



**CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND DISTRICT
JUNIOR RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE
INCORPORATED**

**COMPETITION RULES
AND
JUDICIARY GUIDELINES**

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1. DEFINITIONS

1. In Competition Rules and Judiciary Guidelines made hereunder unless the contrary intention appears:-

“**Competition Round**” means the draw made and published for each grade and division detailing the matches to be played.

“**District Club**” means the Cronulla-Sutherland District Rugby League Football Club Limited or such other body as may replace the Cronulla Sutherland District Rugby League Football Club Limited or assume and perform the same functions as the Cronulla-Sutherland District Rugby League Football Club Limited or to which the Junior League may from time to time affiliate.

“**District Referees Association**” means the Cronulla-Sutherland District Rugby Football League Referees Association Inc or such other body as replaces or assumes or performs the same or similar functions of providing referees and touch judges to officiate at competitions conducted by the Junior League.

“**Division**” means the separate competitions into which each grade (i.e Age Group) is subdivided according to the assessed ability of each team.

“**Grade**” means the age group into which the full competition for each season is divided.

“**Junior League**” means the Cronulla-Sutherland District Junior Rugby Football League Inc

“**Management Committee**” means the President, Senior Vice president, Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary of the Junior League, who shall be ex officio members of all Sub-Committees with such powers and functions as provided for in this Constitution and the Rules and By Laws, from time to time, and is a duly appointed sub-committee pursuant to this Constitution.

“**Members**” includes Life Members.

“NSW League” means the New South Wales Rugby League Limited or such other body as replaced or assumes or performs the same functions as the New South Wales Rugby League Limited.

“the game” means the game of Rugby League Football played in accordance with the laws laid down by the Australian Rugby League Board or such other body as replaced or assumes or performs the same functions as the Australia Rugby League Board as amended to meet local requirements.

“Cronulla-Sutherland District” shall mean the area so designated as the Shire of Sutherland being the area so designated pursuant to the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) or as may be determined from time to time by the NSW League.

“player” or “players” means a player or players who is/are registered as a player or players of a Member Body.

2. For the purpose of this Constitution and of any Rule and By-Law made hereunder Junior Clubs are referred to collectively as “Member Bodies” and individually as “Member Body” which term, unless the contrary intention appears, includes the individual members of those bodies and the officials, coaches, managers, trainers and the assistants of any football team of the Member Bodies who are not registered as Members of such Member Bodies.
3. In the interpretation of the Competition Rules and Judiciary Guidelines:-
 - (a) Any headings and marginal notations in the Constitution or Rules and By-Laws have been inserted for convenience only and shall not in any way limit or govern the construction of the terms of the Constitution or Rules and By-Laws.
 - (b) Any reference in the Constitution or Rules and By-Laws to any statute is deemed to include all regulations under that statute and all amendments and revisions made from time to time to that statute and all statutes regulations by-laws ordinances and the like amending consolidating or replacing that statute.

- (c) Words importing the singular number shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa

2. GRADING OF TEAMS

The Cronulla Sutherland District Junior Rugby Football League Incorporation ('Junior League') may conduct competitions in the following grades in accordance with appropriate age limit as listed:-

- A-Grade and A-Reserve Grade, an age minimum restriction is of eighteen (18) years of age.

Any grades from Under 23 to Under 17 as determined by the General Committee of the Junior League from time to time.

- Under 16 Grade
- Under 15 Grade
- Under 14 Grade
- Under 13 Grade
- Under 12 Grade
- Under 11 Grade
- Under 10 Grade
- Under 9 Grade
- Under 8 Grade

NOTE: - Under 6 and under 7 Grades are non competitive.

The above mentioned grades may be further subdivided by the Registration and Gradings Committee of the Junior League into divisions A, B or C or Team 1 or Team 2 (where two or more teams in the same grade and division) according to the assessed ability of the teams and the number of teams entered in any one grade and division. A player's age to be before the 1st day of January of each calendar year.

3. MEMBERS ADDRESSES

1. Each Secretary of every Member Body shall forward a list of names and addresses from time to time of the financial members and registered players of such Member Body to the Secretary of the Junior League for registration.
2. The Secretary of the Junior League must be notified in writing within fourteen (14) days of the change of address of any registered player and the date of such change.

4. REGISTRATION

1. All players must be registered each season prior to taking part in any competition match, excepting as detailed in sub-clause 4(5).
2. All players must be registered as per the Registration Guidelines as advised by the Registration and Grading Committee of the Junior League at the commencement of each season and approved by the General Committee of the Junior League.
3. (a) All players (except those players in under 6 and 7 grades) must sign their own individual registration forms and also must sign the teams master card and any other forms as may be determined by the Registration and Grading Committee of the Junior League from time to time.

(b) Member Bodies may not register or permit females to play in a male competition teams above Under 12 Grade.
4. No registration will be accepted unless accompanied by a birth certificate, photo identification of a current licence, or current Australian / International passport except where:-
 - (a) in extenuating circumstances a statutory declaration may be accepted.
 - (b) a player has previously been registered and has previously provided to the Junior League satisfactory evidence of his / her birth date and the Junior League has a copy of this on file.
5. A player may play on a weekend without having the formal registration completed but this must be completed before the next scheduled General Committee Meeting of the Junior

League. A failure to satisfactorily complete the registration before the next scheduled General Committee Meeting of the Junior League means that the player shall be deemed to be unregistered for the game(s) played.

6. Any Member Body playing an unregistered or unqualified player shall be fined such amount as recommended by the Registration and Grading Committee of the Junior League and approved by the General Committee of the Junior League. In all cases where unregistered or unqualified players are concerned any competition points awarded are to be forfeited and awarded to the opposing team. Any appeal must be lodged within five (5) calendar days following the match.
7. Players signing registration forms, and players completing team sign on sheets are subject to disqualification if particulars contained therein are found to be incomplete, incorrect or misleading and sub-clause 4 (6) shall apply.
8. Any player desiring to play under an assumed name for personal or other reasons must register his correct name with the Secretary of the Junior League or the Chairman of the Registration and Grading Committee of the Junior League, who shall treat the matter with the utmost confidentiality.
9. Any player who takes part in an official trial or competition match whether registered or unregistered, shall be deemed to have played with that Member Body.
10. No player shall register and play with more than one Member Body in any one season except:-
 - (a) Players with Member Bodies which have withdrawn from any competition will be allowed to make application for re-registration with another Member Body.
 - (b) Players with Member Bodies still engaged in competition who desire to re-register must submit, with their application for re-registration, written consent to transfer from their original Member Body and the Member Body with whom they desire to re-register. This sub-clause can only apply to applications for re-registration that are submitted prior to 5.00 pm on the 30th June in each year.

