



PART 5

RULES, REGULATIONS AND BY-LAWS OF QUEENSLAND RUGBY
FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND
ADMINISTRATION OF

TRIBUNALS AND REVIEW COMMITTEES

QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

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5.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF TRIBUNALS AND REVIEW COMMITTEES

The following Tribunals and Committees shall be appointed annually by the Board or Council of each relevant Administration Unit, as set out below, at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting or such later date as the QRL may determine/approve (but in any event prior to the commencement of any Rugby League Competition for that year):

- QRL Board
 - a) Code of Conduct Tribunal
 - b) QRL Independent Appeals Tribunal;
 - c) Disputes Tribunal; and
 - d) QRL Drugs Tribunal.
- Regional Councils
 - a) Code of Conduct Tribunal;
 - b) Regional Appeals Tribunal; and
 - c) Disputes Tribunal.
- Local Leagues
 - a) Match Review Committee;
 - b) Judiciary Tribunal;
 - c) Code of Conduct Review Committee; and
 - d) Code of Conduct Tribunal.

5.1.1 MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRIBUNALS AND COMMITTEES

a) QRL Board Tribunals

Members of the Code of Conduct and Disputes Tribunals will be appointed by the QRL Board (or by its delegated authority) noting that only three (3) will meet to deal with any matter before these tribunals.

The membership of the QRL Independent Appeals Tribunal and the QRL Drugs Tribunal is subject to QRL Board approval at the AGM.



QRL Board directors must not sit on a QRL Board Tribunal, or on a Regional or Local League Tribunal if they are affiliated to that Region or Local League.

Secretarial support for these QRL Board Tribunals will be provided by the State Operations Manager.

b) Regional and Local League Tribunals

It is recommended that the memberships of these Tribunals are gender balanced and culturally diverse.

Each of the above Tribunals shall be made up of at least three (3) members and may include employees of an Administration Unit, the NRL and their affiliated bodies with it recommended that the memberships of these Tribunals are gender balanced and culturally diverse.

The Match Review Committee (MRC) and Code of Conduct Review Committee (COCRC) shall be made up of at least one (1) member with a discretion in the Chairperson of the League to appoint further members.

However, where any of those members have been involved directly or indirectly or are in a position to give evidence in respect of an incident which gives rise to a referral to a Tribunal or Committee then that member shall be deemed to have a conflict of interest and must be disqualified from any Tribunal or Committee considering that particular incident.

In such circumstances the relevant Administration Unit shall appoint a replacement member for the hearing. Such further appointment shall also occur where a member of the relevant Tribunal or Committee is temporarily unable to sit. It is noted that members of the Local League Code of Conduct Review Committee can also be appointed to the Local League Match Review Committee and vice versa.

A member of a Tribunal or Committee referred to above shall be ineligible to sit as a member of any other Tribunal or Committee for a particular matter where a potential conflict of interest may arise. By way example - a Person appointed as a member of a Judiciary Tribunal shall not sit on an appeal from that Tribunal. Similarly, a Match Review Committee or Code of Conduct Review Committee member shall not sit on a Judiciary Tribunal Hearing or Code of Conduct Tribunal Hearing or any appeal from that hearing in respect of the original decision of the Match Review Committee or Code of Conduct Review Committee.

Notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment or continuance in the role of any of such Tribunal / Committee member or persons acting as aforesaid or that any of them were disqualified or had vacated the position of Tribunal / Committee member, all acts done at a meeting of a Tribunal or Committee convened in accordance with these Rules or by any person acting bona fide as a Tribunal /



Committee member shall be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed or had duly continued in their role as Tribunal / Committee member and was qualified and had continued to be a Tribunal / Committee member.

5.1.2 CONVENING OF THE TRIBUNALS / COMMITTEES

Tribunal / Committee members may meet together in person or by electronic device provided that at all times the members shall be able to hear and may be heard by all other members at the meeting, for the determination of matters referred to that Tribunal / Committee. They may also adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they see fit.

Where the members are not all in attendance at one place and are holding a meeting using an electronic device and each member can hear and be heard by all other members at the meeting then:

- a) the participating members shall, for the purposes of every provision of these Rules concerning meetings of Tribunals / Committees, be taken to have assembled together at a meeting and be present at that meeting;
- b) the chairperson shall ensure that any member participating electronically has received all reports and other evidence which may be relied upon or referred to at the meeting; and
- c) all proceedings of those Tribunals / Committees conducted in that manner shall be as valid and effective as if conducted at a meeting at which all of them were present.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Part 5 relating to Code of Conduct charges, in the case of alleged offences which do not fall within a literal interpretation of Off-field Disciplinary charges and in the event of a Local League or a Region not taking appropriate action, the supervising Region or the QRL may at their absolute discretion take action to address the alleged offence.

5.1.3 REFERRAL TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Notwithstanding the appointment and function of the above Tribunals, matters that may pose a significant reputational risk to the QRL must be referred to the QRL CEO or delegate for consideration.

Although not conclusive the following matters would be referred to the CEO;

- (i) any incidents between adults and children;
- (ii) any incidents involving vilification; and



(iii) any incident where the police are involved

The QRL CEO will decide whether the matter is dealt with at the QRL/State level or referred back to the Region or Local League.

SECTION A – Playing participants only

5.2 MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE

Background

The purpose of the following Background is to assist Local Leagues (noting that State-wide Competitions apply the adopted NRL Judiciary Code of Procedure) with an understanding of the role of the Match Review Committee and shall not be used in substitution of any Rule. In the event of any inconsistency occurring between the background and the Rules, the Rules prevail.

A Match Review Committee of a Local League has delegated authority to deal at first instance with the alleged misconduct of a player involved in an on-field incident in a match under that **Local League's control**.

To avoid any uncertainty, the provisions of this Part 5 relating to player misconduct do not apply to Junior players participating in mini and mod football who are dealt with by the referee directly by way of rotation rather than send off. If further action is required, this will be taken **at the discretion of the match's controlling body**.

All Match Review Committees must apply the description of player misconduct as set out in the NRL Rugby League Laws of the Game relating to on-field incidents (as published from time to time on www.qrl.com.au) in all proceedings before them.

All Match Review Committees must ensure that allegations of player misconduct are dealt with expeditiously and in accordance with the Rules set out below.

The role of a Match Review Committee is to consider and impose charge/s against a player who has been either placed on report by a referee or sent from the field by a referee. A Match Review Committee may, however, have a case referred to it by the Chairperson of the Local League or a Club Chairperson through the Chairperson of the local League. For example, a complaint may be lodged with the Local League Chairperson regarding the on-field behaviour of any player. The Chairperson of the Local League will forward the complaint to the Match Review Committee for decision making. It is advisable for a Local League to state clearly in its Local League competition rules if it permits the citing of a player on the basis of video evidence.



A player who has been reported for player misconduct shall not be required to appear before a Match Review Committee.

for further information in regarding the process please refer to flow chart 1

5.2.1 PROCEDURES FOR MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEES

All Match Review Committees are required to apply the penalty judicial system set out in the Schedules to this Part and/or published on the website www.qrl.com.au from time to time and in so doing shall adhere to those principles set out below.

