



2019 PREMIERSHIP SEASON FORMAT

From 2013 the Senior Rugby League Competition in Northland will be managed by a Senior Delegates Committee. For terms of reference please **see Appendix 1.**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. **Competition Name:** The competition will be named as the RLN Premiership.
2. **Governance:** A Senior Delegates Committee will be responsible for the governance of the above competition. Governance will manage issues such as the registrations, draw and oversee the RLN Premiership Judiciary.
3. **Entry:** Entry into the RLN Premiership 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.
4. **Commencement Date:** The RLN Premiership will commence of the weekend of the **6th April 2018**. All Games can be scheduled for Fridays, Saturdays or Sunday's.
 - a. Unless prior agreement between clubs that have been confirmed and endorsed by the RLN Senior Delegates Committee at least 14 days prior to the scheduled fixture
 - b. In the event of a club NOT being able to fulfill the fixture on the scheduled date this will be deemed to be a default
5. **The format** of the competition will see a 5-team competition.
 - a. There will be 3 full rounds home and away.
6. **The RLN Premiership Grand Final is** set for the **3rd/ 4th August 2019** depending on Toll Stadium availability
 - a. Three weeks have been allocated for the finals series. The finals series will be TOP 4.
 - b. Rugby League Northland retains the right to collect all gate takings from all finals games (semis included)
 - c. To be eligible for finals, players must have played a minimum of **7** games (4 played, up to 3 as medical dispensation, tangihana (Clubs must have advised RLN on the week of the Saturday the player is away) or work letter which must have the company work letter head and a contact number for verification of employment) in the regular season for their current registered Club.
 - i. Dispensation requests must be received in writing to the General Manager by the **12th of July.**
 - ii. Medical dispensations need to be accompanied by a medical certificate.
7. **Prizemoney:** Winners will receive prize money.



8. Criteria for entry:

a. New teams seeking to play in the RLN Premiership competition need to complete an entry form by **8th March 2019** and meet all entry criteria listed below. All Clubs from the previous season are not required to fill out an entry form but must meet all criteria for entry.

i. An entry Fee of \$500

Entry fee must be paid in full before the **6th April 2019**. If fees are not received by the due date then until full payment is received then the team will be playing for no points.

b. Clubs to have a meaningful *Junior Development Program or teams must field a minimum of **THREE** Junior teams in the following grades 1 mini, 1 mod and 1 international. Multiple teams in the same age grade do not count to fulfill criteria. i.e. Four 6 year old teams entered will not count as four teams. This will count as one team.

i. Clubs can apply to RLN to field joint teams to fulfill criteria briefly outlining the joint relationship

ii. Clubs can count school teams if they are affiliated to the school and the school team is playing in the RLN Competition. Clubs must apply in writing outlining the nature of the affiliation.

iii. Should clubs not meet the criteria they will not be eligible to qualify for the finals series.

iv. A decision will be made by the **30th of June 2019** as to if a club has met the criteria:

- RLN recognises that Northland has diverse needs as such the following criteria will fit for the following districts: If weekends are rained off it will count as a completed week.
- RLN will keep a weekly register of junior games played – this will be available for review at delegate meetings.
- RLN Clubs to field a minimum of three teams in the above grades or have a meaningful *Junior Development Program;
- Teams must have played a minimum of 6 weeks to be deemed to meet the criteria

- Should clubs field a team in every available grade they will be rewarded with an RLN Club Pack that will consist of 5 Senior Footballs and 5 Mini Footballs.

c. All clubs must be able to provide a suitable playing field and changing facilities.

d. All Coaches Junior and Senior will need to have a suitable qualification including the completion of the online NZRL League Smart course. If the relevant coaching certificate is not held then the coach must complete the relevant coaching certificate in **2019**.

i. Failure to adhere to the above rule will deem clubs ineligible for playoffs and a \$100 fine per team that did not adhere to the criteria.



RULES AND REGULATIONS:

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

MATCH DAY PROCEDURES:

- 9. Playing Teams:** Teams will consist of seventeen (17) players, thirteen (13) on the field plus a bench of four (4) reserve players. There will be a maximum of 12 interchanges.
 - a. Should a reserve grade be played – teams must field a minimum of 9 players. Each team will then field the same number of players.
 - b. Any player who arrives late to a match can only take the field as long as he was listed on the Match Managers Team Card prior to kick off, this being the case the player is then to sign the team card before he takes the field.