11. (a) To qualify to play in the current season, all player transfers and clearances must be initiated by no later than 5.00 pm on the 30th June each year except where a member body is registering a previously registered player of that Member Body whom has yet to register with that Member Body for that competition season or is a player whom has never registered as a player in the code of rugby football league.

(b) A Member Body shall not refuse to issue a clearance for a player unless he / she is in default of any financial obligations to that Member Body or to the Junior League or under disciplinary disqualification or suspension.
12. Any player who has played in any team, grade or competition which is not controlled by the Junior League, must first obtain clearance from the other controlling body of that team, grade or competition before he / she will be allowed to play in any grade within the Junior League. The Secretary of the Junior League must be notified of such clearance by the other controlling body.
13. A player who participates in a District Club match is not permitted to play in a Junior League game on the same weekend.
14. Any player chosen in any District Club and / or Junior League representative, development or academy squad shall not be allowed to transfer from the Member Body he played with to another Member Body in that season or the season immediately following. Provided that any player or the player's parent / guardian desiring to transfer must apply in writing to the Secretary of the Junior League stating the player's reasons for such transfer. The Management Committee of the Junior League will make appropriate recommendations to the General Committee of the Junior League for it's consideration and approval.
15. No Member Body may register more than:
 - (a) A maximum of thirteen (13) players per team in a Mini League Rules competition
Under 6's to Under 8's.
 - (b) A maximum of seventeen (17) players per team in a Mod League Rules competition
Under 9's to Under 11's.

- (c) A maximum of twenty (20) players per team in International rules competition for Under 12's to Under 14's.
 - (d) A maximum of twenty five (25) players per team in International rules competition for Under 15's to Under 17's
 - (e) A maximum of thirty (30) players per team in International rules competition for Under 18's to A Grade
16. Once a team has reached its maximum number of players, they cannot register any more unless they de-register a player to make space for the incoming player.
 17. Once a player is de-registered, they cannot re-register with the same Member Body in the same season. The player may re-register with another Member Body for that season, provided they are not subject to sub-clause 4 (10).
 18. Where a player wishes to transfer from a Member Body to another Member Body the Junior League shall have the power to refuse the registration of any player with the other Member Body, if in the opinion of the Management Committee of the Junior League such registration would be detrimental to the best interests of the Junior League competition and the game and the Management Committee of the Junior League shall have the right to nominate the Member Body with whom such player may register.
 19. The General Committee of the Junior League shall have the power to refuse the registration of any person with a Member Body.

5. PLAYING IN A DIFFERENT GRADE OR DIVISION

1. Any player may play in a different grade or division than in which he is registered, provided that:-
 - (a) No A Division player may play in a B or C Division in the Grade immediately above his / her own.
 - (b) No B Division player may play in C Division in the Grade immediately above his/her own. This sub-clause does not apply to grades which are two (2) or more years apart.

- (c) Where a player plays in three (3) or more competition games in a different grade or division he is ineligible to play again for the team in which he / she is registered during the same competition season.
- (d) Players from U/16 to A Grade inclusive are permitted to play an unlimited number of matches in any different grade without sacrificing their qualification in the original team in which they registered.
- (e) No player shall participate in any match in a Division lower than the grade he/she has been originally registered in.

6. PLAYING IN THE SAME GRADE AND DIVISION

- 1. Where a Member Body has two or more teams entered in the same grade and division in the one competition, for the purpose of play-offs, semi finals, finals and grand finals, Team No 1 players are ineligible to play for Team No 2 or lower.

7. TEAM SIGN ON SHEETS

- 1. Team sign on sheets are to be signed by the players, coaches, trainers and managers and presented to the ground control table at the ground where the match is being played at least twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the match. Players, coaches, trainers and managers must print their names and jersey numbers in block letters as well as sign the sheets. Every player by round four (4) of the competition season must produce their registration card prior to the commencement of the match with the team sign on sheet. No card no play. (See also Semi finals, finals and grand finals).
- 2. The Registration and Grading Committee of the Junior League or any other person directed by the Management Committee of the Junior League may at any time check all player, coach and trainer qualifications. Players whose signatures do not compare with the signature on the original registration form shall be cited to appear before the Registrations and Grading Committee of the Junior League and to explain the difference in the signatures and if, following an investigation, if in unqualified player has taken part in a competition match or impersonated a registered player, both players shall be liable for disqualification and / or other disciplinary action.

3. In case of an appeal arising, the signatures on the original registration form and team master card will be the only forms of identification of a player recognised. All appeals against the decision of the Registration and Grading Committee of the Junior League shall be heard by the Management Committee of the Junior League.
4. The team sign on sheets must be available for inspection by members of the Registration and Grading Committee of the Junior League or any other person directed by the Management Committee of the Junior League at a General Committee Meeting of the Junior League. It shall be the responsibility of the Member Body appointed to manage the ground where matches are played to present to the Registration and Grading Committee of the Junior League the team sign on sheets at the next General Committee Meeting of the Junior League immediately following the weekend on which such matches are played.
5. Reserves will only be signed on the team sign on sheet when they are actually required to play in competition matches. (See also Semi finals, finals and grand finals).
6. Any player, coach or trainer taking part in a Junior League competition match without first signing the team sign on sheet shall be deemed to be unregistered or unqualified.

8. TEAM NOMINATIONS

1. Team nominations for the different competitions shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the Junior League, accompanied by the appropriate fee prescribed by the General Committee of the Junior League from time to time. All team nominations shall close on a date to be fixed by the General Committee of the Junior League and advised by the Secretary of the Junior League.
2. Where there are thirteen (13) or more teams entered in any one grade such a grade may be divided into an A, B and C divisions, as appropriate.

9. COMPETITION MATCHES

1. The draw for competition matches including dates, times and ground allocations for all matches shall be arranged by the Grounds Committee of the Junior League and subject to confirmation by the General Committee of the Junior League.