5.2.2 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS OF MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEES

For purposes of this Part 5 of the Rules: -

- a) a reference to an “on-Field Incident Report form” means the form published on the website www.qrl.com.au from time to time (the On-field Incident Report);
- b) a reference to player misconduct means such conduct as is set out in the NRL Rugby League Laws of the Game International Level relating to on-field Incidents (as published from time to time on the website www.qrl.com.au).

5.2.3 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR ADJUDICATION

- a) Player misconduct - All allegations of player misconduct relating to on-field Incidents including those resulting in dismissal from the field of play must be reported in writing in a Referees On-field Incident Report by the referee.
- b) In cases where a player has been dismissed from the field or placed on report video evidence may be considered by the match review committee to charge the player in the absence of the on field incident report.
- c) Referral by Chairperson of Local League – Where a written complaint is received by the Chairperson of the Local League relating to an alleged incident involving on-field player misconduct, the Chairperson of the Local League may reject the complaint or advise that the complaint should be submitted via the relevant club Chairperson as per Part 5.2.1 d) or refer a copy of the complaint and any such further evidence provided (e.g. video evidence of the incident). The report and supporting video evidence must be provided to the relevant Match Review Committee within two (2) business days of the **player’s alleged misconduct**.
- d) Referral by Chairperson of competing Club – Where a chairperson of a competing Club considers that a Player is guilty of on-field player misconduct then that Chairperson can refer the incident to the local league Match Review Committee direct by way of a written report of the incident together with supporting video evidence. The Match Review Committee considers if there may be a case to answer, then the report and supporting



video evidence must be provided to the relevant Match Review Committee in accordance with the Local League MRC timelines or in within one (1) business day of **the player's alleged misconduct**

- e) Charging a player not referred to in Referees on-field Incident Report - Based on information before it, the Match Review Committee may charge a player/s not named in the referees on-field Incident Report or in the referral by the Chairperson of a Local League with alleged misconduct and shall then apply the appropriate reporting and referral procedure referred to above in respect of the player charged.

By way of example - Video evidence provided to the Match Review Committee in respect of a particular on-field Incident identifies another unreported player involved in that on-field Incident or a separate on-field Incident involving another player which the Match Review Committee deems to be player misconduct.

5.2.4 DECISION OF MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE

The written report of the Incident and other evidence shall be considered by the Match Review Committee. The Match Review Committee shall then determine whether the charge has been made out and if so apply the appropriate sanction as per the Base Penalty Schedule to this Part 5.

If the Match Review Committee is of the opinion that a charge should be referred to the Judiciary for the determination of an appropriate penalty whether because the Match Review Committee is of the opinion that the offence charged is more serious than the maximum grading for that offence in the Base Penalty Schedule or otherwise, then the Match Review Committee will advise the Chairperson of the Local League or competing club accordingly for subsequent referral to a Judiciary Tribunal.

Alternatively, where in the opinion of the Match Review Committee the sending off of the player during the match is deemed sufficient penalty then no suspension will apply.

Decisions of the Match Review Committee may be made by simple majority and where a player is found to have a case to answer then their Club is to be notified in writing of the decision by way of the Match Review Summary Sheet sent to all competing clubs, the findings upon which the decision is based and the penalty imposed within two (2) business days of the making of the decision by the Match Review Committee. The Club shall be responsible for formally notifying the player of the forgoing within the time specified.

In accordance with the Local League Match Review **Committee's** timelines the player shall, through their Club, either: -



- a) elect to accept the decision of the Match Review Committee in which case the player must notify the Club of this decision and sign and submit via the Club in writing,
- b) notify the Local League via the Club that the player does not accept the decision of the Match Review Committee and/or wishes to challenge the severity of the grading or the charge applied then the Local League shall refer the matter to a Judiciary Tribunal before which the Player can contest the charge and/or the severity of the grading.

In the event that the player does not adopt either of the options set out above, then the player shall be deemed to have adopted option a) above and the early guilty plea discount applies. In such cases the Club is authorised in writing on behalf of the player.

5.2.5 CORRESPONDANCE TIMELINES FOR THE MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE

- a) Written notification from the Local League of the outcome of either option above shall **be given to the Club within two (2) business days of receipt of the player's election via a Match Review Result Summary Sheet.**
- b) Where a player is found not to have a case to answer they shall be notified accordingly **of that decision by the Match Review Committee. The player's Club shall be notified also.**
- c) Notwithstanding the above timelines, all relevant parties must ensure that the process referred to above is completed within any specific timelines referenced in Local League Rules or as published by the Local League from time to time.
- d) If the On-field Incident Report is NOT received by the Match Review Committee by 3:30pm on the first business day following the Game (unless other timelines are stipulated by Local League rules), then the player shall be deemed to have no case to answer. Extenuating circumstances will be at the discretion of the Local League Chairperson.

5.2.6 CHARGES REFERRED DIRECTLY TO JUDICIARY

The Match Review Committee will refer on-field incidents in the following circumstances:

- a) If the charge is more serious than the maximum grading for that offence in the Base Penalty Schedule or otherwise, then the Match Review Committee will advise the Chairperson of the Local League and the competing club that the matter has been referred straight to a Judiciary Tribunal, or
- b) If there has been an allegation of discriminatory language being used on-field, the matter will be referred directly to the Judiciary Tribunal to be dealt with as a charge of contrary conduct with the Judiciary Tribunal having the discretion to determine a suspension in excess of the penalty schedule on a case by case basis.



5.2.7 PENALTIES

- (a) One week suspension is equivalent to missing one fixture match in the regular competition. This is to include matches forfeited by opposing teams, QRL State-wide competition or other QRL-sanctioned matches in which the player participates. However, the suspension calculation does not include weeks when a team has a scheduled bye (as per the Local League draw). Additionally, weeks in a final series where the player's team hasn't qualified to play in the finals are not counted towards the suspension period.
- (b) In serving a suspension missed matches are counted in the following ways:
- i. Matches that count towards serving a suspension
 - Regular competition matches.
 - Matches forfeited by opposing teams.
 - QRL State-wide competitions or other QRL-sanctioned matches.
 - ii. Matches that do not count towards serving a suspension
 - Finals matches where the player's team hasn't qualified
 - Abandoned matches due to unforeseen events, such as weather cancellations or the suspension of the competition by the League for any reason
 - Scheduled byes as per the local league draw
 - Matches forfeited by the suspended players team
- (c) Matches suspended allocated to a player shall be taken to be allocated on the day when the offence was committed and subject to any reduction arising out of serving a suspension in accordance with QRL Rule 5.2.10 of the QRL Rules.
- (d) The allocation of matches suspended to a player shall automatically have the consequences set forth in the Base Penalty Schedule with the player suspended from playing until the number of matches have expired in accordance with the decision of the Match Review Committee.

5.2.8 GRADING'S

For the purposes of determining penalty, offences can be similar or non similar therefore consideration of any previous offence must be undertaken to determine the correct penalty i.e. whether that the offence is 1st, 2nd or 3rd.



In addition the offences set forth in the Penalty Schedule are each divided into three (3) grading's with Grade one (1) representing the lower end on the scale of seriousness and for the offence and Grade three (3) representing the higher end on the scale of seriousness for the offence.

To clarify when

In referencing the Penalty Schedule all offences considered by the Match Review Committee to be higher than Grade 3 should be referred to the Judiciary Tribunal.

