



2016 Season

GAME DAY ISSUES AND PROCEDURES

Prepared by Noel Bissett,
Chairman CRRL

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1.

PARENTS / SUPPORTERS

- Probably one of the most important issues that needs to be addressed by all clubs prior to the commencement of the season.
- Most incidents that occur involve supporters and parents – the majority of which could have been prevented by knowledge of the League’s requirements.
- How do we go about ensuring they are conversant with the League’s requirements?
- Throughout the season:
 - *Meetings
 - *Newsletters
 - *Training nights.
 - *Pre-game discussion between Coach and Team Manager on expected behavior (Code of Conduct)
- Clubs must accept responsibility & are expected to assist the league regarding any incident that may occur.
- Minor offences may be actioned by clubs. However the incident and action taken by the club is to be reported to the league office by the required deadline (5pm on the Monday following the game).

2.

OFFICIALS

- **The League is well aware of problems clubs experience when trying to recruit officials, and the workload remains with the same people week in and week out**
- **However we cannot operate effectively without these dedicated personnel and it is up to clubs, not the League, to provide the people to fill the necessary roles.**
- **When your club appoints an official it is most important that you ensure they are conversant with all the Leagues' procedures.**
- **Clubs have to take responsibility for the actions of all of their own officials.**
- **Ensure all officials are registered on the Leaguenet System.**
- **Please ensure that all coaches, managers, officials, as appropriate, have their Working With Vulnerable People card or Working with Children check.**

3.

COACHES

- Unfortunately there are coaches who forget about their responsibilities to their own club & the League.
- The “win at all cost attitude” reflects on the players and is certainly mirrored in the supporters’ attitude towards the game.
- Of course there is disappointment in defeat -- however it is just as important to teach players to respect their opponents, how to lose gracefully, and most importantly, how to conduct themselves in a sportsman-like manner.
- Coaches are expected to also re-enforce good behavior towards parents and spectators.
- It is expected that the Committees of all clubs brief their coaches on what is expected of them, and continually monitor their behavior and performance during the season.
- Remember clubs are responsible for their coaches’ behavior.

4.

INCIDENT REPORTING

- **Hopefully these reports will not be needed however ...**
- **They were introduced to report any misconduct episodes as defined by the NRL Code of Conduct.**
- **It is most important that if the forms are used they contain all relevant details including the names and contact details of any witnesses.**
- **Please bear in mind that in the past, some incidents could not have action taken because of the lack of information provided in the report/s.**
- **Reports must be in to the League no later than 5pm on the Monday following the game.**
- **The League has a time consuming task in organizing hearings, notifying those who are required to attend and ensuring that the participants receive all relevant documentation.**
- **Clubs are reminded that the Disciplinary Sub Committee is not a court of law, however they have the authority to conduct hearings and issue penalties under the NRL Code of Conduct.**

5.

GROUND MANAGERS

- This is a part of the game where frequent problems arise.
- However, we cannot afford to ignore our obligations in this area.
- The Ground Manager plays a vital role on game day.

Seniors:

- As in the past, it is mandatory that all visiting clubs provide a Ground Manager to assist the home club during each game.
- Both the home and away Ground Managers must wear their identifying vest, and are expected to assist each other.

Juniors:

- Home clubs have many grounds to look after.
- To cover each ground, clubs are required to appoint a field manager. In the past this been quite successful and has assisted the ground manager in carrying out their responsibilities. We must continue to ensure these roles are filled each week, for the wellbeing of the game.

6.