2. If a team forfeits a match, the match shall count as a match played and be declared in favour of the non-forfeiting team. A Member Body whose team is forfeiting a match may be fined an amount as deemed appropriate by the General Committee of the Junior League. A score of 24 to nil will be recorded for the non-forfeiting team as the result of all games involving a forfeit.
3. Any team which has forfeited three (3) times may, at the discretion of the General Committee of the Junior League, be eliminated from the current Junior League competition.
4. A team claiming a forfeit must complete a team sign on sheet, provided however, that where the Management Committee of the Junior League have given approval because of prior notification (i.e. before 5.00 pm on the Wednesday before the weekend the competition match is scheduled to play) by the Member Body whose team is forfeiting, then in such circumstances completion of a team sign-on sheet shall not be necessary.
5. For the purpose of qualifying a player, a forfeit shall be classed as a match played for the non-forfeiting team. The non-forfeiting team must complete a team sign on sheet with the appropriate players who would have participated in that match (Refer sub-clause 7(4) above).
6. For the purpose of a player under suspension a forfeit by the opposing team shall be counted as a match in reduction of the player's suspension, but should the suspended player's team forfeit, this match will not be counted.
7. A bye shall be declared a win, but not as a match played for player qualification purposes.
8. Split rounds may be played where necessary at the direction of the General Committee of the Junior League.
9. For all matches in age groups from under 8's to under 15's, should a score differential reach (50) points, the 'mercy rule' shall apply, and the match shall be deemed complete at this point. The Ground Manager controlling the ground at the time the match took place shall also have the discretion to deem a match complete should a team be deliberately engaging in game play as to not reach a score differential of fifty (50) points, such as when

they are close to fifty (50) points ahead, they do not score more points, or continue to turn to the ball over to the opposition.

10. No team is required to play twice in the one weekend unless required to allow the competition to finish on the weekend scheduled by the General Committee of the Junior League.
11. When a District Club or Junior League representative team reaches the semi finals, final or grand final of an inter-district competition, Junior League competition matches relevant to the grade concerned may be deferred to a further time to be determined by the Management Committee of the Junior League.
12. Official pre-season trial matches may be conducted by the Junior League from time to time.
13. The Management Committee of the Junior League is empowered to call upon players when required for “try outs” and to play representative fixtures. In the event of a player not being available to play or “try out” if so requested he shall not play for his Member Body on the same weekend, except in special circumstances as determined by the Management Committee of the Junior League.
14. The Senior Club Championship shall incorporate all Junior League grades from Under 13 to A Grade and shall have points allocated in the following manner:
 - (a) A Grade to Under 17 competition points multiplied by 4.
 - (b) Under 16A, Under 15A, Under 14A and Under 13A competition points multiplied by 2.
 - (c) B Division in each grade (including A Reserve Grade) competition points multiplied by 1.
 - (d) C Division or lower division will not qualify for the Senior Club Championship points.
15. (i) The Junior Club Championship shall incorporate all Junior League Grades from Under 8 to Under 12 which shall be determined as follows:-
 - (a) A Division competition points multiplied by 4.

- (b) B Division competition points multiplied by 2.
 - (c) C Division competition points multiplied by 1.
- (ii) The total points scored by the qualifying Member Bodies are to be divided by their number of teams plus 1. To qualify for the Junior Club Championship, Member Bodies must have a minimum of three (3) sides from U/8 to U/12 which must compete in a full competition season.
16. All trophies are to remain perpetual and cannot be permanently retained by any Member Body.
17. (a) A Most Improved Team Trophy will be awarded annually and individual trophies are to be presented to each player in the selected team.
- (b) The method of determining the Most Improved Team will be as follows:
- (i) The award will be judged over a maximum of fourteen (14) Junior League competition games, where possible, (being the last fourteen games played and excluding semi finals, finals, and grand finals)
 - (ii) The team that scores the most competition points in the second half of those fourteen games above their first half competition points shall be declared the Most Improved Team.
 - (iii) Where two (2) teams are equal, first and second half competition points scored, then the difference between points for and against, as calculated as per the competition points in sub-clause 9 (17) (b) (ii) shall then decide the Most Improved Team.
 - (iv) All teams competing in the Under 8 to Under 12 competitions inclusive shall qualify for this award.
 - (v) Any team regraded down in the current competition year is ineligible to qualify for this award.

10. TIMES OF PLAY

1. Matches shall commence at such times and be played upon such grounds as approved by the General Committee of the Junior League. A maximum of ten (10) minutes after the official starting time will be allowed for play to commence after which time the team not prepared to take the field and commence play when requested by the Ground Manager shall be deemed to have forfeited. If teams are not prepared to take the field and commence play, the match shall be declared abandoned and details must be given to the Secretary of the Junior League in writing and the matter is to be referred to the Management Committee of the Junior League to take any action it decides and in such instance no points shall be awarded to either team.
2. Apart from Mini League, it will be expected that all competition matches shall be played in two (2) equal divisions of match time with five (5) minutes for time off allowed for stoppages in play in the second half of Under 15 to A Grade games. (See also Semi finals, finals and grand finals).
3. In the event that more than twenty (20) minutes of match time is lost during the course of the match, in either half of the match, representation should be made in writing to the Secretary of the Junior League for the game to be replayed which is to be determined by the General Committee of the Junior League.
4. Times for play shall be:

Games shall be PLAYED in EQUAL TIME DIVISIONS

A Grade TO Under 21 - 35 Mins (10 min rest interval at half time)

Under 20 TO Under 16 - 30 Mins (10 min rest interval at half time)

Under 15 TO Under 13 - 25 Mins (10 min rest interval at half time)

Under 12 TO Under 9 - 20 Mins (5 min rest interval at half time)

Under 8 TO Under 6 - 3 X 10 Mins (3 min x 2 rest intervals).

5. Each team will nominate a timekeeper to jointly keep time for the match. Ground Managers are to see that the appointed timekeepers sign the respective team sign on sheets.
6. Matches should not commence before 9.00am, where possible unless otherwise directed by the General Committee of the Junior League.

11. CONTROL OF JUNIOR LEAGUE MATCHES

1. No match scheduled to play shall be postponed, cancelled or re-scheduled without permission of the General Committee of the Junior League unless the playing ground is considered unfit by:
 - (a) the Management Committee of the Junior League; or
 - (b) both team coaches before play commences; or
 - (c) the two (2) captains for Grades Under 15 to A Grade on the field of play, and by the coaches in Under 6 to Under 14.