5.2.9 Early Plea Incentive

A player shall receive a one week reduction of the Base Penalty applicable to the charge and grading when calculating the Early Plea Incentive. This will also apply where the original charge has been agreed but the severity of the grading of the offence has been lessened by the Judiciary Tribunal to the grading nominated by the player. The player will be entitled to the Early Guilty Plea discount for this lesser charge accepted by the Judiciary Tribunal.

If the Early Plea notice is NOT received by the Match Review Committee within one (1) business day following notification of the decision by the Match Review Committee, then the Player shall be deemed to have accepted the decision of the Match Review Committee.

5.2.10 INCREASE FOR OTHER CASES INVOLVING ONE OR MORE PREVIOUS OFFENCES

- a) Subject to Rule 5.2.8 where a player charged with an offence has been previously convicted of all similar and non-similar offences in a one (1) year period immediately preceding the incident giving rise to the charge. The offence will be determined the 1st, 2nd or 3rd offence in accordance with the penalty schedule.
- b) For the purposes of this provision, if a player commits a similar and non-similar offence in the same match these offences will be determined in chronological order in determining the offence in accordance with the penalty schedule.

5.2.11 SERVICE OF THE PERIOD OF SUSPENSION

Where a player has been suspended from playing in a forthcoming Match or Matches, their period of suspension shall be calculated in accordance with the following:

- a) The player is suspended from playing until after the forthcoming match or matches have each been played and concluded,



- b) **When each forthcoming Match has been played and concluded, the player's allocated suspension shall reduce by one match for each such match until the number of matches have been served as per the suspension determined;**
- c) If the player had been actually selected to play in a QRL Representative match at the time when the suspension was imposed, the Representation Match in which the player would have participated but for the suspension shall be taken into account and once **played and concluded, shall reduce the player's allocated penalty by one (1) match.;**
- d) A maximum of two (2) matches can be reduced in any calendar week with sufficient evidence that competition fixtures or representative fixtures have been missed. This can only be accumulated across both Local League and Representative Fixtures not two (2) Local League fixtures in the same weekend.
- e) In cases where a player is suspended they are prohibited from playing in any QRL sanctioned competition or event.
- f) Players charged for Grade 1 or 2 offences (excluding any charges relating to Contrary Conduct or Striking) may continue to participate in a non-playing capacity for the duration of the suspension period provided they were a registered volunteer with that league/club/ team prior to the suspension.
- g) Players charged with Grade 3 or higher offences are prohibited from participating in any capacity at a QRL sanctioned competition or event.
- h) A player who is serving a suspension at the time a carnival commences will not be eligible to participate in the carnival and must serve the suspension in the regular season competition to which they are registered.
- i) A player serving a suspension will be reduced by a match if a fixture is forfeited by an opposition team in the competition.

5.2.12 PARTICIPATION IN THE GAME OF RUGBY LEAGUE

- a) Any registered player participating in any competition under the jurisdiction of the QRL (including those Games sanctioned by the QRL) who is suspended by a Match Review Committee or Judiciary Tribunal must serve out the number of fixture Games imposed upon that player/s in accordance with the Base Penalty Schedule.
- b) Any suspensions not completed within their current season will carry over to the following season and in this case any player who is suspended or disqualified from playing Rugby League.
- c) Any residual suspension that carries over to the next season will commence once the player has registered in that subsequent season.



5.2.13 SUSPENSION -FIXTURES MATCHES / WEEKS

- a) A player's suspension shall be served in any QRL competition where they play the majority of games in which the player is eligible
- b) If a player is sent off during any match the player is provisionally suspended and cannot participate in further matches until the match review has considered and graded the incident.
- c) Suspensions imposed by Local League Match Review Committees can only be applied in competitions governed by the relevant Administration Unit.
- d) These Rules are not applicable to suspensions imposed by Schools or School Sport Bodies.

5.2.14 DECISION FINAL AND BINDING

Subject to any rights of appeal or review all decisions of the Match Review Committee shall be final and conclusive and shall be given effect to by the parties and the proceedings of the Match Review Committee into that particular incident are thereby concluded

5.3 JUDICIARY TRIBUNALS

If the Judiciary Tribunal becomes aware of any other misconduct by that player, then it shall notify the player accordingly and convene a further hearing in accordance with these Rules to determine that further charge.

The Judiciary Tribunal will determine the player's guilt or otherwise and will then determine the appropriate penalty for the offence/s based on the evidence presented at the hearing and shall apply the penalties set out in the Judiciary Charge in accordance with these Rules.

By way of example - In the case of a high tackle, a player may enter a plea of guilty to the charge and take the suspension as detailed on the early plea sheet. However, should the player successfully argue the severity of the grading of the charge before the Judiciary Tribunal, then the suspension will be based on those listed on the Base Penalty Schedule with the early plea **incentive applied**. **If, however, the Tribunal reduces the grading but not to the player's nomination then the suspension will be based on those listed in the Base Penalty Schedule without the early plea incentive applied.**

The following Background does not form part of the Rules and is for the purpose of assisting an understanding of the Judiciary Rules and shall not be used in substitution of any Rule. In the event of any inconsistency occurring between the Background and the Rules, the Rules prevail.

Background



A Judiciary Tribunal of an Administration Unit has delegated authority to deal with findings of player Misconduct and applicable penalties as set out in the Schedules to this part including **any grading's relating to such player misconduct**. **Where there is** no opportunity for a player to be offered or accept an Early Plea then the matter must be referred to a Judiciary Tribunal.

The delegated authority vested in each Judiciary Tribunal pursuant to the Rules of this part must be rigorously applied and shall ensure that Match Review Committees act accordingly and do not conduct their own judicial proceedings or promulgate and adopt their own rules regarding player Misconduct.

The Directorate of each Administration Unit referred to above shall appoint three (3) persons to exercise the judiciary powers granted to that Unit under these Rules. Whenever the **appointed persons are exercising that power they shall be called a "Judiciary Tribunal"**.

5.3.1 REFERRAL TO JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL

Where any of the following circumstances apply:

- a) The Match Review Committee elects to refer the matter to the Judiciary Tribunal; or
- b) The player elects to have the matter referred to the Judiciary Tribunal (i.e. enters a plea of not guilty to the charge); or
- c) The player accepts the charge but elects to refer the severity of the grading to the Judiciary Tribunal; or
- d) The Area Manager, Region Manager or Chairperson of a relevant Region decides that the matter warrants a referral to a Judiciary Tribunal for determination;
- e) The Player has previously been found guilty of a charge/s relating to three (3) similar offences within the same Football Year.
- f) All charges considered by Match Review Committee presiding over charges in a Senior Competition, to be higher than grade 3 are directly referred to Judiciary for determination.
- g) All Judiciary Tribunals shall adopt the week based penalty system set out in the Base Penalty Schedule to this Part and shall ensure that referrals from their associated Match Review Committees have adopted the same system.
- h) If the Judiciary Tribunal is of the opinion that the offence charged is more serious than the maximum grading for that offence in the Base Penalty Schedule or otherwise, then the Judiciary Tribunal will allocate what it deems to be an appropriate penalty which may include an extended period of suspension, participation of an education



program or the issue of a show cause notice as to why the participant should not be disqualified or expelled.

