



NSWRL

MAJOR COMPETITIONS 2020 COVID-19 HANDBOOK MODIFICATIONS



Social distancing 1.5m



Stay at home if you're sick



Wash your hands regularly and cover coughs and sneezes

Modifications to the 2020 NSWRL Major Competitions Handbook (Ron Massey, Sydney Shield & Harvey Norman Women's Premiership) as a result of COVID-19 impacts

The following document provides a summary of all rule modifications to the 2020 Handbook as a result of the impacts of COVID-19 on the regular season.

Note: Please be advised that these amendments have been implemented for the 2020 season only and should not form the basis of applications for dispensation to rules in future seasons.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

In 2020, all Judiciary and Code of Conduct hearings will be held via video conferencing / zoom meetings. There will be no face to face sessions.

No spitting at any time. Players found to be ignoring this may receive a code of conduct breach.

FORFEITS AND CANCELLATIONS

If a team is required to undertake mandatory quarantining requirements in the event that a player or players from the team have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus, and those requirements result in a forfeit, the result of the match will be considered a draw; and each team will be allocated 1 point and the average for and against for their previous matches played in the season. Adequate medical proof is required to be submitted to the NSWRL Competition Coordinator for approval.

Where a team is unable to continue in the competition due to COVID-19 outbreak, they will be removed from the competition and any team scheduled to play them for the remainder of the competition will be issued 2 points for the win, and allocated the average for and against for their previous matches played in the season.

MATCH DURATIONS

All matches will be played under the current durations:

Massey/ Shield – 2 x 40min halves + 10-minute half time break

HNWP – 2 x 30min halves + 10-minute half time break

In addition, all games will have a 2-minute quarter time 'drinks break' (as there will be NO provision of trainers running water on the field) taken as follows:

Massey/ Shield – 20min make of each half

HNWP – 15min mark of each half

SCHEDULED GAME TIME

Where there are multiple games at a venue, there must be enough time allowed between games to sanitise both the team dressing sheds and the officials dressing sheds before the next group of players and officials can gain access to these.



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CONTRACTS, REGISTRATIONS AND PERMITS

The June 30th cut off for players to register will not be in effect for the 2020 season.

Clubs may register players at any stage throughout the competition as long as they fulfil the appropriate components; valid MySideline registration and approval of a valid contract via the Clubs Smartabase portal.

NRL contracted players are NOT permitted to play in the Major or Community Competitions for season 2020

Where a player has a valid NSWRL Contract but wants to move to a Club/ team outside of that portability arrangement, the player must receive a termination or variation of their contract (uploaded to Smartabase) before the player can be approved to move and/or permitted.

Players from a NSWRL Major Competition (Sydney Shield, Ron Massey, Jersey Flegg, Canterbury Cup or Harvey Norman Women's Premiership) on an approved portability agreement with a team in a NSWRL Conference Competition will be included in the maximum registration number quota up to a maximum of five (5) positions within the quota however, there are no restrictions on the number of players that can be used on a portability agreement during the regular season

SALARY CAP

The Ron Massey/ Sydney Shield salary cap will not be in place for the remainder of the 2020 season

PLAYER MOVEMENT

Players from a NSWRL Major Competition (Sydney Shield, Ron Massey, Jersey Flegg, CANTERBURY CUP or Harvey Norman Women's Premiership) on a portability agreement with a team in a NSWRL Conference Competition can only participate in Gold Division Conference competition and will be included in the maximum registration number quota up to a maximum of five (5) positions within the quota however, there are no restrictions on the number of players that can be used on a portability agreement during the regular season

In season 2020, Major Competition players playing in NSWRL Conference Competitions will be categorised as Category A or Category B based on matches played in 2019 and 2020 as outline below:

Competition	Season	Matches Played	Category
Canterbury Cup	2019	>5	A
Canterbury Cup	2020	1	A
Ron Massey	2019	>5	A
Ron Massey	2020	1	A
Sydney Shield	2019	>5	B
Sydney Shield	2020	1	B
Jersey Flegg	2019	>5	B
Jersey Flegg	2020	1	B



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Teams may play up to 5 Major competition players. However, a maximum of two (2) category A players can be included in the five (5) in any single match. For example, a team may play with four (4) Category B players and one (1) Category A player OR two (2) Category A players and three (3) Category B players

FINALS SERIES

2020 Finals series structure to be confirmed in agreement with key stakeholders when Return to Competition dates and team entries are re-confirmed and finalised.

Players will need to have played in a minimum of two (2) matches and the majority of games in the regular season of the competition they are seeking eligibility in to qualify for the finals series, i.e. a player that has played 4 games in Ron Massey Cup and 2 Games in Sydney Shield is ONLY eligible for Massey.

Exemptions for finals series can be applied for directly to the NSWRL Major Competitions Managers and/or their nominee

FIRST AID / TRAINERS

All trainers who enter the field of play, must NOT carry water bottles or administer water to players during play. Drink breaks will be scheduled for quarter, half and three quarter break times. During the quarter time and half time breaks, trainers may take water bottles onto the field. Each player must have an individual water bottle, labelled with their name. There is to be no sharing of water bottles.

EQUIPMENT

FOOTBALLS: The home Club is responsible for providing the appropriately branded footballs for each game. The balls must be sanitised prior to and at the half time break of each game.

BENCHES: Clubs are permitted to have ten (10) players/officials on the sideline/bench location. Players/officials must comply with social distancing measures at all times whilst on the bench/sideline

COVID_SAFE POSTERS: Clubs must display the NSWRL issued COVID-Safe paraphernalia at all training sessions and home games.

RESPECT PROTOCOLS

The NSWRL RESPECT protocols, including shaking of hands before and after games will be suspended for season 2020

EDUCATION

All players/ officials must have completed the COVID-SAFE education and quiz before they recommence playing and/or training.