In all circumstances the Referee then shall be the sole adjudicator as to the fitness of the ground for playing purposes.

2. A Referee shall be appointed for each match by the Referees Appointments Board of the District Referee's Association.
3. In the event of a Referee not being in attendance within ten (10) minutes after the scheduled starting time, then a Referee may be appointed by a member of the Management Committee of the Junior League, or representatives of opposing Member Bodies. Referees shall be prepared to start the match at any time within the scheduled time period of the match.
4. Ground Managers shall ensure that the matches start on time but a Member Body may claim a forfeit ten (10) minutes after the scheduled starting time should the other team not be ready to take the field.

5. Ground Managers, irrespective of any possible delayed start as provided for in sub-clauses 11 (3) or 11 (4), should use their best endeavours to ensure that the matches are played the full time as set out in sub-clause 10 (4), but matches scheduled later than the delayed match should not as a general rule be delayed more than fifteen (15) minutes past their normal commencement and finishing times.
6. Ground Managers should see that the rest interval for a match is kept to the time allocated by calling both sides to be on the field ready to play by the expiration of the allocated rest interval time.
7. The time duration of matches shall be the responsibility of the Ground Manager at all times.
8. In the event of any unforeseen circumstances which are likely to disrupt play, such as a serious injury to a player the paramount concern is to see that the matches are played and, as near as possible to the times scheduled. A common sense approach should be adopted to overcome any unforeseen circumstances delaying match play and it is suggested that the coaches or an official of a Member Body concerned together in consultation with the Ground Manager shall decide whether the match should be abandoned having regard to the safety and inconvenience to players, officials and spectators.

12. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

1. (a) In the event of any team playing with more than the prescribed number of players (as set out in the Mini League, Mod League or International Rules from time to time) it shall be the responsibility of the opposing Captain or coach to draw the Referee's attention to the fact and the Referee shall direct the removal of such extra player or players from the field of play and all points scored by the defaulting team scored whilst the extra player or players are on the field shall be disallowed.
- (b) If such direction referred to in sub-clause 12 (1) (a) is not complied with immediately of the Referee so directing, the Referee shall award the match to the non-defaulting team.

(c) If both teams are guilty of the breach of this clause by not removing the extra player/players from the field when directed by the Referee, the match shall be abandoned and no points shall be awarded to either team. The Referee must provide a full report to the Secretary of the Junior League in order for the Management Committee of the Junior League to consider taking any further action where necessary.

2. In an Under 13 to A Grade match a team may begin a match with not less than nine (9) players and it may fill the vacant position or positions at any time during the game, but if it shall begin a game with thirteen (13) players, a maximum of four (4) replacement players may be used with unlimited interchange of replacement players to be allowed.
3. Replacement players may take the field at any time during the match but only after the replacement player has signed the team sign on sheet and has informed the Referee or Touch Judge.
4. All replacement players must sign the team sign on sheet before taking the field to play.
5. In a Mod League match a team may begin a match with not less than eight (8) players (for Under 12's on a full field with thirteen (13) a side, a minimum of eleven (11) players shall apply) and it may fill the vacant position or positions at any time during the game. Each player in the team is to play a minimum of one (1) unbroken half of a match (Refer to sub-clause 10 (4)). A player, having played an unbroken half of a match and been replaced, may be used in the latter half of a match to replace a player who has also completed an unbroken half of a match or for a player who has been injured or asked to be replaced by the Referee.
6. In a Mini League match a team may begin a match with not less than six (6) players and it may fill the vacant position or positions at any time during the game. Each player in the team is to play a minimum of one (1) unbroken period of play as per sub-clause 10 (4). A player, having played an unbroken period of play and been replaced, may be used at a later period as a replacement for a player who has also completed an unbroken period of

play and not been replaced, or, for a player who has been injured or or asked to be replaced by the Referee.

13. SEMI-FINALS, FINALS AND GRAND FINALS

1. Subject to sub-clause 13 (2), where teams finish on equal competition points at the end of the competition rounds then relative placings on the competition ladder shall be decided in the following manner:-
 - (a) Where two (2) or more teams finish on equal competition points for any position in the semi finals, the semi finals placings shall be determined by the points differential (for and against) in all matches played between all the teams competing for the semi finals positions.
2. Extra time will be allowed for all time off in semi-finals, finals and grand finals.
3. If the scores are equal at full time, in semi-finals, finals or grand finals, the following times each way will be played with no time off:-
 - (a) A Grade to Under 15 Grades - 10 minutes,
 - (b) All other grades – 5 minutes.
4. Golden Point rules apply in extra time of semi-finals, finals and grand finals, that is, as soon as a try, goal or field goal is scored in extra time, the game is deemed complete.
5. In the event of scores being equal after extra time has been played in the semi-finals, finals or grand finals the match will be awarded to the team finishing higher on the competition ladder.
6. In order to be eligible to play in play offs, semi finals, finals and grand finals players must have played in at least three (3) competition games for their Member Body during the competition season, provided however, that no A division player may play in a semi final, final or grand final of a B or a C division in the grade immediately above his / her own and that no B Division player can play in a C Division in the grade immediately above his / her own (Refer to sub-clauses 5 (1) (a) and (b)).

7. No player shall participate in any semi final, final or grand final in an age division lower than the grade he / she has been originally registered.
8. Should a Member Body play a player who is deemed unregistered or unqualified in any semi final, final or grand final, for all cases, the result of any game won, shall be reversed, and the defaulting team shall be disqualified.
9. All teams from Under 8 to A Grade are to play minor semi finals, major semi finals, finals, and grand finals as follows:
 - (i) Team 1 v Team 2 (Major semi final)
 - (ii) Team 3 v Team 4 (Minor semi final)
10. The winner of the major semi final goes straight to the grand final. Loser of the major semi final goes into the final to play the winner of the minor semi- final. The loser of the minor semi final is eliminated. The winner of the final progresses to the grand final.

14. MISCONDUCT

1. (a) A Referee who has been appointed to a match by the Referees Association shall, without delay at the completion of the match report to the Ground Manager any instance or instances of rough or foul play during the progress of that match which has led to the dismissal of a player or players from the field.