- i) If the Judiciary Tribunal is of the opinion that the offence charged by the Match Review is not correct, they may find the player not guilty of the original charge but subsequently charge the player with an alternate offence. At this point, the charged player has the option to accept an Early Plea on the new charge.
- j) The Match Review Committee shall provide the Judiciary Tribunal with the following documents:
 - i. a copy of its decision together with the information/evidence that it has relied upon in reaching its decision, and
 - ii. **a copy of the player's written notice to the Local League** that they do not accept the decision and/or wishes to challenge the severity of the grading applied.
- k) In accordance with Part 5.3.6, a player is not able to participate in any QRL Sanctioned game or event until such a time as the process has been finalised or the penalty has been served.

5.3.2 EVIDENCE PROVIDED TO A JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL

Where a player has entered a plea of not guilty or wishes to argue the severity of the grading of the charge then that player must submit to the Judiciary Tribunal, a brief outline of the grounds on which they wish to rely together with such further evidence (e.g. video evidence of the original incident) which is directly relevant to the appeal and which has not been considered/available by or to the Match Review Committee.

This outline must be included with the written referral to the Judiciary Tribunal together with all further relevant evidence within the agreed timeframes of the Local League Match Review procedures for this evidence to be considered by the Judiciary Tribunal.

- a) Where the player does not provide this outline and evidence within these timeframes then they may ask for an adjournment to allow further time to prepare the material for presentation to the Judiciary Tribunal. However, the player will not be able to play until the matter is heard or a decision by the Judiciary Tribunal is made in relation to the incident, noting that this period prior to the hearing will be considered as time served in determining the penalty relating to the incident.



5.3.3 OFFENCES OCCURRING IN MATCHES PLAYED OUTSIDE REGULAR AFFILIATED COMPETITIONS

- a) Where a match (including a trial match) which has been sanctioned by the relevant Administration Unit is played between teams from different Local Leagues or Clubs within the same or different Regions the player remains excluded from further participation with the matter dealt with via the Administration Unit from which the player is registered.
- b) This rule does not apply to carnivals where an independent Match Review Committee and Judiciary should be established prior to games commencing to preside over all relevant on field matters.
- c) A player who is required to appear before a Judiciary Tribunal shall not participate in a Game until the matter has been considered by that Judiciary Tribunal.
- d) A Junior player (as defined in Part 4) appearing before a Judiciary Tribunal (including a Junior player competing in a Senior Competition) who has been charged with an offence occurring in a match which has been referred under Rugby League Rules must be **accompanied at the Tribunal by a member of the player's Local League or Club** who has the authorisation of the Local League or Club.

5.3.4 PROCEDURE FOR JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

Where a player has elected to contest a Match Review Committee decision then a Judiciary Tribunal will be convened.

Judiciary Tribunal hearings will be held at a venue, time and place as determined by the relevant Administration Unit for all contested offences. At the discretion of the Administration Unit a hearing may be conducted by electronic device provided that at all times the participants shall be able to hear and may be heard by all other participants at the hearing.

At the Judiciary Tribunal hearing the player charged: -

- a) must appear in person or by electronic device where determined prior to the hearing;
- b) may be accompanied by either: -
 - i. a non-legally qualified Person appointed by the player charged e.g. coach/manager/club representative; or
 - ii. a Person who is legally qualified if in his or her absolute discretion the Chairperson of the Judiciary Tribunal considers it appropriate to represent the player charged before the Tribunal.



*Please note that a Person that has been found guilty by the MRC, COCRC, Judiciary or Code of Conduct **Tribunal ("the Tribunal Panels")**, regardless of the penalty, or has participated as a member of the Tribunal Panels is unable to advocate for a player charged and appearing before any Judiciary or Code of Conduct Tribunal in the same football year.*

5.3.5 FAILING TO APPEAR BEFORE JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

In the event that the player charged fails to appear at the hearing without the prior written consent of the Tribunal to an adjournment of the hearing then the Tribunal may either: -

- a) proceed with the hearing in the absence of the player charged; or
- b) at its absolute discretion adjourn the hearing until such time as the player charged does appear.

5.3.6 JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL ADJOURNING PROCEEDINGS

- a) In the event of the Judiciary Tribunal adjourning the proceedings under these circumstances above the player shall be suspended automatically from participating in any sanctioned match until such time as the adjourned hearing is held.
- b) Where any adjournment arises as a result of the inability of the Tribunal to convene a Hearing e.g. members of the Committee are unavailable then the player charged shall be entitled to participate in sanctioned matches until such time as the adjourned Hearing is held.
- c) An adjourned Judiciary Tribunal hearing must be reconvened no longer than seven (7) business days from the original hearing date.

5.3.7 RECORDING OF JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL PROCEEDINGS

- a) No Person may record Judiciary Tribunal hearing proceedings by any recording device without the permission of the Chairperson of the Tribunal;
- b) It is a condition of the granting of permission to record Judiciary Tribunal hearing proceedings that the use of any information recorded is limited to the following purposes:
-
 - i. Appeals pursuant to these Rules;
 - ii. Court proceedings; or
 - iii. The provision of legal advice
- c) If a person records Tribunal hearing proceedings or uses a recording of same for other than the abovementioned purposes the relevant Administration Unit may institute appropriate Code of Conduct proceedings against that Person



5.3.8 DECISIONS OF THE JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL

- a) **The Judiciary Tribunal will determine the player's guilt or otherwise and will then determine the appropriate penalty for the offence/s based on the evidence presented at the hearing and shall apply the penalties set out in the Judiciary Charge (No Early Plea) Form as published from time to time on the QRL website www.qrl.com.au.**
- b) Decisions of the Judiciary Tribunal may be made by simple majority
- c) Where a player is found guilty of a charge/s then the player via the club will be notified in writing by way of Judiciary Result Summary Sheet of the decision and the penalty imposed within two (2) business days of the making of the decision by the Tribunal.
 - i. the player;
 - ii. **the players' Club;**
 - iii. the Local League; and
 - iv. any third party who initiated the referral (if any)
- d) Where a player is found not guilty of a charge/s those parties referred to above shall be notified accordingly within two (2) business days of the making of the decision by the Tribunal

5.3.9 EVIDENCE BY PLAYER FROM OPPOSING TEAM

If a player (A) seeks to have another player, player (B), give evidence on his or her behalf then **the Chairperson of player A's Club must seek the prior written approval of the Chairperson of player B's Club.**

There is however no obligation that compels player (B) to give such evidence.

If player (B) is contacted by player (A) by any medium including a direct approach, then player (A) may be charged with contrary conduct. If found guilty, a penalty of up to twelve (12) weeks may be imposed.

5.3.10 CONDUCT OF JUDICIARY TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

The conduct of the parties to any hearings convened by Judiciary Tribunals shall be determined by the Chairperson of that Tribunal.

In making its decision, a Judiciary Tribunal shall be entitled to accept the material and findings of fact of the Match Review Committee and admit or reject any other relevant material at its discretion. Each Judiciary Tribunal shall determine, at its absolute discretion, whether and to what extent it shall have regard to the rules of evidence applicable in the State of Queensland.



5.3.11 DECISIONS FINAL AND BINDING

Subject to any rights of appeal or review, all decisions of the Judiciary Tribunal shall be final and conclusive. All such decisions shall be binding and shall be given effect to by the parties and the proceedings of the Judiciary Tribunal into that particular incident are thereby concluded.

