



2019 JUNIORS SEASON FORMAT

From 2016 the Junior Rugby League Competition in Northland will be managed by a Junior North Delegates Committee and a Junior South Delegates Committee. For terms of reference please see **Appendix 1 and 2.**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. **Competition Name:** The competition will be named as the RLN Junior Competition.
2. **Governance:** Two Junior Delegates Committees will be responsible for the governance of the above competition. Governance will manage issues such as the registrations and draws. On field indiscretions, will be managed by the RLN Judiciary.
3. **Judiciary:** RLN will establish a judiciary that aligns with the RLN constitution – see **Appendix 2.**
4. **Entry:** Entry: Entry into the RLN Jennian Homes Juniors competition will be open to Affiliated Rugby League Clubs in Northland.
 - a. ALL Clubs to be affiliated to RLN - they can apply for affiliation to the RLN Board in writing. The application should include a club constitution, business plan, and junior development plan.
 - b. The application will need to be supported in writing by the Club Chairperson, Treasurer and/or secretary.
5. **Commencement Date:** Mini Mods\Youth Grades and International Grade 13s:

There is to be no competition for ALL Mini and Mod Grades as per NZRL regulations. Minis and Mods and Age Grade 13s will commence on Sunday 17th March. Games will finish on Sunday 30th June.

All clubs who have submitted teams in mini/mods grades on their entry form, must commence at the same start date as determined in this document. Non-attendance of teams once entered as starting, will result in penalties applied as per the Defaults Section 31.

If a team is unable to commence on the start date of Sunday 17th March, there will be an opportunity to register a team into the draw to play from a 2nd date of Sunday 7th April. Teams will not receive any points until they have been entered into the draw and commence play.

Should a new team wish to enter after the 2nd date, this will be assessed by RLN on a case by case scenario, along with the start date for the new team.

International:

13s will commence Round 1 on Sunday 17th March and will finish on Sunday 30th June.
15s will commence Round 1 on Sunday 28th April and will finish on Saturday/Sunday 3rd/4th August.



17s will commence Round 1 on Sunday 28th April and will finish on Saturday/Sunday 3rd/4th August.

All clubs who have submitted teams in international grades in their entry form, where it is a Northern Zone wide competition, must commence at either of the two start dates as determined above. Non-attendance of teams will result in default rulings applying. [Defaults Section 31]

Rescheduling:

Rescheduling games - can be rescheduled by the team requiring the change, a date **MUST** suit both teams. This needs to be communicated to Rugby League Northland no less than 10 days before the fixture. Should both teams not be available for a proposed reschedule then the default day is the day in the draw and the team who is not able to play on the scheduled draw day, is in default and default rules apply.

If a change is made it is the responsibility of the Clubs to sort out a venue.

6. **The format** of the competition will be published to all Clubs prior to competition commencement. **Refer to Appendix 2.**
7. **The RLN Junior International Grand Final is** set for the Saturday/Sunday 3rd/4th August at Toll Stadium
8. **Criteria for entry:**
 - a. Clubs to have completed an entry form by Wednesday 13th March – see **Appendix 3.**
 - i. An entry Fee of \$60 for Mini Mod teams and \$120 per team for 13s, 15s and 17s, to a maximum of \$300
 - b. All clubs must be able to provide a suitable playing field and facilities for 13s, 15s and 17s. Host clubs are responsible for providing appropriate facilities for travelling teams.
 - c. All Junior Coaches will need to have a suitable qualification. If the relevant coaching certificate is not held then the coach must complete the relevant coaching certificate in 2018.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The following rules and regulations will adhere to the 2018 Competition:

MATCH DAY PROCEDURES APPLIES TO INTERNATIONAL GRADES ONLY:

9. **Playing Teams:** Teams will consist of seventeen players, thirteen on the field plus a bench of four reserve players. There will be unlimited interchanges.
10. **Referees:** Referees for the 13s, 15s and 17s age grades will be appointed by the Rugby League Northland referees association. Clubs cannot request any allocation or non-allocation of referees.
 - a. In the event of a referee no show, every best endeavor will be made by clubs to provide a suitable referee.
 - b. All clubs will need to provide a suitable touch judge (min age 16) for every game.
11. **Match Officials:** All clubs will need to provide a match manager. Both Match managers must sit together at half way. In the event that a match manager is unavailable, the Coach will need to fulfill this role. The match manager's role will be to:



