



# NSWRL

## COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE 2020

### Community Competitions Handbook



Social distancing 1.5m



Stay at home if you're sick



Wash your hands regularly and cover coughs and sneezes

### Modifications to 2020 NSWRL Community Competitions as a result of COVID-19 impacts

The following document provides a summary of rule modifications to the 2020 Community Rugby League season as a result of the impacts of COVID-19. These rule modifications supersede existing Rules and By-laws outlined in local Region/Districts Handbooks.

*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.*

#### 1. CODE OF CONDUCT AND JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

In 2020, all Judiciary and Code of Conduct hearings will be held via video conferencing / zoom meetings on the same days and times specified above.

#### 2. FORFEITS

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. Adequate medical proof is required to be submitted to the NSWRL Competition Coordinator or Local League Administrator for approval.

#### 3. MATCH DURATIONS

Due to current Government restrictions on social gathering numbers at venues (100 or less at any one time), there is a requirement to have extended breaks in between games in order to avoid exceeding these limits when teams are arriving to a venue whilst other teams are still playing.

This impacts on the scheduling of matches and the total number of matches that can be held at a venue for the day. To minimise this impact, the following modifications to match durations must be implemented whilst social gatherings are restricted to 100 people or less at a venue:

Age Groups	Amended times	Period 1	Drinks Break	Period 2	Half time	Period 3	Drinks Break	Period 4	Gap required between matches	Total time
U/6s to U/7s	4 x 8	8	2	8	3	8	2	8	15	54
U/8s to U/9s	4 x 8	8	2	8	3	8	2	8	10	49
<b>Please note: For U6s to U9s, play will resume from a Quarter time break at the point as per the laws of the game – a kick off</b>										
U/10s to U/12s	2 x 20	10	2	10	4	10	2	10	10	58
U/13s to U/15s and Girls U/14 to U/18s	2 x 24	12	2	12	4	12	2	12	10	66
U/16 to U/23s	2 x 30	15	2	15	5	15	2	15	10	79
Open Age 2&3 Open 1 / Regional	2 x 30	15	2	15	5	15	2	15	10	79
	2 x 40	20	2	20	5	20	2	20	10	99
<b>Please note: For all other age groups and grades, play will resume from a Drinks Break at the point in which the match was stopped</b>										

League tag times are the same as the table above.



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#### 4. 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 as outlined in the match duration table above.

#### 5. GRADING / RE-GRADING

Regrading rules and processes may be District / Region specific and therefore, local Rules and By-laws relating to re-grading of teams will apply. Please contact your District / Region Administrator for more information.

For all NSWRL Conference Competitions, the NSWRL Community Competitions Coordinator, in collaboration with the Stakeholders group, will have the ability to move teams from their current division after three (3) rounds have been played.

After three (3) matches, no teams will be moved from their current position

#### 6. TIME OFF AND SCHEDULED TIME DELAY

No time off during regular competition matches.

Should restrictions on social gatherings of 100 people or less be eased, allowing normal scheduling to resume, time-off rules may revert back to normal.

#### 7. REGISTRATION

The June 30th cut off for players to register and de-registrations to occur, will not be in effect for the 2020 season. Player eligibility requirements for participation in Finals Series will still apply.

In 2020, rules that determine if players from Major Competition teams on a portability agreement are included in the maximum registration quota of a team participating in a Community Rugby League competition, as well as the maximum number of portability agreements that are allowed, may be District / Region specific and therefore, local Rules and By-laws will apply. Please contact your District / Region Administrator for more information.

For NSWRL Conference Competitions, 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 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.



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#### 8. PLAYER PERMITS AND REGISTRATION FEES

In 2020, where a club is inactive for the season, any player who is registered to that club, will have the ability to permit across to another club at the discretion of the Region / District Administrator.

Where a player chooses to permit across to another club, any registration fees paid to the original club, must be transferred to the new club.

Active Kids vouchers cannot be refunded to a participant, but they can be transferred when a participant is active and permitted to a new club.

Where a player at an inactive club chooses not to participate in the 2020 season, the participant should receive a refund of any paid registration fees minus any costs incurred by the club.

*NOTE: Permits are not transfers/clearances. All approved permits will expire at the end of the 2020 season and participant registrations will automatically revert back to their original club. Any player movement for the 2021 season will be subject to the NSWRL Transfer Policy.*

#### 9. PLAYER MOVEMENT (Higher Level Competitions)

Rules that determine the eligibility of Major Competition players participating in Community Rugby League competitions in 2020 may be District / Group specific and therefore, local Rules and By-laws relating to Major Competition player movement will apply. Please contact your District / Region Administrator for more information.

For 2020 NSWRL Conference Competitions, Major Competition players may only participate in Gold Division Competitions.

Any clubs with a link to a NSWRL Major Competition team (Sydney Shield, Jersey Flegg, Ron Massey Cup, Canterbury Cup and Harvey Norman Women's Premiership) are only permitted to play five (5) players from that higher-level team on the one weekend in the relevant Conference Competition (no more than five (5) can participate), subject to rule 6.94

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

As per rule 6.93, 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.

In 2020, NSWRL Canterbury Cup players are permitted to play in NSWRL Conference Competitions.



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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

#### 10. FINALS SERIES

2020 Finals series structures to be confirmed in agreeance with key stakeholders when Return to Competition dates are finalised.

All players in all U/12's to U/18's competitions must have played a minimum of three (3) regular competition matches over the course of the season for the same team to be eligible for that team in finals series matches.

In Under 20's to Open Age competitions, players must play a minimum of three (3) Conference Competition matches for their club to be eligible to participate in NSWRL Conference Competitions in finals series matches.

#### 11. MATCH DAY OPERATIONS

Once a team has signed on, they are permitted to carry out their warm up. Teams should not return to change rooms and should enter the field of play straight from their warm up location.

#### 12. DUMMY HALF/ FIRST RECEIVER VESTS (DH AND FR)

The requirement for FR and DH vests to be rotated at half-time in matches is null and void for the 2020 season only. That is, the same players may wear the DH vest and FR vest for the whole match.

Teams have the option of rotating FR and DH vests at half-time in matches, but only if FRESHLY LAUNDERED vests are to be used. That means clothing and equipment MUST NOT be shared between players, as per COVID safe practices.

The NSWRL recommends all participants are given the opportunity to play in the DH or FR role at some point during the season.