(b) The Referee must also arrange for the Secretary of the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League to be notified, by submitting a citation sheet, within twenty four (24) hours of the conclusion of the match.
2. A Referee or Touch Judge who has been duly appointed to a match shall report any instance of misconduct by a player, players, coaches, trainers, officials or Member Body representatives irrespective of whether such misconduct occurred before, during or after such game, and whether it shall have led to the player or players or coaches or trainers being directed from the field of play or not.
3. Persons reporting such misconduct shall obtain the name of any offending player, players, coach, trainer, officials or Member Body representative from the Captain of the offending

team and should the Captain or Member Body representative of the offending team fail to supply the players, coach's, trainer's, official's or Member Body's representative correct name details this shall be deemed misconduct, for which they shall be cited.

4. Any player, players, coaches, trainers, officials or Member Body representatives who have been directed to leave the playing field shall immediately leave the playing field enclosure, and shall if a player or trainer resume his / her ordinary attire, and shall be suspended from playing or officiating in any further competition matches until his / her case shall have been duly dealt with by the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League.
5. (a) Any Member Body team playing any player while under suspension or disqualification shall lose the points of any matches won or drawn in which the suspended or disqualified player took part, and shall be rendered liable to disqualification or other disciplinary action by the Management Committee of the Junior League.

(b) This sub-clause shall also apply to play-offs except that the offending team shall lose the match and the other team shall be deemed to be the winner of that match and progress to the next play-off round or be declared the Premiers (where applicable).

(c) Appeals under this sub-clause must be lodged in writing with the District Club within seventy-two (72) hours of the date of the decision of the Management Committee of the Junior League, with a copy of the appeal being supplied to the Secretary or other appropriate official of the respondent Member Body.
6. Any matter requiring disciplinary action shall be dealt with in accordance with the Judiciary Guidelines as set out in Part Two of this document.
7. A Referee who has directed that a player, players, coach, trainer, official or Member Body representative leave the field of play pursuant to sub-clause 14(2) or a Referee or Touch Judge intends to cite a player, players, coach, trainer, official or Member Body representative for misconduct pursuant to sub-clause 14 (2) must prepare a written statement on the prescribed citation form as supplied by the Ground Manager outlining the nature of the charge serving same on the offending party or the team manager for the

offending Member Body team immediately after the match involving the incident so alleged to have occurred.

8. Any Member Body official / representative taking part or being involved in a competition match while under suspension or disqualification shall be automatically cited to appear before the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League.
9. Such citation referred to in sub-clause 14 (7) shall, where if reasonably practicable, be heard by the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League before the next competition match.
10. Any player, coach, trainer, club official or Member Body representative not appearing before a duly convened Hearing of the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League may be suspended until such time as they do appear and have been dealt with by the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League.

15. APPEALS

1. (a) Subject to the Constitution of the Junior League, a member of a Member Body may appeal to the Management Committee of the Junior League against any decision of their Member Body.

(b) Such notice of appeal shall be made in writing and lodged with the Secretary of the Junior League within seven (7) calendar days from the date of the decision which is the subject of the appeal.
2. (a) A player, coach, trainer, official or Member Body representative who has been suspended and/or fined by the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League may, with the written permission of his / her Member Body, appeal to the Management Committee of the Junior League.

(b) Such appeal shall only be heard where the player, coach, trainer, official or Member Body representative can produce fresh evidence which was not available at the Hearing before the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League.

(c) Any such appeal must be addressed to the Management Committee of the Junior League and served upon the Secretary of the Junior League within seventy two (72)

hours of the date of the decision of the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League and must attach the original letter of permission by the Member Body of the player, coach, trainer, official or Member Body representative.

3. All appeals lodged pursuant to these rules shall be accompanied by an appeal fee of \$100.00 or such other amount as may be decided by the General Committee of the Junior League from time to time.
4. Pending the determination of an appeal the decision which is the subject of that appeal shall be suspended.

16. PLAYERS UNIFORMS

1. Each Member Body shall register the colour or colours and design of its uniform or uniforms with the Secretary of the Junior League in writing on the approved form.
2. The General Committee of the Junior League shall have the power to accept or refuse any uniform for registration, if not sufficiently distinctive provided that such registration is not unreasonably refused.
3. Upon registration such uniform shall be the exclusive property of the Member Body first registering it, and must not be worn by any other Member Body.
4. Each player appearing for a Member Body in any match in any competition conducted by the Junior League shall wear a jersey, with sleeves and bearing a distinctive number, socks in the Member Body's registered colours and design, shorts and boots or shoes which must not have spikes or studs which could be considered dangerous. The numbers borne on the jersey of the player shall correspond with numbers shown in the team sign-on sheets. No two or more players in the one team may wear the same numbered jersey at the same time nor a jersey that has taped numbers.
5. The representative uniform of the Junior League shall be that of the District Club.

17. INSURANCE

1. It shall be compulsory for all players and officials who are registered members of a Member Body, to be part of the player and official insurance scheme as determined by the General Committee of the Junior League.
2. All information in regards to the name of the insurer and scheme of insurance for players and officials shall be distributed by the Insurance Officer of the Junior League to all Member Bodies at the commencement of each season.

18. MINI LEAGUE

The following rules relate to the presence of coaches on the field during Mini League games:

- (a) Under 6 age division Coaches are allowed to be on the field for all competition rounds.
- (b) Under 7 age division Coaches are allowed on the field during the first half of the competition rounds. For example up to and including round 7 of a 14 round competition.
- (c) The coach must at all times whilst on the field take up a position behind the full back position of his / her own team unless directed otherwise by the Referee.
- (d) In Under 6 and Under 7 age divisions after a try is scored the non-scoring side shall restart play with a tap on the centre of half way.

19. ENDEAVOUR FIELD NUMBERS 2 AND 3

1. In the event that the ball strikes overhead wires at Endeavour Field, the following shall apply:
 - (a) At a kick off – have one (1) re start, then in the event of it striking a second time a scrum with feed and loose head to receiving side in line with where it struck the wire no closer than twenty (20) metres from sideline ten (10) metres from goal line.
 - (b) At a penalty kick for goal – have one (1) further kick regardless if it went over the cross bar or not. If struck a second time then a dropout from the centre of the twenty (20) metre line by defending side.

