



**Bylaws of
Canterbury Rugby League Incorporated**

2026 Season

Contents	Description	Page number
Section 1	Bylaws Object	3
Section 2	Bylaw Review	3
Section 3	Definitions and Interpretations	3
Section 4	Registration of Members	5
Section 5	Transfers/Permits	6
Section 6	Grade Eligibility	9
Section 7	Competition Eligibility	9
Section 8	Finals Series Eligibility	10
Section 9	Senior and Youth Competition Rules	11
Section 10	Finals Rules	13
Section 11	Points & Ladders	15
Section 12	Presidents Grade	16
Section 13	Out of Order Player Penalties	16
Section 14	Club Colours/Playing Strip	17
Section 15	Changing Rooms	17
Section 16	Team Cards	17
Section 17	Team Statistics	17
Section 18	ID Process	18
Section 19	Defaults	18
Section 20	Representative	19
Section 21	Discipline	20
Section 22	Code of Conduct	21
Section 23	Protests	21
Section 24	Player Sent Off	22
Section 25	Appeals	23
Section 26	Finance	23
Section 27	Travelling Teams	24
Section 28	Sanctioned Events	24
Section 29	Health and Safety	24
Section 30	Banned Substances	24
Section 31	NZRL Concussion/Head Injury Policy	25
Section 32	Alcohol Restrictions	25
Appendix A	Club Colours	26
Appendix B	Automatic Player Suspensions	27
Appendix C	Fine Sanction Structure	28
Appendix D	Men's Senior Competition Entry Criteria 2023	29
Appendix E	NZRL Player Participation Eligibility Policy	30

Section 1 Bylaws Object:

1. Canterbury Rugby League Incorporated Bylaws are developed in line with Section 3 - Objects and Powers, of the Canterbury Rugby League Incorporated Constitution.
2. The intent of the Bylaws is to set in place policies, practices, processes and structure for the administration and delivery of the game of rugby league in a fair and unbiased manner.
3. The Bylaws are developed with the intent of looking after the best interest of the game of rugby league in the Canterbury district. Where issues arise that are not covered in these Bylaws Canterbury Rugby League retains the right to make decisions based on this principle.

Section 2 Bylaws Review:

1. The following process shall be applied for the adoption or alteration of these Bylaws:
2. The Bylaws will be reviewed formally once a year, and any approved changes shall apply to the following season.
3. The process to request an adoption or alteration of a bylaw is as follows:
 - a. At any time during the season, a club can make an application to review any bylaw by completing an Application for Bylaw Review Form, which will be added to the agenda of the next scheduled bylaw committee meeting.
 - b. At the end of the season clubs will be invited to make additional submissions in relation to the bylaws which will be presented and discussed at the Annual Bylaw Review Meeting.
4. A final draft of recommendations will be presented to the CRL Board for ratification.
5. The adoption of the CRL Bylaws is approved by the CRL Board as per Section 19 of the CRL Constitution.

Section 3 Definitions and Interpretations:

Definitions and Interpretations in this document, unless the context requires or indicates otherwise, the following definitions will apply:

Affiliate – shall mean a person or group officially attached to Canterbury Rugby League.

Appeal Committee – shall mean The CRL Judicial Committee or Southern Zone Appeal Committee appointed under the jurisdiction of the Southern Zone Rugby League Constitution.

Appointed Match Official – shall mean a referee, match manager or touch judge appointed to officiate a rugby league match by CRL.

Be A Good Sport Champion - shall mean a club appointed official whose responsibility is to monitor their clubs crowd behaviour and enforce the CRL Safety Plan policy for their club.

Board - shall mean the Board of Directors of Canterbury Rugby League as constituted under Rule 16 of the Canterbury Rugby League Incorporated Constitution.

Bring The Game into Disrepute – shall mean actions, behaviour or activities that harm or dishonour the game of rugby league.

Canterbury Rugby League – shall mean: The district body incorporated under the Canterbury Rugby League Incorporated Constitution to execute the Objects and Powers for rugby league in the Canterbury region. Canterbury Rugby League will be referred to as CRL throughout the course of this document.