- a. Provide opposition team with eligible player's team lists. Both managers must sight the players against the team cards list a minimum of 10 minutes PRIOR to game kick off
- b. Ensure that RLN approved teams cards have been correctly completed and signed by Players (prior to the game) and by both Match Managers and Referees at the conclusion of the game.
- c. Keep time (referee is the final keeper of time)
- d. Keep a record of the scores and the scorers
- e. Manage sin bin
- f. Manage interchange
- g. Match Managers should mark all Match Cards with player scores for each game
- h. Match Managers should ensure that Match Cards are submitted to admin@rln.co.nz by 12 noon on Tuesday following the game. Failure to submit a Match Card will result in the team forfeiting any points. The result will stand as a 30-0 loss (unless the loss from the game had a higher negative points differential)
- i. It is the referee's responsibility to text through final scores to RLN: 021 242 6975
- j. The Referee will keep time.

12. Interchange: There will be unlimited interchanges.

- Players must have fully left the field before he can be replaced.
- All interchanges must take place between the 10m lines near halfway.
- No interchanges are permitted during a scrum.

13. Sideline: It is the home match manager's responsibility to ensure that field is roped off from all spectators. The field must have correct markings a full set of goal post protectors and a minimum of 4 line flags (4 x Corner Flags).

- a. Both the home and away teams need to be positioned on the same side of the field 10m from the half way line.
- b. Coaches and all team staff must stay with their team. Under no circumstances are any team officials to roam up and down the sideline.
- c. It is the Match Managers (x 2 one from each team) responsibility to ensure that orderly behavior is adhered to by team officials, reserves and spectators. In the case where unruly behavior has a negative effect on the match either match manager should indicate to the referee to stop play until the situation is suitably dealt with. It is all our responsibility to ensure that the game of Rugby League is played hard but fair.
- d. Be a Sports vest must be worn by one person from each team. They will be responsible for their team supporters who become unruly. Referees will not start the game if they cannot identify two be a sport vests on the sideline.

14. Trainers: All teams must provide a minimum of one trainer per game. All trainers MUST have completed a the NZRL League Safe Course within the last 3 years. A maximum of 2 trainers per team per game permitted.

- The Trainers are permitted on the field for the re-hydration of players and attending to injuries and as such, their on-field time should be limited to that purpose. Only when in possession or attending to injuries.
- Trainers, when not re-hydrating the players, are to return to the reserve bench area and are not permitted to wander up and down the touch line.
- Trainers under no circumstance are to remain standing in or behind their team's line or in goal area during the run of play.

15. Mouth guards must be worn at all times. No mouth guard = no play. Referees will send a player



to the sin bin if he is not wearing his mouth guard.

16. All games will be played over 2 halves of
13's – 25 minute halves
15's – 30 minute halves
17's – 30 minute halves
all with a 5-minute break at half time.

17. Each team will be asked to supply a touch judge before the game kicks off.

18. If the sin bin is needed it will be for a max of 5 minutes.

19. Any player who arrives late to a match can only take the field as long as he was signed on the Match Managers Team Card prior to kick off

20. Points system will be – 2 points for a win, 1 for a draw, 0 for a loss.

21. Finals Qualification:

- i. For players to be eligible for Finals they must have been registered by June 30th and have played a minimum of two pool games for that age group.
- ii. If a player has been playing the season for 2 age grades then the player will only qualify to play finals for the age grade that he has represented greater in (played most games for).
- iii. A player who has registered and played an age grade up cannot drop back into his rightful age grade for finals

Semi Finals for the 15s and 17s will see the top four plays off (with competitions with more than 4 teams). With 1st v 4th and 2nd v 3rd with 1st and 2nd placings having home field advantage. The winners of the Semi Finals will progress to the finals at a venue to be decided by RLN.

The top from each division will host second place from the other area. A Finals Date and Venue will be determined by RLN pending field availability.