- (c) Penalty kick for touch – have one (1) further kick regardless of it finding touch the first time. In the event of it striking a second time then a free kick to the kicking side in line with where it struck the wires and no closer than ten (10) metres from the sideline and ten (10) metres from the goal line.
- (d) Kick in general play – a scrum no closer than ten (10) metres from the goal line and twenty (20) metres from the sideline in line with where ball struck the wires with feed and loose to non-offending side.
- (e) At a goal line or 20 metre drop out – have one (1) further kick then if struck a second time a scrum with receiving side having feed and loose head in line with where it struck the wires no closer than ten (10) metres to the goal line and twenty (20) metres from the sideline.
- (f) Conversion attempt following a try – have one (1) further kick regardless if it was successful or not, then if struck a second time it is deemed unsuccessful, regardless of whether the ball goes over the crossbar. A restart will be a kick off from the centre of half way line.

20. A RESERVE GRADE COMPETITION

1. Free interchange of players between teams in A Grade and A Reserve Grade is permitted.
2. The only restriction should be that to be eligible for inclusion in any semi-final, final or grand final of an A Reserve Grade team, a player on the A Grade master card must have played at least three (3) out of the last five (5) matches in the A Reserve Grade. The only exception will be where the A Grade team is also in the semi final series.

21. GAMES PLAYED UNDER FLOODLIGHTS

1. Should any part of floodlights fail during a match, causing a reasonable loss of lighting to the playing field, the teams will cease playing until the fault is rectified or after a delay of thirty (30) minutes the Ground Manager shall make a decision that the match be called off owing to flood light failure.

22. CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

1. Player, coaches, trainers, officials and Member Body representatives must abide by the ARL / NSWRL - Code of Conduct as set out for referees, players, coaches, trainers, spectators and Member Body representatives.

23. SIZE OF FOOTBALLS

1. Size of footballs to be used in competition matches are as follows:
 - (a) Under 6 to Under 8 Years Grade - use a Mini League Ball.
 - (b) Under 9 to Under 12 Years Grade - use a Mod League Ball
 - (c) Under 13 Years Grade to A Grade - use an International Size Ball.

24. GROUND MANAGER'S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Duties and Responsibilities of a Ground Manager are as follows:
 - (a) First and foremost it is the responsibility of the Ground Manager to ensure that he or she is at all times present on the ground near the ground control table.
 - (b) The Ground Manager is to wear the distinctive coloured vest supplied to each Member Body by the Junior League so they are identifiable, the vests must have Ground Manager inscribed across the back of the vest.
 - (c) Ground Managers should see that all matches start at their scheduled starting time. A Member Body team may claim a forfeit ten (10) minutes after the scheduled starting time if the other team is not ready to take the field. If the case arises that both teams are not ready or willing to take the field to commence play, the match shall be declared abandoned. Details of an abandoned match are to be given to the Secretary of the Junior League in writing prior to the next General Committee meeting of the Junior League.
 - (d) On occasion a team may claim a delay of up to ten (10) minutes, if that team is not ready to take the field, after the scheduled time then sub-clause 23(c) shall apply.

- (e) Ground Managers, irrespective of the ten (10) minute delay should endeavour to see that the matches are played in full i.e. two (2) equal halves or three (3) ten (10) minute periods (Mini-League). Delayed matches as a general rule should not be delayed fifteen (15) minutes past their scheduled starting time.
- (f) Ground Managers should see that the rest intervals are kept to time by calling both teams to the field ready to play at the expiration of the allotted time.
- (g) In all unforeseen circumstances the paramount concern is to see that matches are played as near as possible to the scheduled playing time. A common sense approach should be adopted to overcome any difficulties that may arise.
- (h) It is the responsibility of the Ground Manager to ensure that either the coach or manager of each team has their team sign on sheet completed twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of their game. Reserves/Interchange players do not sign on until they are about to take the field.
- (i) Ground Managers should ensure that the trainer(s) from both teams have also signed the team sign on sheet and are wearing the correct Trainers T-shirt issued by the Junior League.
- (j) The Ground Manager should ensure that each team has a timekeeper. This timekeeper must not encourage or coach from the ground control table. Each team must supply a touch judge where applicable who shall be a person who is sixteen (16) years of age or over.
- (k) Before commencement of a match the Ground Manager must ensure that all goal post pads are in place, corner posts securely in ground, mini posts, where applicable, are in place, markers indicating half way lines etc. are in place and are one (1) metre away from side lines.
- (l) Ground Managers should ensure the only persons allowed inside the roped area are, the coach, manager, trainer(s) and four (4) interchange players for each team (where

applicable). Injured players that have not participated in the match are not allowed inside the roped area.

- (m) During the match the Ground Manager must ensure that each team's respective coach and trainer/s and interchange players are seated next to the ground control table. Coaches, trainers and interchange players are not permitted to walk up and down side lines issuing instructions to players and coaches are not to yell instructions from inside the roped area.
- (n) The Ground Manager must also ensure that all spectators are always outside the roped area.
- (o) The Ground Manager must ensure trainer(s) only take the field to attend injured player(s). They may only take the field to issue water during a break in play. Trainers are not to remain on the field of play portraying a fullback position, issuing instructions to his or her team. A scrum does not constitute a break in play.
- (p) The Ground Manager must replace corner posts or goal post pads if knocked down and or damaged, ensure roped areas are intact and periodically check to see if scores are recorded in correct places on team sign on sheets.
- (q) After the match the Ground Manager should ensure that final scores have been recorded, obtain the signature of the referee, obtain the signature of each Member Body officials and sign the team sign on sheet him or herself. If necessary make available citation notices to Referees.
- (r) The Ground Manager must make ensure any player sent to the sin bin remains seated next to the ground control table. The sin bin clock is stopped at all times the match time clock is stopped. The player must be off the field for ten (10) minutes "playing" time. Any player sent from the field immediately takes off his jumper and returns to the dressing sheds.
- (s) At the completion of all matches at the ground the Ground Manager shall ensure all team sign on sheets have been collected and recorded so that scores can be emailed

or faxed to the Junior League Manager by 5.30pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Ensure that team sign on sheets are given to the Secretary of the Member Body and or it's Junior League delegate to be handed in at the next General Meeting of the Junior League.

- (t) Under no circumstances will abuse to Referees, Officials, Ground Managers or racial or demeaning comments towards players, coaches or trainers be tolerated. Offenders, including but not limited to players, officials or spectators, shall be cited.
- (u) Inappropriate language will not be tolerated either on or off the field of play.

25. GENERAL

1. Unofficial touch judges are not permitted on the field of play to report to Referees and must be of the minimum age of 16 years.
2. Should a Member Body require the name of a Referee, the request is to be made via the Ground Manager.
3. Kicking tees are allowed to be used in all grades as approved by NSWRL or ARL.

