

NATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT - SUMMARY OF OFFENCES

NOTE – Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents/carers of players, coaches, officials and spectators.

No person(s) attending a match, function, or Club related event or activity shall:

- A** Use offensive or obscene language to any participant.
- B** Enter the Field of Play or the Playing Area during the course of a match without the prior approval of the Ground Manager appointed by the home Club and/or League.
- C** Excessively dispute the decision of a Referee or Touch Judge either during or after a match.
- D** Assault, or act with aggression, to any person/s.
- E** Behave in a way contrary to the Code of Conduct and/or the spirit of the game.
- F** Behave in a way which disturbs the enjoyment of a match, function, activity or event by any person/s, or brings discredit to any Club, League or the game.
- G** Act in such a way as to exhibit racial intolerance, by language or other conduct, to any person/s.
- H** Refuse to accept the reasonable direction of the Ground Manager, official of the team/ Club which that person is supporting, or official of the home Club and/or League.
- I** No person/s may make comment or take actions that bring discredit to any person, Club or league through any social media outlet.

Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents/carers of players, coaches, officials and spectators.

Breaches of the Rugby League Code of Conduct may result in penalties, including but not limited to:

- › Suspension of a match and/or
- › Termination of a match (including potential forfeiture of competition points) and/or
- › Monetary fines and/or
- › Suspension of a participant on a temporary or permanent basis and/or
- › Suspension of a Club, League or Association on a temporary or permanent basis

These penalties are in addition to any penalty which may be imposed by the relevant governing League bodies.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?



Enforcement of the existing National Code of Conduct

All initiatives are currently available under the National Code of Conduct.



Tougher penalties for anti-social behaviours

Standard penalty schedule to ensure consistency across the state.



Demerit Points for repeat offences

Additional points allocated to repeat offenders to hold them accountable for their actions.



Participant, Parent, volunteer engagement

Ability for individuals to buy-in and show their intention to support the campaigns.



Awareness campaigns

Topical campaigns to provide awareness and keep the subject front of mind.



Field signage with QR-code links

Visual reminder for participants, spectators, clubs and teams, with links to relevant topics or campaigns.



Play Well Triple P

A program that promotes positive parental involvement and decrease negative parent behavior in junior rugby league.



Ambassador messaging

High profile players and administrators to reinforce our messaging.



Cognito form reporting

Reporting functionality ensures anti-social behavior can be easily reported.



QUEENSLAND RUGBY LEAGUE

CODE OF CONDUCT DEMERIT POINT PROGRAM

EMPOWERING VOLUNTEERS BY PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK TO TACKLE BEHAVIOURAL ISSUES



CODE OF CONDUCT - BREACHES

The table below provides the recommended minimum penalty to be applied for each offence. Normal match review, judiciary and Code of Conduct process applies as per the QRL rules for an offender to be found guilty. It should be noted Code of Conduct breaches may result in accreditations may be revoked.

	Offence	Rec. on-field action	Rec. min penalty	Rec. 2nd offence penalty	Recommended Team / club penalty (tracked by QRL)
1	Striking (to make deliberate, forceful contact with someone)	Send off	Grade 1 striking		**NORMAL MATCH REVIEW AND JUDICIAL PROCESS APPLIES FOR STRIKING CHARGES** ##3 Demerit Points accrued with this offence
2	Participant (player, official or any participant) entering the playing area during an incident or melee	Send off	5 weeks		Loss of competition points that is equal to a win (2 or 3) and the match may be classed as a forfeit.
3	Player, official or any participant leaving the playing area during an incident or melee	Send off	6 weeks		Loss of competition points that is equal to a win (2 or 3) and the match may be classed as a forfeit.
4	Spectator field intrusion		12 months		The match may be classed as a forfeit by the offending team.
5	Abandoned games	Two or more players from the same team are deemed to be involved in an on-field fight, the match to be abandoned and that team may be deemed to have forfeited the match. If both teams are deemed responsible for the abandonment of the game, no competition or for / against points will be awarded for the match.			
6	Referee / match official abuse - Touching	Send off	12 months		Loss of competition points that is equal to a win (2 or 3).
7	Referee / match official abuse	Send off	2 weeks		
8	Referee / match official abuse - from spectator /team official		4 weeks	12 months	
9	Suspended persons breaching their sanction				Fine \$1000 and team ineligible to play finals. QRL may deregister dependants or family members of that person.
10	Suspended players breaching their sanction		12 months		If a suspended player takes the field whilst serving a suspension a further 12 months will be added after the current suspension ends.
11	Child Safety- social media posts of children without parental consent		6 -8 weeks	12 months	Posting of images or videos of children without parental consent is a breach of the NRL safe code of behaviour and will be referred to Code of Conduct Review Committee for a sanction to be determined
12	On-field discriminatory based offensive language used to demean, insult, or belittle individuals based on their race, sexuality, religion or ethnicity	Send off	2 weeks to 12 months		Where evidence is inconclusive eg. not verified by Match Official report or conflicting accounts – Team will be issued with a concerning act notice.
13	Discriminatory language by spectators	Game suspended -spectator asked to leave the venue (police to be call if necessary)	2 weeks to 12 months		
14	Referee / Match Official Abuse – from a spectator / team official	Game suspended / abandoned	2 -52 weeks		



The Queensland Rugby League recognises the positive involvement that all attendees must have at community Rugby League matches. This program provides the framework to positively influence the environment in which our game takes place

Ben Ikin

Ben Ikin
Queensland Rugby League Chief Executive Officer

WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM?

A fully aligned statewide program that empowers volunteers to proactively tackle behaviour issues and create a positive environment at Community Rugby League games.

A program that actively reinforces the positive standards we uphold and celebrates the powerful influence Rugby League patrons have in creating a respectful and enjoyable match-day environment through consistent and impactful messaging.

A zero-tolerance, evidence-based program to support volunteers and help prevent issues.

Supplying key resources and utilising the National Code of Conduct to address repeated poor behaviour via a demerit system.

A program that allows competition points to be deducted for consistent poor behaviour from players, officials or the team’s spectators.

WHY DO WE NEED IT?

We need this program to prevent poor behaviour and violence before it escalates and continue to allow our game to be promoted as a safe, positive and inclusive sport.

Anyone attending matches needs to be aware that if they behave poorly the team on the field may have their game abandoned, lose competition points or be removed from the competition.

We need this program to support our volunteers by providing valuable resources they can utilise to tackle behaviour issues and create a positive environment at their clubs.

In a similar program with awareness campaigns the total number of offences charged by the judiciary dropped 41.7 per cent; and among those, the number of charges for offensive language towards a match official, dropped by 42.4 percent. We need this program to support referees.