Club - shall mean any rugby league club that is a member of CRL as approved and defined in the Canterbury Rugby League Incorporated Constitution.

Club Delegate – shall mean the president or other club representative notified to CRL in writing from the club secretary to represent the club at the Presidents/Delegates meetings.

Constitution – shall mean the Canterbury Rugby League Incorporated Constitution.

CRL – shall mean Canterbury Rugby League Incorporated.

Disciplinary Committee - shall mean independent persons, delegated by the CEO, to adjudicate on disciplinary matters involving match officials or players, team officials, volunteers, executives and club members.

Fully Registered - shall mean having completed the NZRL online registration process.

In Order - shall mean the players on the team list are fully registered and the team does not have an out of order player.

Judicial Committee – shall mean a group of persons vested with the responsibility of adjudicating on judicial matters involving fixtures and matches or disputes between members. The Judicial Committee is formed under section 26 of the Canterbury Rugby League Incorporated Constitution.

Junior Player – shall mean a player that is turning 17 years or younger during the current calendar year.

Match – shall mean a rugby league match in which two teams compete against each other.

Match Manager – shall mean a CRL appointed person who holds the responsibility of overseeing the operations of the appointed match and the associated environment.

Match Officials - shall mean any CRL appointed personnel involved in the running of the match i.e. referees, touch judges, match managers, be a good sport champion.

Misconduct – shall mean a player who has breached the CRL code of conduct, NZRL Rules of the Game and Policy, or CRL Regulations and Bylaws

NZRL - shall mean the New Zealand Rugby League Incorporated.

Out of Order Player – shall mean any player who is deemed to be ineligible to play in a specified match due to not meeting the eligibility criteria for that match as defined in these bylaws.

Permit – shall mean a CRL approved application enabling any player to temporarily move between clubs. A permit is not considered a transfer.

Person – shall mean any member of a club or any person associated with CRL or NZRL for the purposes of playing, coaching, refereeing or administering the game in New Zealand and who are deemed to have subscribed to and be bound by the rules and regulations of CRL.

Playing Area – shall mean the area enclosed by the safety rope, or other such line of demarcation, which prevents the encroachment of spectators.

Presidents/Delegates Committee – shall mean a committee consisting of the presidents of the member clubs or affiliates.

Referees Committee – shall mean a committee consisting of persons assigned to look after the affairs of referees under CRL jurisdiction.

Sanctioned Event - Shall mean an event that meets CRL's Health & Safety & Judicial requirements for it to be promoted as a safe event for the rugby league community in particular CRL officials to participate in.

Senior Player - shall mean a person who is turning a minimum of 18 years or older in the calendar year.

Social Member - shall mean a person who is recognised as a social member in line with the clubs constitution and is not a team official, player or committee member.

Sporty – NZRL online registration system

Team Official – shall mean the coach, the manager, the trainer and any other person officially aligned to a team in any volunteer capacity.

Transfer - shall mean a player who has made application to register or has been approved to play for another club other than the club they were registered to and played for in the previous season.

Unregistered Person - shall mean a player who has not completed the NZRL online registration process.

Volunteer Member - shall mean a person (other than a team official) who fills a role in the club in some type of official capacity, e.g. committee member, bar person, gear person etc.

Youth Grades – 13 to 19 years grades

General Definition - For the purposes of these rules:

- a. Words importing the masculine gender include the female; and
- b. When reference is made to club this shall also be referenced and read in conjunction with affiliate.
- c. A match shall include any pre-season match, or any other match administered by CRL.

These definitions are to assist with the interpretation of sections within the bylaw document.

[Section 4 Registration of Members](#)

1. Clubs shall keep a record of the names of all players, coaches, managers, trainers, referees, social members and volunteer members who are members of any club or affiliate of CRL.
2. The secretary or administrator of each club or affiliate shall furnish CRL with sufficient particulars to enable such register to be kept up to date.