SECTION B – Non-playing participants

5.4 CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEW COMMITTEE

- a) A local league shall establish a code of conduct committee to deal with matters of complaint which do not involve on-field player misconduct. This committee shall be delegated the authority to suspend an individual in accordance with minimum sanctions as defined in Positive Environment Program Guidelines and in consideration of 5.5.7 of the QRL Rules on evidence available without convening a disciplinary tribunal of a local league. In issuing a suspension the league must provide the charge person/s with all evidence considered by the committee.
- b) Alternatively, where in the opinion of the Code of Conduct Review Committee the Club or Association has taken disciplinary action against one of their members in relation to the incident, the Code of Conduct Review Committee may deem this a sufficient penalty and no further suspension will apply.
- c) In applying suspensions, the Local League Code of Conduct Review Committee should reference the NRL Code of Conduct Guide and also apply a penalty consistent with any endorsed positive behaviour program. Timelines for completing Code of Conduct Review Committee processes is seven (7) business days. A Local League may grant an extension to these timelines in extenuating circumstances provided they provide written notice to the charged person.
- d) If the Code of Conduct Review Committee is of the opinion that a charge should be referred to the Local League Code of Conduct Tribunal for the determination of an appropriate penalty because it is of the opinion that the offence charged is more serious than the incidents identified in the NRL Code of Conduct Guide, then the Code of Conduct Review Committee will advise the Chairperson of the Local League (and Club if relevant) and refer the matter to a Local League Code of Conduct Tribunal.
- e) Decisions of the Code of Conduct Review Committee may be made by simple majority and where a person is found to have a case to answer then their Club is to be notified in writing of the decision by way of the Code of Conduct Review Committee Summary Sheet sent to all parties advising of the findings upon which the decision is based and



the penalty imposed, within two (2) business days of the making of the decision by the Code of Conduct Review Committee.

- f) The Local League shall be responsible for formally notifying the person via the club or in the case where a person is not attached to a club the decision for a case to be answered will be forwarded directly to the identified person: -
 - i. elect to accept the decision of the Code of Conduct Review Committee in which case the person must provide written notice of this to the Local League; or
 - ii. notify the Local League that they do not accept the decision of the Code of Conduct Review Committee and/or wish to challenge the length of the suspension or the charge applied then the matter will be heard by a Local League Code of Conduct Tribunal.
- g) Written confirmation from the Local League of receipt of the above election shall be given to the Person within two (2) business days of receipt of the Person's election.
- h) Where an incident occurs that is considered a criminal offence the Regional Manager will refer this matter to a Code of Conduct Tribunal convened by the QRL.

5.5 CODE OF CONDUCT TRIBUNAL

The following Background does not form part of the Rules and is for the purpose of assisting with the understanding of the disciplinary Rules only and shall not be used in substitution of any Rule. In the event of any inconsistency occurring between the Background and the Rules, the Rules prevail.

Background

In general terms a Code of Conduct Review Committee and Code of Conduct Tribunal is established to hear matters in respect of the Game of Rugby League which do not involve on-field player misconduct. Accordingly, complaints received in respect of Clubs, players, team officials, referees, spectators and the public generally which relate to off-field incidents received by an Administration Unit shall be investigated by that Unit via the Code of Conduct Review Committee and if considered appropriate a notice of charge shall be issued to the Person involved and referred to a Code of Conduct Tribunal. In these circumstances, the Administration Unit will then convene a hearing of a Code of Conduct Tribunal to determine the matter in accordance with these Rules.

The delegated authority vested in each Code of Conduct Tribunal must be rigorously applied by all such Tribunals to the exclusion of any other bodies established by an Administration Unit.



For example - A Code of Conduct Tribunal established by a Local League must comply strictly with the Rules set out in this Part 5 and has no authority to act otherwise or promulgate their own rules and regulations in respect of disciplinary matters.

The Board or Council of each Administration Unit referred to above shall appoint three (3) Persons, to exercise the disciplinary powers granted to that Unit under these Rules. Whenever **the appointed Persons are exercising that power they shall be called a "Code of Conduct Tribunal"**.

5.5.1 JURISDICTION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEW COMMITTEE AND CODE OF CONDUCT TRIBUNAL

A Code of Conduct Review Committee and Code of Conduct Tribunal has jurisdiction to deal with the following conduct of a Person or Club: -

- a) failure to comply with any Rule, policies, procedures or directions of the QRL or an Administration Unit (including the NRL Code of Conduct);
- b) offering or receiving a bonus or inducement to win, lose or draw a match;
- c) conduct which is or is likely to bring the Game into disrepute;
- d) using any form of media including social media, radio broadcasts, newspapers and otherwise to publish a personal opinion which is detrimental to the Game, players, officials or any other Sub-Ordinate;
- e) disorderly, insulting or objectionable conduct by a Club member, coach, team official, spectator or member of the public (e.g., generally at a match or event under the control of an Administration Unit, including on-field incidents involving such persons);
- f) allowing any player or team official not registered or under suspension or disqualification to take part in any match;
- g) arranging or taking part in any match with any Club, team, representative team or **Region not affiliated with the QRL without the QRL's written consent;**
- h) knowingly allowing a not accredited Person or an unregistered player to take part in an **Administration Unit's competition without the necessary approval;**
- i) action considered to be in breach of any endorsed positive behaviour program; or
- j) breaching any material terms of the NRL Code of Conduct.



5.5.2 DISCIPLINARY ACTION IN RESPECT OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS

For purposes of this Rule 5.5, Person includes but is not limited to natural Persons, incorporated and unincorporated bodies, Clubs (including their members and teams), representative teams, coaches and managers and such other like parties as the relevant Code of Conduct Tribunal may determine from time to time.

The Code of Conduct Tribunal of a Region, on behalf of the QRL may take disciplinary action at their discretion, in respect of the conduct of a Sub-ordinate of a Local League where the Local League / Club has failed to do so or if a written request is made by the Local League to the relevant Region.

Notwithstanding any other Rules in this Part, a Code of Conduct Tribunal of the QRL:

- a) may take disciplinary action in respect of the conduct of a Sub-ordinate of any other Administration Unit of the QRL where no other Administration Unit has taken disciplinary action or further disciplinary action; and
- b) has exclusive jurisdiction to deal with the conduct of a referee in respect of a match under the control of an Administration Unit.

5.5.3 COMPLAINTS

- a) A complaint under this Rule must be made with the relevant Administration Unit within seven (7) days of the incident which is the subject of the complaint occurring or within seven (7) days of the identity of the alleged perpetrator being ascertained by the relevant Administration Unit, whichever is the later. The Chief Executive Office of the QRL may, in their absolute discretion, extend these time frames in extenuating circumstances. A complaint may be made orally but must be confirmed in writing within forty-eight (48) hours thereafter.
- b) If the identity or contact details of the perpetrator is unknown at the time of the incident the Administration Unit will be allowed a maximum of ninety (90) days to identify the alleged perpetrator and take immediate disciplinary action under these Rules.
- c) Clubs that refuse to provide contact details of the identity of the perpetrator may be sanctioned.
- d) Upon receipt of a complaint under this Rule by the relevant Administration Unit, it shall make all enquiries it deems necessary to determine whether or not the alleged perpetrator should be the subject of a disciplinary charge. Written notification of the outcome of the enquiries shall be given as soon as practicable and notice of any hearing shall be given within seven (7) business days of the date set for the hearing.