22. Serious Misconduct: If any serious misconduct occurs resulting in a player being sent off they will be given an automatic suspension as per the RLN Judiciary process – see amendment.

23. Host venue responsibilities:

- To set up field as per international standard. Line flags, padded posts and sidelines roped off.

24. First Aid – Each team is responsible for their own first aid.

25. Defaults: All defaults must be notified to RLN no later than then 24 hours preceding the match. RLN will then be responsible for contacting all other parties

- a. Failure to notify RLN of a team default within 24 hours of the match will incur a cost of a \$50 default fine. It is acknowledged that there are occasions of certain circumstances that do not allow for early notification, in these cases fees may be waived, but submissions must be within 10 working days, made to the RLN Junior Delegates committee for approval.
- b. Default penalties for non-compliance:
 - i. The first default will result in the Team receiving a \$50 fine payable to RLN



- ii. Every other default in a season will add an extra \$50 to the fine. I.e. Second default \$100, third default \$150 etc.
- iii. Two defaults in succession OR four defaults in a season will result in elimination from the competition

26. Travel: Clubs will be solely responsible to make own arrangements for transportation to and from game venues.

DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTES PROCESS:

Please refer to Appendix 2 – RLN Disciplinary Procedures Manual

MATCH POINT SYSTEM APPLIES TO INTERNATIONAL GRADES ONLY:

27. The following number of match points will be awarded for each pool game:

- a. Win = 2 Points
- b. Draw = 1 Point
- c. Loss = 0 Points

28. Points: If points are drawn at the conclusion of the round robin rankings will be determined firstly by:

- Point's differential will apply, that is the team that has the highest difference of points for minus points against will be the higher ranked.
- If teams are still tied after point differential, then the team that won the match pool play between the even teams is declared to finish higher.
- In the event of a draw in pool play then the team that has scored the most accumulated points during pool play will be deemed to be the highest placed team.
- In the event that the teams are still tied then a toss of the coin will deem the higher ranked team.



APPENDIX 1 – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Rugby League Northland Junior Competitions Committees – North and South

Committee Authority

The Committees are delegated by the Rugby League Northland Board of Directors to manage the delivery of Junior Rugby League in Northland.

Membership

The Committee shall consist of:

- Chair: The Chair should not be the General Manager.
- The delegates will form a committee that has a secretary, registrations officer, treasurer and the draw will be distributed by RLN.
- Delegates from all participating clubs in the Juniors Competition
 - o South club delegates x 10
 - o North club delegates x TBC
- RLN Development Officer(s) – non-voting but with full speaking rights at meetings
- Competition Manager – non-voting but with full speaking rights at meetings

Election of Committee Members

If club delegate positions (Chairperson) are not appointed by the AGM, the RLN Board will seek and appoint appropriate people to fulfill those roles.

Clubs may send as many people to a delegate meeting as required, however each club must nominate one person who will be the main point of contact. This person will be the official club junior delegate. Where the official delegate can't attend their vote may be carried by another club member acting as the club delegate.

It is a requirement for clubs/schools that wish to play Rugby League in Northland to send a delegate to as many meetings as practical.

The elected Chairperson will need to be confirmed by the RLN Board before their official appointment. The chairperson's role is to:

1. Introduce meeting etiquette & tikanga
 - a. Brotherhood of League is crucial to the growth of the game.
 - b. Everyone is at the table for the same purpose growth and development of Rugby League and its image.
2. Liaise with the RLN GM and the delegates with regard to setting an agenda.
3. Facilitate the Meeting, lead discussion not dictate.
4. Facilitate decision making
5. Vette inwards and outwards correspondence
6. Delegate actions/to do's

Relationship with Management

The Committee's key relationship is with the General Manager, who is the go-between for the Committee and the RLN Board of Directors.

The GM will monitor the activity of the Committees, ensuring decisions made are within the Terms of Reference, adhere to RLN policy and align with the RLN strategic direction.



Meetings

Meetings shall be held as determined by the Committees. A quorum of 6 Committee Members (60% of the vote) shall be required including the Chair, or his/her nominee. The North and South meetings dates will be published in the 2018 Calendar.