3. Every rugby league player, coach, manager, trainer, referee, social member and volunteer member must be registered.
 - a. Registration is to be completed online via Sparty.
 - b. All questions completed in the registration process are to be answered truthfully by the member.
 - c. All registrations must be accompanied by ID which is to be attached to the members online registration. All persons must be registered as per their attached ID in Sparty
 - d. Accepted ID documents: birth certificate, driver's licence, passport, under 18 school identification card or any identification verified by a government agency using a certified copy of ID listed above.
4. Registration of new players to a club can be processed at any time during a calendar year.
5. A player must be showing as fully registered in Sparty before they can take the field for the club they have registered for.
6. An unregistered player is not entitled to play for any club in any CRL competition and shall be deemed to be an out of order player as soon as they take the field.
7. All players must be registered with the club or affiliate for which they are playing. Any player once registered with a club shall remain so, until they request a transfer to another club, and it is approved.
8. Each club or affiliate is responsible for the identification and registration of its members.
9. In the event of name controversy, CRL may require three nominated officers of the club or affiliate to verify the details in writing.
10. CRL acknowledges that all registered financial members of affiliated clubs will be entitled to reciprocal visiting rights between clubs.

Section 5 Transfers & Permits

1. Canterbury transfer/permit periods

a. Between Canterbury clubs	1 November to 31 st May
b. Overseas (Australia) & provincial transfers	1 November to 30 June as per NZRL rules
2. Any player intending to play for any club other than the one they are currently registered will be required to complete a transfer or permit application via Sparty.
 - a) A **transfer** is required for a player who has played in the previous season for another club, province or played overseas.
 - b) Players aged 17 years and under are considered junior players and approved transfers do not count towards the transfer restrictions, regardless of the grade they are playing.

- c) Players from all grades may be granted a permit to play for another club if their primary club cannot provide them with a rugby league team for their age or grade. Permits are only given for one (1) year and cannot be requested two (2) years in a row. If the primary club cannot provide a team for a player for a second consecutive year, the player can register with any other CRL club with no transfer fees required as per Section 5.15. & 5.16.
 - d) There will be no fees claimed for players on permits – either going to a club or returning to their original club.
 - e) A player approved a permit will be automatically returned to their original club at the conclusion of the season.
3. Transfer requests will not be processed outside of the hours of Monday to Friday 9am–4pm or weekends and public holidays.
4. Inter-Club season transfer restrictions.
- a) A club may transfer between each other Canterbury rugby league club two (2) male players in, and two (2) male players out per season, to a maximum of eight (8) in or out overall per season.
 - b) A club may transfer between each other Canterbury Rugby League club two (2) female players in and two (2) female players out per season, to a maximum of eight (8) in or out overall per season.
 - c) Junior players (aged 17 years or younger) and players transferring in or out of a club not affiliated to CRL are exempt from the above player transfer restrictions.
 - d) Presidents Grade will have their own player transfer restriction policy detailed under section 13. Presidents Grade.
 - i. A club may transfer between other Canterbury Rugby League clubs two (2) male players in, and two (2) male players out from each other club or affiliate per season, to a maximum of eight (8) per season.
 - ii. A player approved a transfer under the Presidents Grade transfer policy will be restricted to playing in the Presidents Grade competition for the season in which the transfer was approved.
5. A player cannot take the field for their new club until the transfer or permit has been approved by CRL and the club they are transferring or permitting from, and they are fully registered with their new club.
6. In the event of a junior or youth team withdrawing or being withdrawn from a competition during any round of the competition, the remaining players may make application to CRL for a permit to play at another club for the remainder of the season provided:
- a) The player is a full financial member of the club they are registered to.
 - b) The club does not have another team in which the player could play.

