by a Medical Professional:

- **Adults (19 years and over): Eleven (11) days.**
- **Children and Adolescents (18 years and younger): Nineteen (19) days.**

All players must complete a 6 stage RTS program prior to returning to contact training or competition games. Children and adolescents must also return to learn/school symptom free.

Failure to comply with the Concussion Protocols may result in loss of competition points or financial penalties.

## GROUND MANAGER - ESSENTIAL DUTIES

The **GROUND MANAGER** MUST ensure:

- The Minimum Requirements are present to allow the game to start.
- Sign on Sheets have been completed correctly
- All Team Staff / Match Officials have signed the sheets
- Scores match on both home and away sheets
- Any player removed from the field with a **SUSPECTED HEAD INJURY** is noted on the sign on sheet as HIA
- Uphold crowd and Bench behaviour - Assist the match officials

## COMPETITION POINTS

Competition points will be awarded on the following basis:  
Win / Rec Forfeit = 2 competition points /  
Draw = 1 competition point /  
BYE / Loss = 0 competition points / Forfeit = 0 competition points

## REPLACEMENT & INTERCHANGE RULES

Competition	Permitted Replacement / Bench Players	Number of changes per game
Harrigan Plate	Six (6)	Twelve (12)
Under 18's	Seven (7)	Unlimited
Harrigan Shield	Seven (7)	Unlimited
Open Women's Tackle	Seven (7)	Unlimited
Open Ladies League Tag	Nine (9)	Unlimited

If a player is injured by an act of foul play and the referee takes any 1 of the following actions:

- 1 – Sends the offending player from the field
- 2 – Sin bins the offending player

If a player is fouled by an opponent, who is then dismissed from the field or sin-binned the fouled player is caused to leave the field as a direct result of an injury sustained in that incident, this interchange will not be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges (free), provided that it is made without delay and by the time the referee has acted on the incident.

## BENCH ARRANGEMENTS

The maximum number of personnel permitted in the designated Team Official Bench Area will be:

- 3 Sports Trainers or League Safes,
- 1x Coach,
- 1x Manager,

1x Team Liaison Officer (TLO) and the permitted number of GAME replacement / interchange players.

**NON-PLAYERS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE BENCH AREA.**

A TLO is a requirement for each team and be clearly identified by a **PINK** vest

## SIN BIN

Players sent to the Sin Bin must be safely escorted by a team official to a designated area by the home club or in the change rooms.

A player returning to the field from the Sin Bin must advise the nearest touch judge and proceed onto the field in an on-side position.

MIN PERSONNEL FOR SNR RUGBY LEAGUE & LEAGUE TAG	MINIMUM ACCREDITATION REQUIRED	SPORTS TRAINERS: NRL ON-FIELD POLICY GROUND MANAGER MUST:
<b>1x First Responder For Each Team . IF THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS CANNOT BE MET THEN THE GAME CANNOT START:</b>	<b>NRL Level 1 Sports Trainer, or NRL Level 2 Sports Trainer (First Responder)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports Trainers must be able to present Accreditation if requested by GROUND MANAGER (Check Sports Trainers accreditation using MySideline).</li> <li>• Ensure Sports Trainer is NAMED on the Sign on Sheet.</li> </ul>

IRL SENIOR RUGBY LEAGUE POLICES & RULES



NSWRL POLICY & PROCEDURES



NSWRL ONLINE CODE OF CONDUCT REPORT



HEAD INJURY MANAGEMENT FLOWCHART