Meetings will address areas such as:

1. Creating the best possible environment for kids to play league in
2. Communication
3. Referee Development
4. Event Management, Managing the draw
5. Registration management and policy
6. Junior Delegates will manage grades 7s – 17s

Where a vote is required only one delegate per club may vote. Minimum of 6 committee members, 60% of the vote required for a vote to count.

Duties of the Clubs/Delegates

Representatives are required to attend every scheduled meeting. If, for whatever reason, the nominated representative is unable to attend they need to organize to have a suitable replacement with voting authority to attend on their behalf. This must be communicated to RLN prior to the meeting.

Communication

All communication is sent via the designated junior club delegate. It is their responsibility to ensure messages are communicated within your club network.

Operation

The Committee will:

- Conduct its proceedings and set its direction by reference to and in accordance with these Terms of Reference and the Rugby League Northland Constitution.
- Devise and deliver competitions to the Junior grade(s) within the playing window and policies created and communicated by the RLN Board.
- Communicate all draws and results to RLN staff to ensure it is swiftly and effectively communicated to RLN participants.
- Ensure all Junior Competitions participants under this Committee are registered in the NZRL Leagunet database.
- Liaise with the Rugby League Northland Referees to ensure all matches have referees appointed – where it has been agreed official Referees are in attendance.
- Liaise with the Competitions Judicial Committee and Rugby League Northland Referees with regard to disciplinary matters arising from competitions and follow the Judiciary process delegated by the RLN Board.
- Provide assistance to other RLN activities relevant to these grades (ie camps, representative fixtures etc.
- Follow and review the Terms of Reference and Annual Work Plan of this committee and provide any recommendations to the RLN Board by 31 October each year.
- Keep minutes of each meeting and lodge these with the General Manager for forwarding to the RLN Board and Clubs within 7 days of circulation between RLN Board and the Senior Competitions committee.

These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed no later than 31st October each year.



APPENDIX 2 – DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES MANUAL

1. Introduction

1.1 Rugby League Northland (“RLN”) is tasked with growing the game within Northland. One way they will do that is by creating a fair and honest disciplinary process.

1.2 The process that has been adopted by RLN regarding disciplinary procedures is contained within this manual which shall be referred to as the Disciplinary Procedures Manual. Please ensure that when referring to the Disciplinary Procedures Manual you have the current version as it is likely that some processes and procedures will be amended overtime.

2. RLN Judicial Committee

2.1 RLN has formed a Judicial Committee to:

- a. Adjudicate on judicial matters involving fixtures and any matches under the jurisdiction of RLN, and any judicial matters referred to the Judicial Committee by the Citing officer.
- b. Decide all questions or disputes between members relating to the playing of the game or management of the affairs of any member.
- c. Determine the guilt or otherwise of any player and or member of the RLN and where appropriate give a penalty to the player.

2.2 Permanent members of the Judicial Committee may not be employees or contractors of the RLN.

2.3 Permanent members of the Judicial Committee will be selected by the RLN Board.

2.4 If the Judicial Committee determines that a member is in breach of these rules or is not complying with the RLN Constitution, the Judicial Committee, after conducting an investigation and/or hearing shall have the power to suspend and or expel the player or official for a period of time that is appropriate in all the circumstances of the case.

2.5 The membership of the RLN Judicial Committee shall consist of a chairperson and two committee members. Additional members can be co-opted by the chairperson to assist the Judicial Committee for the consideration of a particular matter.

2.6 It is desirable that the chairperson is a Barrister or Solicitor and that the two remaining members are an ex-Rugby League administrator and an ex-Rugby League International or provincial player.

2.7 Three members of the Judicial Committee must be present at any of the hearing of that committee.

3. Referral to the Judicial Committee

3.1 There are six possible ways a matter can be referred to the Judicial committed for determination:

- a. A player that is put on report during a match will be referred to the Judicial Committee.
- b. A matter during a match that did not result in a report may be referred to the Citing officer who may determine that the incident should be the referred to the Judicial Committee.
- c. A player that is sent off during a match and receives a Grade 1 Offence can lodge an appeal against the standard penalty applicable to the offence.
- d. A player that is sent off during a match for a Grade 2 offence.
- e. By agreement between the parties the Judicial Committee may be convened to resolve any other issue that it is in the best interest of the RLN to resolve.
- f. By way of the protest in accordance with clause 4. below.