7. All transfers and permits must be applied for via Sporty.
8. For all transfers, the club from which the player is transferring has ten (10) days from the date submitted via Sporty to respond approving or declining the transfer.
9. If a transfer is declined the former club must advise on Sporty the reason for the decline. The only conditions for the decline are outlined below:
 - a) Financial – annual subscriptions for the previous season only
 - b) Club property – trophies, playing gear from the previous season only
10. If no response has been received from the club in which the player is transferring within 10 days, the transfer or permit will be automatically approved by CRL.
11. Under no circumstances can a player be denied a transfer if the club they are transferring to has paid any relevant transfer fee.
12. A player who transfers out of the CRL district and returns within 12 months from the date of transfer, must return to their club of origin.
13. A “Graded” player’s transfer will be subject to the payment of a transfer fee of:
 - a. For a “Grade A” player: One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500). 25% of the fee is to be paid to CRL.
 - b. For a “Grade B” player: Five Hundred Dollars (\$500). 25% of the fee is to be paid to CRL.
 - c. Clubs may choose to waive their portion of the transfer fee, however the 25% portion payable to CRL will still remain payable.
14. A “Grade A” player is defined as one who has taken the field (in the immediate past season) for:
 - a. Canterbury Bulls Men’s and Women’s
 - b. Any New Zealand representative team 19 years and above (i.e., Ahi Ka, Junior Kiwis)
15. A “**Grade B**” player is defined as one who has taken the field (in the immediate past season) for:
 - a. Any player who participates in the NZRL National Youth Tournament (Canterbury Bulls or South Island Scorpions)
 - b. Any player who participates in any New Zealand residents’ representative team 15-18 years fixtures. (i.e. NZ Clubs 16s or 18s or NZ Schools 16s or 18s, Merit teams excluded)
16. All transfer fees are to be paid in full to CRL before a transfer can be fully completed.
17. On receipt of full payment, CRL will forward the balance of the transfer fee to the players former club.
18. Where Canterbury Rugby League determine extenuating circumstances apply, the transfer fee may be waived.

Consultation will be had with both clubs. The CRL Board will make the final decision.

Section 6 Grade Eligibility

1. For age group grades, the player must be turning the age or younger than the grade they are playing in the current season. For example, 14 Years Grade – the player must be turning 14 years old or younger during the current season.
2. NZRL Policy allows for an age grade player to play in a grade with players who are a maximum of two (2) years above their age, but they cannot play down. See Appendix E – NZRL Player Participation Eligibility Policy
3. Players eligible to play 18s grade and seniors' grade (this means turning 18 in that calendar year as per section 3 "Senior Player") will be able to apply for a dispensation to play for their primary club's senior team and a secondary club's 18s grade team, if their primary club is unable to provide an 18s grade team. The player must have played the two (2) previous seasons for the primary club before applying for this dispensation.
4. Canterbury Rugby League does not allow for players to play down in any grades based on their chronological age. However, in extenuating circumstances a dispensation request can be sent to CRL. If the dispensation request meets NZRL policy requirements, CRL will forward the request to NZRL.
5. Mixed Gender – Females may participate in mixed gender rugby league played under Kiwi League Kids rules up to and including the 12 years grade. NZRL Policy states the maximum age for a girl to play in a mixed gender team is 12 years of age.
6. NZRL Policy states the minimum age for participation in senior grade's – players playing in senior grades must turn 18 during the current year. This policy shall apply equally to male and female rugby league players.
7. Any player registering to play in the Presidents grade must be 40 years of age or older, as at 1 January in the year of competition.
8. Any player who takes the field for any grade they are not eligible to play in, shall be deemed to be out of order.
9. Transgender player
 - a) CRL will follow the guidelines of the International Olympic Committee Stockholm Report 2003 for any fully registered player who elects to be recognised as a transgender person.
 - b) This report can be viewed on the CRL website under Club - Policies & Procedures.
10. All players, coaches, managers, trainers and team officials must be financial with CRL and not have in their possession any CRL property to be eligible to play for any affiliated CRL club.