5.5.4 COMPLAINT PROCESS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- a) Whenever the relevant Administration Unit decides to charge an alleged perpetrator, it **must provide that Person with a written notice ("the Notice") stating:**
 - i. details of the nature of the complaint alleged;
 - ii. the evidence that the Administration Unit has had regard to in determining to charge the alleged perpetrator;
 - iii. the date, time and place of the Code of Conduct Tribunal meeting to hear the charge;
 - iv. that the Person may present oral and/or photographic and/or video evidence and/or written submissions or any of them to the Tribunal at the hearing on the date specified;
 - v. that the Person, if a Junior (under eighteen (18) years of age), must have a parent or primary care provider or their Club representative accompany him or her at the hearing.
- b) Where a disciplinary charge relates to the failure to comply with any Rule, policies, procedures or directions of the QRL Board or any other Administration Unit then the Rule, policies, procedures or directions alleged to have been breached must be specified in the Notice.
- c) The Person charged may seek and be granted an advancement of the hearing date if the Person so requests and the chairperson of the Code of Conduct Tribunal so agrees.
- d) If the Person charged is a registered referee/match Official, Player, Coach, spectators or staff or Club Official. The person is not allowed to participate or attend affiliated QRL Club venues (unless granted special permission) until the Person appears before the Code of Conduct Tribunal or the penalty has been served.
- e) If at a Code of Conduct Tribunal hearing, evidence is produced of a complaint or complaints not previously disclosed in the Notice, or alternatively the identity of another alleged perpetrator is revealed, an Administration Unit may, within seven (7) days of such hearing, issue a further Notice to the original Person or to another Person. Requirements as to form, content and period of notice for such further Notice shall be the same as the Notice described in the Rule above.

5.5.5 PROCEDURES BEFORE CODE OF CONDUCT TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

- a) At a Code of Conduct Tribunal hearing the Person charged:



- i. must appear in Person unless otherwise determined by the Tribunal chairperson, having regard to distances to travel and severity of charge, in which case they may appear via electronic means;
 - ii. may be accompanied by either:
 - A. a non-legally qualified person appointed by the Person charged e.g., Coach/Manager/Club Representative; or
 - B. a person who is legally qualified if in his or her absolute discretion the chairperson of the Code of Conduct Tribunal considers it appropriate to represent the Person charged before the Tribunal; and
 - iii. may also lodge relevant written submissions with the Code of Conduct Tribunal at or prior to the hearing;
- b) In the event that the Person charged fails to appear at the hearing without the prior written consent of the Tribunal chairperson to an adjournment of the hearing then the Tribunal may either: -
- i. proceed with the hearing in the absence of the Person charged; or
 - ii. at its absolute discretion adjourn the hearing until such time as the Person charged does appear;
- c) In the event of the Code of Conduct Tribunal adjourning the proceedings under these circumstances the Person charged shall be suspended automatically from participating in the Game until such time as the adjourned hearing is held.
- d) An adjourned Code of Conduct Tribunal hearing must be reconvened within seven (7) business days from the original hearing.

5.5.6 RECORDING OF CODE OF CONDUCT TRIBUNAL PROCEEDINGS

- a) No Person may record Code of Conduct Tribunal hearing proceedings by any recording device without the permission of the chairperson of the Tribunal.
- b) It is a condition of the granting of permission to record Tribunal hearing proceedings that the use of any information recorded is restricted to the following purposes: -
 - i. appeals pursuant to these Rules;
 - ii. court proceedings; or
 - iii. the provision of legal advice.



- c) If a Person records Tribunal hearing proceedings or uses a recording of same for other than the abovementioned purposes the relevant Administration Unit may institute appropriate disciplinary proceedings against that Person.

5.5.7 DECISIONS OF CODE OF CONDUCT TRIBUNAL

Where the Tribunal is satisfied that a charge is proven, the Person/s and/or Club shall be subject to one or more of the following:

- a) reprimand;
- b) a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) only where the Person involved is not a natural Person (fines shall not be applied to natural Persons nor should they apply to non-natural Persons other than in exceptional circumstances where no other penalty is considered appropriate);
- c) Suspension from participating in the Game of Rugby League in any capacity also noting that this suspension extends all sanctioned carnivals as per Rule QRL Rule 5.2.11 h).
- d) de-registration of playing participants in circumstances where non-playing family members are charged;
- e) expulsion from an Administration Unit or any Sub-ordinate;
- f) loss of premiership points or forfeiture of premiership;
- g) making an order suspending a penalty (in whole or in part) imposed above for such a period of time and on such conditions as the Code of Conduct Tribunal thinks fit; and
- h) such further orders or penalties as may be deemed appropriate by a Code of Conduct Tribunal at its absolute discretion and inclusive of increased fines for repeat offences.

Decisions of the Code of Conduct Tribunal may be made by simple majority.

5.5.8 NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT TRIBUNAL

- a) Where a Person is found guilty of a charge/s then the following parties are to be notified in writing of the decision, the findings upon which the decision is based and the penalty imposed within two (2) business days of the making of the decision by the Tribunal: -
 - i. the Person;
 - ii. the Club (where the Person involved is a natural Person);
 - iii. the Local League; and
 - iv. any third party who initiated the referral (if any).



- b) Where a Person is found not guilty of a charge/s those parties referred to above shall be notified accordingly within two (2) business days of the making of the decision by the Tribunal.
- c) Subject to any rights of appeal, all decisions of the Code of Conduct Tribunal shall be final and conclusive, are binding on, and shall be given effect to by the parties.
- d) The procedures to be adopted and the conduct of the parties at any hearings convened by a Code of Conduct Tribunal shall be determined by the chairperson of that Tribunal. In making its decision, a Code of Conduct Tribunal shall be entitled to admit or reject **any evidence, submissions or other material submitted by the parties at the Tribunal's discretion.**
- e) Each Code of Conduct Tribunal shall determine, at its absolute discretion, whether and to what extent it shall have regard to the rules of evidence applicable in the State of Queensland.

5.6 RIGHTS OF APPEAL

There are two levels of appeal available being the:

- a) Regional Appeals Tribunal; and
- b) QRL Independent Appeals Tribunal.

An appeal of a decision of a Local League Judiciary / Code of Conduct Tribunal (if leave to appeal is granted) must be heard by the Regional Appeals Tribunal.

5.6.1 GROUNDS OF APPEAL TO THE REGIONAL APPEALS TRIBUNAL

- a) A Notice of Appeal from a decision of a Local League Judiciary / Code of Conduct Tribunal shall contain a statement of each and every ground upon which the appellant wishes to rely. The only grounds of appeal are:
 - i. Abuse of Discretion: Where the decision was unreasonable, arbitrary, or capricious.
 - ii. Newly Discovered Evidence: In the event of the discovery of new evidence that was not available during the original hearing.
 - iii. Bias or Prejudice: If there is evidence that the Tribunal members were biased or had conflicts of interest that may have influenced the decision.
 - iv. Disproportionate Penalty or Sanction: If the penalty or sanction imposed by the Tribunal is manifestly excessive or disproportionate to the offence.



- b) Where the ground of appeal is newly discovered evidence, any statement of that new evidence by a witness shall be made by way of a statutory declaration and shall be lodged with the Notice of Appeal.
- c) For any other ground of appeal, the appellant shall provide written reasons why it considers the ground of appeal has been met, with the Notice of Appeal.
- d) The Regional Manager, in their absolute discretion, shall determine whether a ground of appeal has been met and will notify the appellant of their decision as soon as possible after receiving the Notice of Appeal.