- 10. Player Cards:** Teams will be issued with a business card folder with a printed registration card for every registered player in the team. Only players with a player card within this folder may play in the match.
 - a. These folders will be issued by Round 2 of the competition – until then the team card listing will be emailed to each senior delegate.
 - b. At the completion of the Clubs season it is the Senior delegates responsibility to return this folder with all player cards to RLN. All folders must be returned to RLN by the 31st August of the current year.
 - c. If any cards are missing upon the Club folders return the Club will be charged \$5 per missing card or if the folder is not returned by the above date then the Club will be charged \$100

- 11. Match Managers:** All clubs will need to provide a match manager. Both Match managers must sit together at half way. Their role will be to:
 - a. Keep time (referee is the final keeper of time)
 - b. Keep a record of the scores and the scorers
 - c. Manage sin bin
 - d. Manage interchange
 - e. Ensure only players who are on the valid “team list” take the field, this team list should be made available a minimum of 20 minutes prior to kick off to their opposition match manager.
 - f. Ensure team cards are correctly completed and signed by, Players, both Match Managers and the referee at the conclusion of the game.
 - g. Match Managers should mark all Match Cards with player scores for each game
 - h. It is the referee’s responsibility to text through final scores to RLN: 021 242 6975

- 12. Interchange:** All interchanges **MUST** take place between the 40m and the half way line. Players **MUST** not take the field until their player has completely left the field. The match manager will manage this process.
 - a. Match Managers will be provided with Numbered Cards to help facilitate this process.

- 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.

- 14. Trainers:** All teams must provide a minimum of one trainer per game. All trainers MUST have completed a Rugby League NZRL League Smart Course within the last 3 years.
- a. A maximum of 2 trainers per team per game permitted.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.
 - d. Trainers under no circumstance are to remain standing in or behind their team's line or in goal area during the run of play.

DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTES PROCESS:

- 14.** Please refer to the Bylaws of Rugby League Northland

MATCH POINT SYSTEM:

- 15.** 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

16. In the event of a default or disqualified game two points will be awarded to the 'winning' team and a score of 30 – 0 will hold.

17. In the event that a match is abandoned due to an uncontrollable circumstance – i.e weather or player injury then the following rule will apply

- The teams can agree that the score as at the time the game was called off stands, or
- They can agree to, replay the game in its entirety.
 - The teams have 14 days from the date of the original game to replay the match or agree that the score as at the time the game was called off stands.
 - If the teams do not agree to accept the score at the time the game was called off, or to replay the game, then the teams will share the points equally.
 - If the points are shared the score at the time the game was called off will be recorded, because, they may become relevant if a calculation of points for and against is required.

18. Should a match be abandoned due to ill discipline then the match result will be referred to the RLN Judiciary to decide the outcome of the match.

RANKINGS FOLLOWING POOL PLAY:

- 19. The format** of the competition will see a 5-team competition.
- a. There will be three complete rounds of play. Each team will play each other home and away.



- b. The Final series will be top 4 and will consist of a Semi Final (wk 1) the Preliminary Final (wk2) and then the Grand Final.
 1. The Finals may be played at Toll Stadium on either a Saturday or Sunday depending on Toll Stadium availability.
 2. In Week 1 (wk 1) Semi finals the top two ranked teams (1 v 2) from the Premiership will play with the winner qualifying to play in the Grand Final. Team ranked 3 play team 4 (3 v 4) in a knockout match.
 3. In wk 2 Preliminary final – The loser of semi final game 1 v 2 plays the winner of semi final game 3 v 4. The winner of this match plays in the Grand Final.
- 20.** If at the completion of the pool play, two (2) or more teams are equal on match points, the following criteria in order shall apply:
- a. 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.
 - b. If teams are still tied then points differential percentage will apply – that is points for divided by points against x 100. The team with the higher percentage will be the higher ranked team.
 - c. If teams are still tied after point differential percentage, then the team that scored the most amount of points in the competition will be ranked the higher team.
 - d. In the event of team still tied then a toss of the coin will determine the winner.