Section 7 Competition Eligibility

1. Criteria for Premier, Premier Reserves and Division One status shall be at the discretion of the CRL Board.
2. Refer to Men's Senior Competition Entry Criteria 2027 – Appendix D

Section 8 Finals Series Eligibility

1. To be eligible to play in any senior or youth finals series, a player must have played a minimum of 35% (rounded to the nearest whole number. .5 will round up and .49 and below will round down) of scheduled matches for any team within the same club during the season of the finals series. (This does not include any pre-season games).
2. Any player will be eligible to play in any finals series in which they have played 35% of games for the team in that grade.
3. If a team is eliminated from their respective final's series, the only players that can play in a below grade are players that have qualified through Section 8.1 & 8.2.
4. Any player who is eligible to play in the final's series for their club will be able to play in a higher grade and still be able to return to the grade in which they qualified for. (Premier, Reserves and Division One Grades only)
5. To verify that the player has played 35% (as per Section 8.2) for the club, the matches played must be recorded in Sporty as evidence that they have met the eligibility criteria.
6. Where a player has been subject to a judicial stand-down period during the round-robin competition, the player will be eligible to play in the final's series provided the player meets the following criteria:
 - a. The player has met the standard finals eligibility criteria above, and
 - b. The player has completed their period of stand-down, and any fine or outstanding debt has been paid in full to CRL.
 - c. The player must nominate one team/grade only who they will be eligible for and through the final's series.
 - d. The player under this criteria will only be eligible to play in the finals series for a team they have appeared in during that season.
7. Where a player, due to circumstances outside of his or her control, does not meet the eligibility criteria for the final, e.g. injury, an application for exemption from the eligibility criteria may be considered if accompanied by the appropriate paperwork.
 - a. Applications for exemption must be in writing from the club president or mandated delegate, accompanied by details of the dates and reasons why a player was unable to play on specified dates. Evidence must be attached to verify the reason for the request. i.e., a doctor's certificate and/or specific medical clearance to return to playing rugby league.
 - b. All exemption applications must be applied for a minimum of five (5) working days prior to the date of the start of the final's series.
 - c. If the player requesting an exemption has been unable to play for a majority of the season because of a major injury that has resulted in surgery or an extended rehabilitation period related to the injury, to ensure these players are medically cleared to resume playing rugby league, clearance from a medical practitioner or specialist determined by the nature of the injury shall be required.
 - d. The player must nominate one team/grade only who they will be eligible for and through the final's series.
8. A player who is new to rugby league and has registered as a new player does not meet the criteria for circumstances outside of their control and will not qualify for an exemption for the final's series.
9. Clubs may forward their team lists to CRL to be checked prior to a final to validate eligibility, requests must be received no later than 4pm three (3) days before the match the players have been selected to play in. Clubs will remain responsible for ensuring all players listed on team cards, for any CRL match, meet the eligibility criteria.

Section 9 Senior and Youth (Premier to 13s Grade) Competition Rules

1. The number of grades provided for each year will be dependent on the number of team nominations received from clubs and affiliates.
2. All open grades offered will include Men's Premier, Women's, Conference League (Premier Reserves & Division 1) and Presidents.
3. The men's grades in order from highest to lowest are as follows: Premier Grade, Conference League (Premier Reserves & Division 1), Presidents Grade.
4. All youth grades offered will include: 19s and/or 18s, 17s and/or 16s, 15s and/or 14s, 13s grades.
5. Where there are less than four (4) teams entered in any grade, CRL retains the right to merge grades to ensure the grades play meaningful competition.
6. Where a club enters two (2) or more teams into any competition grade (i.e. 13 years and above), the teams will be treated as separate identities and no interchange of players between the teams will be permitted. This includes clubs who have a Men's Premier Reserves team and a Division 1 team playing in the Conference League.
7. By entering a team into a CRL competition each club will agree to abide by the NZRL Rules, Laws of the Game and Code of Conduct, CRL Code of Conduct, CRL Bylaws and CRL Regulations.

