

## **NZRL MOUTH GUARD POLICY**

The NZRL Mouth Guard Policy below is the minimum standard to be applied to advance the welfare of players.

Zones, districts and clubs are reminded that they have a duty to enforce the NZRL Mouth Guard Policy.

### **New Zealand Rugby League Mouth Guard Policy**

As agreed with the ACC on 21/1/1998 and amendments in 1999.

- It is compulsory for all players playing in sanctioned competition by the NZRL and its members to wear a protective mouth guard.
- The **No Mouth Guard, No Game Policy** is to be firmly enforced.
- Players are not permitted to share mouth guards.

### **Operational Guidelines:**

- Referees and / or Touch Judges will prior to the game, check that all players (including reserves) have a mouth guard.
- During the course of a match any player found not to have a mouth guard in the mouth and not having a mouth guard in their possession, (due to having it dislodged as a result of a tackle) will be made to leave the field.
- On obtaining a replacement mouth guard, he/she may re-enter the field of play after reporting to a Touch Judge.
- In the event of the Player being unable to obtain a replacement mouth guard he/she may take no further part in the game but may be substituted, with that substitute counting as an interchange.
- During the course of a match, any player found not to have a mouth guard in their mouth, but to have one in their possession ( in their sock or pocket etc) will be penalised and sin binned for ten minutes.
- Referees are to use common sense in enforcing this policy in regard to players approaching a scrum with a mouth guard in their hand other
- such incidents, where there is a break in play.

### **1. Mouth Guard Exemption Guidelines**

- The player in question must provide a medical certificate from a dentist clearly stating why a mouth guard cannot be worn by the player.
- The player must submit the dentist medical certificate with a portrait photo to the NZRL.
- The NZRL reserves the right to make the final decision on issuing a mouth guard exemption.

These policy areas must be enforced by and within all Zones, Districts and Clubs.

Kind regards

**NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC**

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