PART TWO:

I JUDICIARY GUIDELINES

- A. The requirement that a player called before a Judiciary Committee should be aware of the nature of the charge before the hearing.**

All players, officials, coaches, trainers or officials that have been sent from the field of play or that have been cited must be provided with a copy of the Junior League charge sheet, if the person is not available to receive their charge sheet it must be made available to their Member Body noting the appropriate charge(s) prior to the Hearing before the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League.

- B. Representation at Judiciary Committee Hearings by a Barrister, Solicitor or Advocate.**

The Judiciary Committee of the Junior League grants leave, on such terms as it sees fit, to any person appearing before it for such person to be represented by a Barrister, Solicitor or Advocate and may modify the terms or revoke such leave prior to the commencement of the Hearing.

- C. Referees who dismiss a player on a Touch Judge's report are in some cases not required to attend the Judiciary Committee.**

The Referee as the person responsible for dismissing the player or citing a coach, trainer or official should be in attendance. He / she should give evidence in respect of the report by the Touch Judge and be available for questioning by the person appearing and / or the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League.

In some cases it could be apparent that the Referee saw the incident which led to the dismissal or citing and his / her reasons for not taking action may be relevant.

The Touch Judge should then be called to give his / her evidence.

- D. Biting, gouging or eye gouging**

Biting, gouging or eye gouging an opponent shall constitute player misconduct and the allegations will be heard by the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League. The Judiciary

Committee of the Junior League procedures are that when a player alleges that he / she has been bitten, gouged or eye gouged by another player, the Referee should call on both Captains and a Touch Judge to witness the complaint and inform the alleged offender that he / she will be reporting the allegation. The complainant player should also be made aware that he / she will have to attend the Hearing of the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League to explain the allegations so made by them.

E. The player's right to address the Judiciary Committee on the matter of penalty after a finding of guilt.

On a finding of guilty the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League will grant the player, coach, trainer, official or Member Body representative leave to address the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League, it is a principle of natural justice that a person found guilty of an offence or his / her representative be allowed to address the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League before any penalty is determined

F. Abuse of Referee after the conclusion of a game.

Reports of abuse of a referee will be dealt with by the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League. Law 8 of Section 16 of the Laws of the Game provides that players are under the control of the Referee until they leave the playing area ie the area enclosed by a fence or such other line of demarcation which prevents the encroachment of spectators. The Referee should inform the player that he / she will be cited and provide him / her with details of the alleged offence on the prescribed citation form.

G. Reports by Referees, Touch Judges and Officials

All Referees, Touch Judges or Officials shall provide seven (7) copies of their written statement to the Secretary of the Judiciary Committee prior to the Hearing commencing.

H. Video and DVD Evidence

The Judiciary Committee of the Junior League will allow the presentation of video or DVD evidence at a Judiciary Hearing. The evidence must be unedited, and disclose all relevant footage of the incident. The onus is on the person relying on such evidence to provide

facilities for the showing of the video or DVD and to arrange for the attendance of any person whom he / she wishes to call upon to give evidence on his / her behalf.

I. Appeals of Severity of Penalty

The Junior League does not allow appeals on severity of penalty issued by the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League.

J. Suspensions or disqualifications and their effect on the rights of players to take part in other competitions.

Any suspension imposed by the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League shall be served in matches played for their relevant age group (ie. age group they were playing in when they were sent off or cited) in the Junior League competition if the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League believes that the offence committed warrants notification to other relevant bodies such as school rugby league competition it should notify the Secretary of the Junior League for the Management Committee of the Junior League to have the final decision.

K. Workload of Judiciary Committee.

A sensible workload should only be expected from the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League, in some cases where not all Hearings can be heard in the one sitting it will be up to the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League to advise and arrange a further suitable date and time for any outstanding matters to be dealt with by it.

L. Procedure where Referees do not appear at the Hearing of the Judiciary Committee after dismissing a player or citing a coach, trainer or official.

If the player consents to the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League to hear the matter on the basis of the Referee's report and any other available evidence. If on the other hand the person appearing wishes to question the Referee as to the contents of his / her report he / she should be permitted to do so.

If the proceedings have to be adjourned because of the unavailability of the Referee the player, coach, trainer or official should be permitted to play, coach, trainer or official at a

match pending the Hearing unless in the opinion of the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League the player, coach, trainer or official should not be permitted to play, coach, trainer or official if the Competition Rules provide otherwise.

Hearings should be conducted as soon as possible as it is not desirable to have a player, coach, trainer or official facing a serious charge and who, if found guilty, may face a lengthy period of suspension continuing to play, coach, trainer or official in the meantime.

M. Procedure where the player, coach, trainer or official does not appear at the Hearing of the Judiciary Committee after being dismissed in a game or cited.

All proceedings must be adjourned because of the unavailability of the player, coach, trainer or official.

Any player, coach, trainer or official not presenting themselves before a duly convened Hearing of the Judiciary Committee may be suspended until such time as they do appear.

N. Role of Judiciary Committee.

It is the function of the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League to ascertain, if the charge laid by the Referee or citation, as the case may be, has been made out to determine whether or not the player is guilty or not guilty of a breach of the code of fair play.

The rules of natural justice must prevail. A player, coach, trainer or official must be given a fair Hearing during which he / she may be represented, be allowed to question the Referee, witnesses and introduce such relevant evidence as he / she sees fit, be granted an adjournment if his / her witnesses are not available.

The Judiciary Committee of the Junior League must inform itself, by asking questions of witnesses, if necessary, by watching videos or DVD's by admitting written documents which are not objected to by the person appearing before it.

If the player, coach, trainer or official is found guilty of the alleged offence, then, and only then, the player's, coach's, trainer's or official's previous record should be made known to the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League and he / she may then make submissions to

the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League on the question of penalty. The penalty imposed must be reasonable and reflect the nature and seriousness of the offence.

A Judiciary Committee hearing is an inquiry conducted by the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League and is not to be treated as a contest between the Referee and the player, coach, trainer or official. It must be conducted without bias and the evidence must be produced or viewed in the presence of the player, coach, trainer or official.

O. The onus of proof

It must be remembered that the allegation of misconduct is made against the person appearing before the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League. It is not up to him / her to prove his / her innocence. He / she may, if he / she so desires, remain silent and call no evidence and make no submission in his / her own defence.