Exception to Section 9 (7): (updated 1 May 2026)

8. However, where a club has two teams in the Conference League (Premier Reserves and Division 1) players may move freely between these two teams with no restrictions. However, players must meet finals eligibility rules for one of these teams, to play for that team in the finals series as set out in Section 8 (2) of the CRL By-Laws.
9. In the case of a club who has a men's Premier team and a men's Division 1 team, any player who has played three (3) or more Premier games for that club cannot drop down to Division 1 unless they have had an injury and can provide medical documentation to support that they are making their way back into the sport.
10. If a men's premier team is scheduled for a bye, cancelled or postponed on the same weekend that other senior men's teams for their club are playing regular round robin matches, the premier team will be restricted to a maximum of three (3) players listed on the team card from the previous match who can play down in the conference league (Men's Premier Reserves and Division 1) competition for that weekend. None of the remaining premier players listed on the team card can play for any other team within the club.
11. In the event of a match, not being able to be played at the due to weather conditions, field conditions or alike.
 - a. CRL will aim to have this game relocated to a ground on the same day.
 - b. If an alternative ground is unable to be used on the same day, CRL will aim to reschedule the match if the schedule allows e.g. upcoming bye rounds.
 - c. If the match cannot be rescheduled each team will be awarded with one (1) competition point each and the result will be recorded as nil all (0-0).
12. In the event of a team withdrawing or being withdrawn from a competition during any round, points and scoring statistics will be adjusted as though the team never existed and all remaining teams reflect the same result for matches scheduled.
13. For the remaining teams, players who have played in any matches against a team withdrawn, shall retain their participation and those matches shall count towards qualification for finals eligibility.
14. Should a team withdraw or be withdrawn from a competition after the completion of round three (3) of the competition the club will be required to pay full competition entry and player levies for that team.
15. Should a referee prematurely terminate a match in a competitive grade, for any reason CRL will investigate and take any appropriate action.

16. Interchange – Premier Men’s, Women’s and Conference League grades (Premier Reserves & Division 1) are limited to a maximum of 10 (ten) interchanges per match. In all other grades interchanges are unlimited.
17. Match Managers – All attempts will be made to provide a CRL appointed match manager for all premier men’s and women’s matches. In the event of a CRL match manager not being available, the home club is required to provide a designated match manager.
18. Judicial – Automatic send-off penalties will be applied to all competition grades. Please refer to the CRL Judicial Manual to find more details on the process.

19. Senior matches requiring extra time:

- a. Extra time will be required in the event of a draw at full-time in the finals series and shall be as follows:
 - i. Immediately following the end of normal time, the referee shall toss a coin to decide which team shall restart two (2) periods of five (5) minutes each way to be played in full. After each period, teams will change ends.
 - ii. Should the score still be equal after extra time, then golden point periods will commence and play until the match is terminated immediately after the first point/s are registered.
 - iii. Senior Men’s
2x 5 minutes halves played in full, then (if still tied or re-tied)
1x 5-minute golden point period, then (if still tied) another 1x 5-minute golden point period
 - iv. Senior Women’s
2x 5 minutes halves played in full, then (if still tied or re-tied)
1x 5-minute golden point period, then (if still tied) another 1x 5-minute golden point period
- b. In the interest of players’ safety, the maximum playing time including any extra time should not exceed 100 minutes.
- c. Should the match still be drawn after the maximum minutes have elapsed, the winner shall be the team who placed higher on the points table at the end of the regular season.
- d. For 9-a-side competitions, matches are of nine (9) minutes each way duration, and if scores are equal captains will again toss for ends and undertake to play five (5) minute spells until the match is terminated when first point/s are registered.
- e. Extra time should also be played to achieve an outright winner in the finals of knockout and 9-a-side competitions.

19. Youth matches requiring extra-time:

- a. Extra time will be required in the event of a draw at full-time in the final’s series and as per the NZRL International laws of the game the maximum length a match can be played is 25% longer than its allocated time. Extra-time will be played as follows:
 - i. Immediately following the end of normal time, the referee shall toss a coin to decide which team shall restart two (2) periods of five (5) minutes each way to be played in full.
 - ii. Should the score still be equal after extra time, then golden point periods will commence and be played until the match is terminated immediately after the first point/s are registered.
 - iii. 17/18’s – normal time 70 mins + 25% = 88 mins

2x 5 minutes halves played in full, then (if still tied or re-tied)
1x 4-minute golden point period, then (if still tied) another 1x 4-minute golden point period.