GROUND MANAGERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Ensure that the ground is safe for play:**
 - E.g. Check that there are no dangerous objects on the field**
 - Check that the field is correctly roped off**
- **Be present and available at all times, wearing the Ground Manager's vest.**
- **Introduce himself/herself to Opposing Club officials, and Referees.**

IMPORTANT: It is imperative that the home Ground Manager converses with the visiting officials and organizes a Field Manager (juniors) who is also required to wear a vest as per CRRL guidelines.
- **Location of sin bin area and timekeepers should be pointed out to the Manager of each team.**
- **Ensure safety of Referees and Touch Judges when entering or leaving field of play.**
- **Ensure that games start on time and that timekeeping equipment is in working order.**
- **Only allow the designated personnel into the Official Area set aside within the "Playing Area", i.e. replacement players, Coaches, Trainers and Managers. While officials are in this area they are not to leave the boundaries unless required.**
- **Exercise control over behavior of officials from both clubs, as per the NRL Code of Conduct.**

- **Take steps to control behavior of unruly spectators, as per the NRL Code of Conduct. NOTE: The Ground Manager is not at any time to be put in a situation which would place him/her in harm's way. Safety is first and foremost.**
If an incident evolves, approach the offenders in a polite manner requesting they behave.
If refusal or abuse is given, you have the right to ask the person/s to leave the ground.
If this is refused, approach the Referee, requesting that the game be stopped until the person/s responsible remove themselves. If the situation remains the same then the game is to be terminated and the local police are to be informed.
- **Ensure that the Officials Sign on Sheet is correctly filled out for all games.**
- **Have Incident Report Forms available for the recording of any significant incidents.**

7.

COMMUNICATION

- On some occasions problems arise because of poor or no communication across the League.
- When Secretaries of clubs receive correspondence from either our General Manager Mark, Wendy, Debbie or myself, the correspondence is distributed to your members for their information or action.
- Do not wait until your club holds a meeting, which may be some time away.
- It is important that the everyday requirements of running the competition are dealt with immediately on receipt.
- All clubs must supply to the League (and keep up to date) the email addresses of the Club Secretary, appropriate officials, all coaches and team managers.

8.

REFEREES

- All of us have to cooperate and protect our officials, with particular emphasis on our younger Referees. Remember mistakes will be made the same as a player makes mistakes. Players are not abused and neither should Referees, instead they should be encouraged in a friendly environment.
- Here, once again it comes down to clubs communicating with your Team Officials, players, Coaches and supporters.
- Remind them of their responsibilities to their team, your own club and to the League.

The Referees Association has offered for their members to attend your training sessions. If your club wishes to take advantage of this service then you need to contact the Referees Association Executive Officer – Chris Nightingale (0410 626 415).

9.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

The CRRL acknowledges the enormous value of social networking websites, such as Facebook, Twitter etc, to promote our sport and celebrate the achievements and successes of the people involved in our sport.

Social media postings, blogs, status updates and tweets:

- **Must not use offensive, provocative or hateful language**
- **Must not be misleading, false, demean or injure the reputation of another person**
- **Must not be derogatory or critical towards another person**
- **Should respect and maintain the privacy of others**
- **Should promote the sport in a positive way**

Social Media Rules of Engagement

- **Know why you use it – engage our community to assist with driving participation in Rugby League**
- **Know who you represent – you are not acting as an individual, you are speaking on behalf of your club**
- **Use photos – the statistics say that 40% of people will respond better to visual information than plain text**
- **Remember the “Grandma” rule – do not post anything you wouldn’t want your Grandma to see**
- **Do not engage in abuse – you have options to hide or delete abusive comment**
- **Do not engage trolls – you can block someone if they consistently post negative comments on your page**
- **Do not forget The Net doesn’t – posting is permanent! Have a colleague proof read before posting**

Permissions

When posting pictures of children it is important to ensure that you have permission to do so.

Do not post any pictures of any children where their parents have not given consent at the time of registration.

The CRRL Disciplinary Sub Committee can and will take appropriate action on breaches of the Social Media Policy where advised or detected.

10.



THIS IS WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT

Learning to respect your opponents

Playing as a team

Losing with dignity

Making friends

Displaying sound sportsmanship

Enjoying our great game

11.

NOTES

Canberra Region Rugby League

PO Box 3315
BRUCE ACT 2617

Ph 02 6253 3515

<http://canberra.leaguenet.com.au>