4. Protests

4.1 A club may file a protest to the judicial committee by 12pm Monday immediately following the match. The prescribed fee for filing a protest will be \$200. If the protest is successful this fee will be refunded. In the event that the protest is unsuccessful the fee will not be refunded.

4.2 The protest procedure is on the back of the team cards and this must be correctly completed and sent in along with the protest letter.

4.3 Both match managers need to sign the team card and the protest for it to be a valid protest.

5. Misconduct

5.1 If any serious misconduct occurs resulting in a player being sent off they will be given an automatic suspension.

a. Automatic suspension periods are stipulated in the table below.

b. The suspension will be dependent on a referees report – in the event of a sending off the referee must inform the RLN General Manager immediately after the match via text with the match results.

c. A signed referees report should be submitted to RLN General Manager by 12.00pm Monday following the game in question.

i. In the event of a referee's report not being submitted within a suitable time frame to deal with the situation, and if the player would likely appeal any suspension, then the player may be eligible to play until the relevant referee report is received and the judicial committee can meet.

ii. In the event of a report not being submitted by the Referee, the RLN referees association will be fined \$60.

iii. In the event that the referee's report is not submitted within six days, the offending referee will be stood down until the report is submitted

d. Both Match Managers will need to comment on the send-off via email to the General Manager by 12pm Monday following the match.

6. Appeal of Mandatory Grade 1 Offence

6.1 If a player chooses to appeal and are still found guilty, the penalty may be doubled. Clubs will be advised once a referee's report is in and the player will have until 9am Wednesday to lodge an appeal via email to Rugby League Northland – Email: admin@rln.co.nz. All appeals will be dealt with by the judicial committee by 9pm Thursday evening following the lodging of an appeal.

7. Right of Appeal

7.1 A right of appeal from decisions of the Judicial Committee to the NZRL Appeals Committee is available in accordance with Rule 29 of the RLN constitution.

7.2 Suspensions imposed by the Judicial Committee will remain in place until such an appeal hearing.

8. Sending Off Offences

8.1 The table below is adopted by RLN to give an indication of the type of offending and the range of penalties.

8.2 Any sending off offence will be classified in accordance with the table and the player will, subject to the rights of appeal outlined above receive a penalty in the corresponding amount.

8.3 If a player receives two automatic suspensions, the third time they are sent off they will need to attend a Judiciary Hearing and the following automatic suspensions will not apply.

8.4 For Grade 2 offences the player will need to attend a judicial hearing. They will need to attend with a club representative (either the coach or the manager)



Any breach of the rules of Rugby League resulting in a sending off will be graded 1 or 2. Grade 2 offences are deemed severe enough to warrant appearing before judiciary. Incidents listed are used as a guideline and a sending off should not be limited to the incidents listed below.

Offence / Charge	Mandatory Suspension Period	Early Guilty Plea Reduction Period
Tripping	2 matches	1 match
Kicking	6 matches	3 matches
Striking	6 matches	3 matches
Head High Tackle	4 matches	2 matches
Dangerous Throw/Tackle	6 matches	3 matches
Dropping knees	4 matches	2 matches
Offensive behaviour/Language	2 matches	1 match
Spitting	4 matches	2 matches
Biting	8 matches	4 matches
Referee/Match Official Abuse	8 matches	4 matches
Re-entering field of play	8 matches	4 matches
Mandatory Judicial Attendance		
Called-off Game	Mandatory Judicial Attendance	
Citing's (inclusive of any misconduct not seen by Match officials)	Mandatory Judicial Attendance	
Second offence or more in a playing season	Mandatory Judicial Attendance	
Side line eviction	Mandatory Judicial Attendance	

Judicial Committee Hearings

9.1 To help eliminate travel requirements, hearings may take place via Skype or Teleconference. ALL judicial hearings will take place on Thursday evenings at 6pm following the incident. Details of the logistics of the hearing will be communicated with the team manager by Wednesday 5.00pm.

9.2 Failure to notify the Judicial Panel of non-attendance may result in the penalty being doubled.

9.3 If the player in question is unable to attend the Judiciary due to work commitment then a respected member of the players club can attend on behalf of this player.

