



11 July 2014

**The Greatest Game of All**

Dear Rugby League Participant

## **GAMBLING ON RUGBY LEAGUE**

I am writing to you about gambling in our Game.

The NRL has no issue with responsible gambling on sports other than rugby league. However, professional sports all over the world are taking action to combat the destructive impact of gambling where players and other participants are involved in placing bets on their own sport. The NRL will be at the forefront of that effort.

You will be aware of several players and officials who have recently received sanctions for gambling in breach of the NRL Rules. The purpose of this letter is to remind you of your obligations in relation to gambling on rugby league, and to reinforce the serious action the NRL will take in relation to any breaches of those obligations.

I have also written to NRL staff, the CEO of each NRL Club, all NRL players, the State Leagues, all game officials, the Rugby League Players Association and the Agents Accreditation Committee on this issue.

### **You cannot gamble on Rugby League**

You are not allowed to participate, or be involved in any way, in gambling in relation to:

- a rugby league match (for example, its outcome or how the match progresses); or
- the progress of a rugby league team,

in certain competitions, including the NRL Competition, the NYC and other rugby league competitions such as State competitions, international representative series such as the Rugby League World Cup and test matches, the Auckland Nines and the State of Origin series.

This means that you cannot place a bet on rugby league matches or teams in those competitions. It also means that you are not permitted to be involved in any way in gambling that relates to rugby league matches or teams in those competitions. For example, you cannot have a friend or relative place a bet for you, or allow someone else to access an account you hold with a betting provider and bet on rugby league.

The full list of competitions you are not allowed to bet on can be found in the definitions of *NRL Competition*, *National Youth Competition*, *Related Competitions* and *Representative Competitions* in Rule 3 of the NRL Rules.

The safest way to ensure that you don't breach the no-gambling rule is to **never gamble on any rugby league match**.

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## You cannot provide inside information

You are also not allowed to provide (directly or indirectly) information about matches or teams that is not already public. For example, this would cover providing a friend or relative with confidential information about player injuries which have not been announced. You also cannot provide inside information to a person so that they can give that information to someone else who might then bet on a match.

As a general rule, don't provide anyone with information about your team, or the opposition, that is not already in the newspapers.

## Compliance is your responsibility

These prohibitions are set out in full in Rules 23(1) and (2) of the *NRL Code of Conduct*. Your NRL Playing Contract or Registration requires you to comply with the *NRL Rules* and *NRL Code of Conduct* as they relate to gambling and inside information.

It is **your responsibility** to stay up to date with the rules in relation to gambling and inside information, including the list of rugby league competitions you cannot bet on. If you are in doubt as to whether you are permitted to bet on a particular sporting event, you should contact your Club's Chief Executive for assistance.

## Penalties for gambling on Rugby League

Gambling is an area of particular focus for the NRL's Integrity and Compliance Unit. The Unit regularly works with betting agencies to identify betting by or on behalf of individuals subject to the NRL Rules.

The NRL views this issue very seriously and penalties for gambling on matches or the progress of teams (or for the provision of inside information) will be severe. These penalties may include the suspension or cancellation of your registration as a player or official with the NRL.

## Counselling

If you think you, or one of your workmates, might have a problem with gambling the NRL can provide counselling and other assistance. Please contact your Club's Education and Welfare Officer or our Employee Assistance Program for support.

## A Greater Game

I am confident that you will join with me and the NRL in supporting these measures to ensure the integrity of our Game. A strong stance against gambling by participants improves the Game for all of its stakeholders. I encourage you to discuss your obligations with your workmates and to look out for each other when it comes to gambling issues.

If you have any questions about the NRL's rules on gambling, please contact the NRL Integrity and Compliance Unit.

Yours sincerely

  
**Jim Doyle**  
Chief Operating Officer