The Judiciary Committee of the Junior League should satisfy itself that the person has a case to answer before hearing any evidence he / she wishes to produce or submission he / she wishes to make.

The Junior League carries the burden or onus of proof of proving the offence on the balance of probabilities test and to the reasonable satisfaction of the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League.

As the seriousness of the charge escalates, so does the degree of burden of proof escalate. Thus in the most serious type of offences, for example, gouging or biting, the Judiciary Committee of the Junior League may wish to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt rather than to their reasonable satisfaction.

II JUDICIARY COMMITTEE – PRACTICE STATEMENT

i) Preamble

Players, coaches, trainers and officials these days need to be aware of their legal rights and responsibilities. Sport and law is becoming an important, confusing topic. The incorporation of many clubs places further emphasis on the legal side of our sport and this in turn places more responsibility on the officials.

This Judiciary Committee - Practice Statement is an attempt to assist officials and to protect them at the same time. It is not put forward as a directive but merely as a guide based on legal advice and past experiences.

ii) Principles for Judiciary Committee Hearings:

The most important principle for all Judiciary Committee proceedings is that of “natural justice”. Any player, coach, trainer or official appearing must receive a fair hearing by an unbiased tribunal.

The laws of natural justice apply to “domestic tribunals” such as a rugby league Judiciary Committee.

The most important points relating to the laws of natural justice as they apply to the Judiciary Committee are:-

- (a) The player, coach, trainer or official has the right to be heard by an unbiased tribunal.
- (b) The player, coach, trainer or official should know the charge against him / her well in advance of the hearing.
- (c) The player, coach, trainer or official must be given ample opportunity to state his case either orally or in writing.

The player must be present when the Referee, Touch Judge or witness are giving evidence and the player, coach, trainer or official must be given the opportunity to question the Referee, Touch Judge or witness on any relevant points.

All evidence against the player, coach, trainer or official must be available to him / her.

The player, coach, trainer or official should only be questioned on the charge held against him / her.

The Referee must not be present when the matter of guilt or penalty is being discussed by the Judiciary Committee.

iii) Procedures for Judiciary Committee Hearings

Based on the above principles, the following procedure is suggested:

1. Immediately following the match in question the player, coach, trainer or official should be provided with:
 - (a) The charge or charges as per the prescribed citation form.
 - (b) Time and venue of the Hearing, (if different to the advised time and venue as advised by the General Committee of the Junior League from time to time).
2. At the commencement of the Hearing both the player, coach, trainer or official and Referee should be called into the room together.
3. The Chairman of the Judiciary Committee should then read the charge to the player, coach, trainer or official and ask him whether he / she:-
 - (a) understands the charge;
 - (b) has had sufficient time to prepare his / her case; and
 - (c) wishes to be represented.
4. If the player, coach, trainer or official says 'yes' to 3 (a) and (b), the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee should then ask him / her how he / she pleads ie guilty or not guilty.
5. If the player, coach, trainer or official pleads not guilty the following applies:
 - (a) The Referee should then be asked to describe the incident in his / her own words that led him / her to dismissing the player or citing the coach, trainer or official. If the player was dismissed on a Touch Judge report, he / she should then be called into the room to give his evidence.
 - (b) The Judiciary Committee and the player, coach, trainer or official should then be given the opportunity to question the Referee and/or Touch Judge on their evidence only.
 - (c) The player, coach, trainer or official should then be given the opportunity to present his / her evidence and state his / her case.

- (d) The Judiciary Committee may then question the player, coach, trainer or official on any part of his / her evidence. The player, coach, trainer or official can only be questioned on matters relating directly to the charge.
- (e) Once the player, coach, trainer or official has been given every opportunity to present his / her case and all evidence (including the video and / or DVD) has been presented, the Hearing room is cleared while the Judiciary Committee deliberate on the question of guilt.
- (f) Once the decision is reached the player, coach, trainer or official is recalled and if found not guilty, he / she is discharged.
- (g) If the player, coach, trainer or official is found guilty, he / she must be given every opportunity to address the Judiciary Committee on the question of penalty. The player, coach, trainer or official may wish to highlight his / her past record or any matter he / she thinks will assist him / her. He / She may also call any character witnesses at this time.
- (h) The Hearing room is then again cleared whilst the penalty is decided.
- (i) The player, coach, trainer or official is then recalled and advised of the penalty. A player should then be advised, if suspended, that the suspension includes all mid week football or any competition recognised by the Junior League (eg: University Shield, Buckley Shield etc).
- (j) The Member Body of the player, coach, trainer or official will immediately be advised in writing as to the outcome of the Hearing to allow for any appeals to be lodged.
- (k) Should the player seek to be represented by a Barrister or Solicitor or Advocate, the Judiciary Committee may grant leave for such representation on such terms as it may think fit.

iv) Contact with the head or neck of an opposing player

The Rugby League International Board (RLIB) has indicated in clear terms that it deems contact with the head or neck of players a serious offence and wishes to eliminate such a misdemeanour from the game.

Currently, Rule (15) (1) (b) is worded in the following terms:

A player is guilty of misconduct if he:

- (b) when effecting or attempting to effect a tackle makes contact with the head or neck of an opponent internationally, recklessly or carelessly.

The RLIB was concerned that there should be so many players appearing before it on what are extremely serious charges.

Accordingly, it felt that it is appropriate that all Clubs, coaches and players should be informed of the way in which it interprets the new rule so that everyone will be aware of what is required of players on the field.

The approach which it takes in deciding whether a player is guilty of an offence is to first consider two questions, namely:

- (i) Was the player effecting or attempting to effect a tackle?
- (ii) Did the player make contact with the head or neck of the tackled player?

In answering Question ii, it does not matter what part of the charged player came into contact with the head or neck of the tackled player it does not matter whether the contact was the first point of contact or not. The only consideration is whether there was contact with the head or neck of the tackled player.

If both Questions (i) and (ii) are answered yes, then it decides whether the contact with the head or neck was:

- (i) intentional, or;
- (ii) reckless, or;

(iii) careless.

If it is satisfied that the contact was intentional, reckless or careless, then the charged player will be found guilty of the offence.

A player can clearly be guilty of the offence even though he did not intentionally come into contact with the head or neck of the tackled player if he carried out a tackle or attempted a tackle in a way which was reckless or careless.

The decision on all of the above questions are made on all the evidence before the Judiciary Committee including what appears on a video or DVD.