9.4 At the hearing the evidence available to prove or disprove the matter under investigation will be considered. Such evidence will include but not be limited to:

- Referees report
- Witness statements
- Victim statements
- Video footage or photographs
- Verbal statements from the player sighted
- Any other admissible material



Prescribed Offence Penalties

These prescribed offences are to be used as a guideline for Grade 2 Offence with the judiciary having the ability to increase or lower depending on evidence at the judicial hearing.

Offence	Prescribed Suspension
Kicking	6 matches
Fighting/ Striking	6 matches
Head High Tackle	4 matches
Dangerous throw - tackle	6 matches
Dropping of Knees	4 matches
Conduct contrary to spirit of the game	4 matches
Referee/Match Official Abuse	8 matches
Re-entering the field of play	8 matches

Process Ratified by Senior Delegates Committee 1 April 2016.



APPENDIX 3 – Juniors – Official Entry Form 2019

Please complete this form in FULL, including signature from either Club Chairman or Club Secretary

FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2019

Club Name:	
Street Address:	
Postal Address: (if different)	
Telephone:	
Website:	
Email:	
Facebook Page:	
Playing Ground Address:	
Training Ground Address:	
Club Colours:	
Club Logo (send jpeg or pdf to admin@rln.co.nz)	

Payment of Fees:

I acknowledge that we are required to pay an entry Fee of \$60 for Mini Mod teams and \$120 per team for 13s, 15s and 17s, to a maximum of \$300 and undertake to do so:

Tick Relevant Box:

- In full which is attached to this application
- Per the schedule outlined in the format clause 5.a

Payments can be made either by cash, cheque or direct debit to:

RLN Bank Account: BNZ Account 02-0214-0151541-00

Reference: CLUB Name-Affiliation Fee



Position	Name	Telephone	Mobile	Email
Chairperson				
Secretary				
Treasurer				
Senior Delegate				
Junior Delegate				
Leaguesnet Administrator				
Committee Member				
Committee Member				
Committee Member				
Committee Member				
Committee Member				

Coaching Staff:

All coaches must have a minimum coaching certificate to coach, be registered in the NZRL Leaguesnet database and have completed the online League Smart course.

Minimum qualifications as stipulated below:

1. Youth 12s – 18's: Beginner Youth or IGC
2. Mini Mod 6s, 8s and 10s: Mini Mod (having either Beginner Youth, Beginner Senior or IGC **DOES NOT** qualify to coach Mini Mod)

Position	Name	Telephone	Mobile	Email	QUAL
JUNIORS - Nursery					Y/N
Coach					
Manager					
Other					



JUNIORS – 7s					Y/N
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Coach					
Manager					
Other					

JUNIORS – 9s					Y/N
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Coach					
Manager					
Other					

JUNIORS – 11s					Y/N
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Coach					
Manager					
Other					

JUNIORS – 13s					Y/N
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Coach					
Manager					
Other					

JUNIORS – 15s					Y/N
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Coach					
Manager					
Other					

JUNIORS – 17s					Y/N
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Coach					
Manager					
Other					



I agree that under the criteria to be eligible for playoffs we will field a minimum of 4 grades between age grades 7s – 17s. .

Tick

I agree that that our club can will provide the following:

- Club Room facilities
- After match function
- Toilets
- Showers
- Goals Post Pads
- Fenced or roped off playing field
- Line Flags – Min 10
- 2 Match Balls per home match

THE RUGBY LEAGUE PLEDGE

- We are committed to growing Rugby League in New Zealand.
- We will do the best to improve the image of our game, as such we are committed to only positive behaviour on our fields and sidelines.
- The safety and enjoyment of all who participate in our game is our first priority.
- We will respect the traditions of our game, we will play hard and we will play fair in any role that we have, and we will always act with honour both on and off the field.

SIGNED:

PRINT NAME:

DATE:

CLUB:

CLUB POSITION:

By completing and signing this form:

I agree that our club will adhere to all the rules and regulations within the Juniors Format 2019 and we will play within the spirit of Rugby League. Play hard but fair and respect everyone within our Rugby League whanau on and off the field.