5.6.2 PROCEDURE FOR APPEAL TO THE REGIONAL APPEALS TRIBUNAL

- a) The Regional Council will appoint the Regional Appeals Tribunal to hear appeals relating to decisions made by a Local League Judiciary / Code of Conduct Tribunal.
- b) In making its decision, a Regional Appeals Tribunal shall be entitled to accept the material and findings of fact of the Local League Judiciary / Code of Conduct Tribunal being appealed against and admit or reject any other relevant material at its discretion. The Regional Appeals Tribunal shall determine, in its absolute discretion, whether and to what extent it shall have regard to the rules of evidence applicable in the State of Queensland.
- c) A Notice of Appeal must be lodged with the Region Manager within ten (10) business days of receipt of the decision of the Local League Judiciary / Code of Conduct Tribunal. Any Notice of Appeal received outside this time period will be considered invalid.
- d) A Notice of Appeal shall be accompanied by an appeal fee of \$1,000.00.
- e) The Regional Appeals Tribunal will determine whether the appeal fee stands in whole or in part in the event of the appeal being successful.
- f) No party who is subject to proceedings before a Regional Appeals Tribunal shall be entitled to institute legal proceedings until such time as they have exhausted all avenues of appeal applicable under these Rules and the decision of the appellate body has been notified to all parties in writing.



- g) After considering the appeal, the Regional Appeals Tribunal will render a decision, which may uphold, modify, or overturn the Local League Judiciary / Code of Conduct Tribunal decision.

5.6.3 GROUNDS OF APPEAL TO THE QRL INDEPENDENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL

- a) The QRL Board will appoint the QRL Independent Appeals Tribunal to hear appeals only in circumstances where:
 - i. the appeal is from a decision of a Regional Judiciary / Code of Conduct Tribunal and where that Regional Judiciary / Code of Conduct Tribunal was the Tribunal of first instance (i.e., the initial hearing was conducted by a Regional Tribunal as opposed to a Local League Tribunal); or
 - ii. the appeal is based on improper process (that is the process as set out in these Rules was not followed) and the Chief Executive Officer of the QRL, in their absolute discretion, has granted leave to appeal.
- b) A Notice of Appeal from a decision of a Regional Judiciary / Code of Conduct Tribunal pursuant to the above clause shall contain a statement of each and every ground upon which the appellant wishes to rely. The only grounds of appeal are:
 - i. Abuse of Discretion: Where the decision was unreasonable, arbitrary, or capricious.
 - ii. Newly Discovered Evidence: In the event of the discovery of new evidence that was not available during the original hearing.
 - iii. Bias or Prejudice: If there is evidence that the Tribunal members were biased or had conflicts of interest that may have influenced the decision.
 - iv. Disproportionate Penalty or Sanction: If the penalty or sanction imposed by the Tribunal is manifestly excessive or disproportionate to the offence.
- c) Where the ground of appeal from a decision of a Regional Judiciary / Code of Conduct Tribunal is newly discovered evidence, any statement of that new evidence by a witness shall be made by way of a statutory declaration and shall be lodged with the Notice of Appeal. For any other ground of appeal, the appellant shall provide written reasons why it considers the ground of appeal has been met, with the Notice of Appeal.
- d) The Chair of the QRL Independent Appeals Panel, in their absolute discretion, shall determine whether a ground of appeal has been met and the QRL will notify the appellant of the decision as soon as possible after receiving the Notice of Appeal.



- e) If the appeal is one based on improper process:
 - i. The appellant shall provide written reasons why it considers there has been improper process, with the Notice of Appeal.
 - ii. The Chief Executive Office of the QRL, in their absolute discretion, shall determine whether leave to appeal is granted and if so, the QRL will notify the appellant of the decision as soon as possible after receiving the Notice of Appeal.

5.6.4 PROCEDURE FOR APPEAL TO THE QRL INDEPENDENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL

- a) In making its decision, the QRL Independent Appeals Tribunal shall be entitled to accept the material and findings of fact of a Judiciary / Code of Conduct Tribunal being appealed against and admit or reject any other relevant material at its discretion. The QRL Independent Appeals Tribunal shall determine, in its absolute discretion, whether and to what extent it shall have regard to the rules of evidence applicable in the State of Queensland.
- b) A Notice of Appeal must be lodged with the CEO of the QRL within ten (10) business days of receipt of the decision of a Judiciary / Code of Conduct Tribunal. Any Notice of Appeal received outside this time period will be considered invalid.
- c) Any Notice of Appeal to the QRL Independent Appeals Panel shall be accompanied by an appeal fee of:
 - i. In the case of an appeal from a decision of a Regional Judiciary / Code of Conduct tribunal, \$2000.00; or
 - ii. in the case of an appeal based on improper process, \$2,000.
- d) The QRL Independent Appeals Tribunal will determine whether the appeal fee stands in whole or in part in the event of the appeal being successful.
- e) No party who is subject to proceedings before the QRL Independent Appeals Tribunal shall be entitled to institute legal proceedings until such time as they have exhausted all avenues of appeal applicable under these Rules and the decision of the appellate body has been notified to all parties in writing.
- f) After considering the appeal, the QRL Independent Appeals Tribunal will render a decision, which may uphold, modify, or overturn the Regional Appeals Tribunal decision.



5.7 AFFECTED PERSONS

a) A natural Person adversely affected (hereinafter called the "Affected Person") by the actions of the guilty Person shall be entitled to obtain the findings of the Judiciary Tribunal/Code of Conduct Tribunal decision as soon as practicable after the decision is made known and may, within two (2) business days of receipt of such findings, appeal **against the gross inadequacy of the Tribunal's findings only when all the following** related circumstances occur. : -

- i. The guilty Person has in accordance with the Rules of this Part 5 a right of appeal from a duly convened tribunal;
- ii. The Affected Person has given written notice to the relevant Appeals Tribunal setting out the grounds under which the affected Person considers the punishment to be grossly inadequate; and
- iii. The Chairperson of the relevant Appeals Tribunal, at his or her absolute discretion, advises in writing within seven (7) business days of receipt of such written notice, that he or she consents to such appeal being heard (hereinafter called "Consent to Appeal").

b) If Consent to Appeal is given, then such appeal cannot be heard until any appeal lodged by the guilty Person is heard or the time for such appeal has expired.

c) If the natural person indicates they wish to appeal the decision, the Tribunal will provide the reasons for the decision to the appellant noting that any appeal notice received after the 2 business days deadline will be considered invalid

In addition to the Consent to Appeal granted above, a further right of appeal by the guilty Person shall arise in the following circumstances: -

- i. The Appeals Tribunal imposes or increases a penalty following the appeal by an Affected Person; and
- ii. The guilty Person did not appeal against the original decision.

Such further appeal shall be heard by the relevant Region Appeals Tribunal unless the decision appealed against is made by a Region Appeals Tribunal in which the case the appeal will be heard by the QRL Appeals Tribunal, if it so consents.

A further appeal by the guilty Person under this Rule is to be commenced by lodging a written notice with the relevant Appeals Tribunal. Time for lodging further appeals and circumstances in which appeals are allowed are as set out above.



At the hearing, the guilty Person and the Affected Person are to be given the opportunity to make oral or written submissions or both.

The guilty person and the Affected Person may be represented at the hearing provided the representative shall not be a legally qualified Person, unless the Tribunal, in its absolute discretion, considers it appropriate.

5.8 DISPUTES TRIBUNAL

The QRL Regions shall appoint three (3) Persons to deal with disputes between Administration Units and/or Sub-ordinate Units.

For the purposes of this section a dispute occurs when a Club, Local League or Region (hereinafter called “the Objector”) lodges to a Disputes Tribunal a valid written “Notice of Dispute”.

To be valid the Notice of Dispute must:

- a) be submitted to the relevant Disputes Tribunal within a period of seven (7) business days of the date on which the objector determines that the dispute cannot be resolved between the parties;
- b) provide details of the disagreement between the Objector and another Club, Local League or Region which the objector states cannot be resolved without the intervention of the relevant Disputes Tribunal;
- c) be accompanied by written submissions as to why it is considered the decision was wrong and detailing the relief sought;
- d) be accompanied by a disputes fee of \$1,000.00; and
- e) the Disputes Tribunal will determine whether the disputes fee stands in whole or in part in the event of the matter being found in favour of the Objector.

5.8.1 PROCEDURES FOR DISPUTES TRIBUNAL

- a) Upon receipt of a valid Notice of Dispute the Region Manager or the Chief Executive Officer of the QRL as the case may be shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, forward the Notice of Dispute to the Administration Unit who made the disputed decision (hereinafter called “the Decision Maker”) requesting a reply within seven (7) business days to the contents of the Notice of Dispute outlining the reasons why the initial decision was made.



- b) **After receipt of the Decision Maker's reply, or seven (7) business days after the request to the Decision Maker, whichever is the earlier, the Disputes Tribunal shall meet and either:**
- i. rule on the dispute without further reference to any party; or
 - ii. set a date, time and place for a meeting where the parties can attend in Person, without legal representation, to make further oral submissions to resolve the dispute.
- c) If the relevant Tribunal is satisfied that there is a genuine disagreement between the parties which is capable of resolution, it may refer the matter to an accredited mediator appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the QRL to resolve the dispute by mediation. The costs of mediation shall be borne by the parties equally or as otherwise determined by the mediator.
- d) If mediation fails to resolve the dispute, the Disputes Tribunal is empowered to make a final and binding ruling and both parties to the dispute shall take whatever steps are necessary to give effect to that ruling.
- e) There shall be no further right of appeal against the decision of the Disputes Tribunal.

5.9 STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS

Those Clubs participating in State-wide Competitions shall abide by the National Rugby League Judiciary Code of Procedure – QRL Edition and the State-wide Operations Manual with the below penalty schedule and other documents only applicable to Local League Competitions.



BASE PENALTY SCHEDULE

Revised NRL Penalties table with aligned Amalgamated Penalties

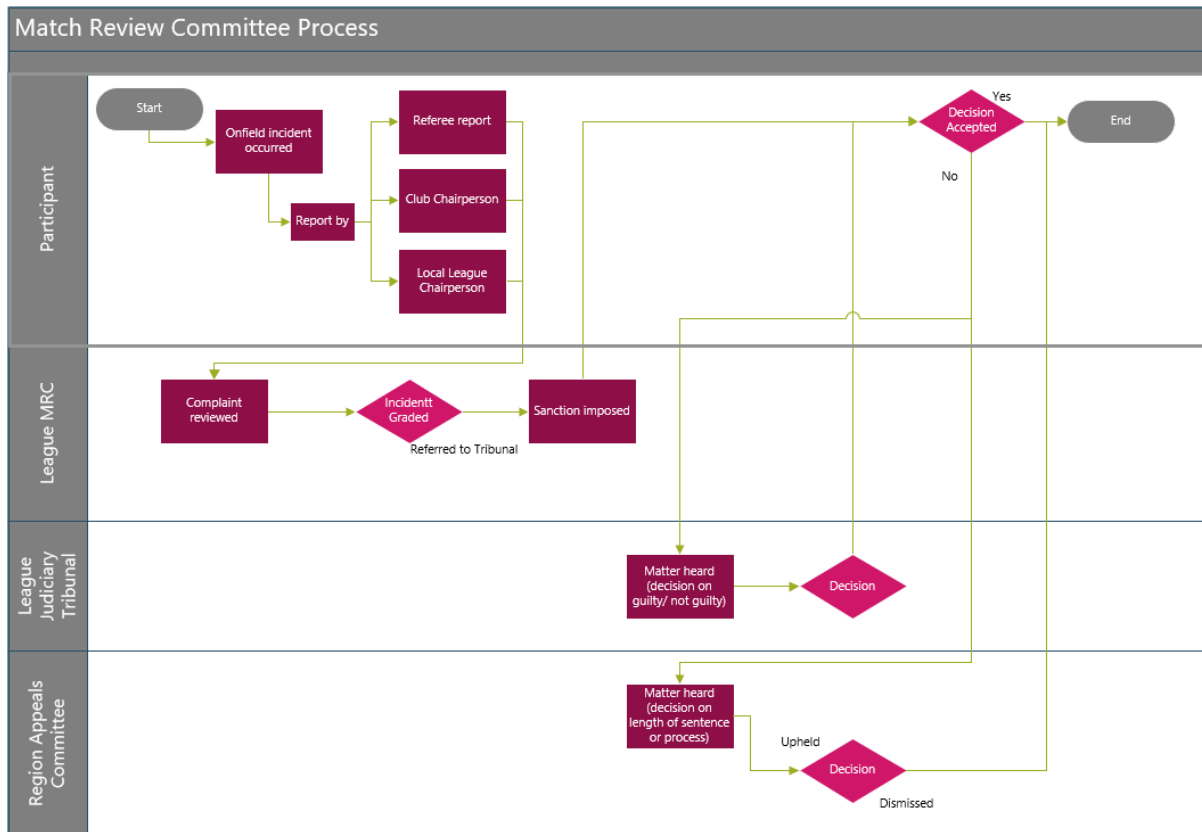
Note – highlights shaded denote changes from NRL penalties.

Offence	Grade	1st Offence (early plea in brackets)	2nd Offence (early plea in brackets)	3rd & Subsequent Offence (early plea in brackets)
High Tackle - Careless	1	1 match (Warning)	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)
	2	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)
	3	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)
High Tackle – Reckless	1 (4) #	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)	6 matches (5)
	2 (5)	5 matches (4)	6 matches (5)	7 matches (6)
	3 (6)	6 matches (5)	7 matches (6)	8 matches (7)
Dangerous Contact	1	1 match (Warning)	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)
	2	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)
	3	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)
Dangerous Throw	1	1 match (Warning)	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)
	2	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)
	3	5 matches (4)	6 matches (5)	7 matches (6)
Striking	1	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)
	2	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)
	3	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)	6 matches (5)
Crusher Tackle	1	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)
	2	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)
	3	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)	6 matches (5)
Contrary Conduct	1	1 match (Warning)	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)
	2	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)
	3	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)
Shoulder Charge	1	2 matches (1)	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)
	2	3 matches (2)	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)
	3	4 matches (3)	5 matches (4)	6 matches (5)

High Tackle Reckless is effectively treated as a grade up from High Tackle Careless



Flow Chart 1





Flow chart 2