- iv. 15/16's – normal time 60 mins + 25% = 75 mins
2x 5 minutes halves played in full, then, (if still tied or re-tied) 1x 5-minute golden point period
- v. 13/14's – normal time 50 mins + 25% = 63 mins
2x 5 minutes halves played in full, then (if still tied or re-tied) 1x 3-minute golden point period

- b. Should the match still be drawn after the maximum minutes have elapsed, the winner shall be the team who placed higher on the points table at the end of the regular season.

20. Defaults – If a team in any grade defaults, the score will reflect a 60-0 win to the team that was defaulted to.

- a. If a premier men's team default, all the other clubs' senior teams will also be defaulted (excluding the presidents & women's grades) for that weekend.

21. Mercy Rule - The mercy rule shall apply to all grades playing under the International Laws of the Game (13s grade up to premier grade).

- a. All matches in these grades will be automatically called off by the match official once there is a points differential of 60 points or more between the two (2) teams. The team winning by 60 points will be declared the winner of the match.
- b. The maximum score that can be recorded in the Sporty system is a difference of 60 points.
- c. If a team does score points to make the scoreline more than 60 points (e.g. 58-0 and then score a try to make the score 62-2), CRL will manually enter 2 points to the opposition (under "unknown player" in Sporty). This is to ensure no individual player statistics are lost in Sporty.

22. Match Officials

- a. For all competitive matches, CRL will endeavour to appoint qualified match officials to all matches.
- b. From time to time, there are occasions when a qualified official may not be available. In these circumstances it is the responsibility of both teams to referee half a match each (50/50).
- c. Both teams may agree, prior to the start of the match, to a mutual referee for the whole match.

Section 10 Finals Rules

1. No club team or affiliate team is permitted to participate in any match of the finals series unless they are completely financial with CRL at least seven (7) days prior to the commencement date of the final's series.
2. For all semi and preliminary final rounds, the highest seeded team from the round robin series shall be given home ground advantage should the semi and preliminary final rounds be played at club grounds. However, CRL may decide on a neutral ground if it is in the best interests of rugby league, which will include consultation with the clubs involved.
3. In the event that a team is disqualified from participating in the final's series, the next highest placed team, at the end of the round robin series, will be promoted to the final series as the lowest ranked qualifying team, and where necessary, adjustments will be made to the rankings of the other qualifying teams.
4. The appointment of referees to matches during the finals will be managed by CRL. This may be done in

consultation with the Assessment Panel. Allocation for these matches will be based on independent assessments performed by referee assessors during the season.

5. When the four (4) teams to take part in the final's series have been determined, the order of play for the finals series shall be as follows:

Men's Premier:

Semi Final	Week 1	Match A	Team 1	v	Team 2 (winner to Grand Final)
			Team 3	v	Team 4
Preliminary	Week 2	Match B	loser Match A	v	winner Match B
Grand Final	Week 3	Match C	winner Match A	v	winner Match C

Conference League:

Example of Premier Reserves Conference	Example of Division 1 Conference
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eastern Eagles 2. Greymouth Greyhounds 3. Halswell Hornets 4. Hornby Panthers 5. Linwood Keas 6. Papanui Tigers 7. Riccarton Knights 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Addington Magpies 2. Ashburton Barbarians 3. Burnham Chevaliers 4. Eastern Eagles 5. Halswell Hornets 6. Northern Bulldogs 7. Shirley Hawks
Week 1 Play-Offs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top qualifier from each conference gets week 1 off. • Game 1: Premier Reserves qualifier 2 (Greymouth Greyhounds) v Division 1 qualifier 3 (Burnham Chevaliers). • Game 2: Premier Reserves qualifier 3 (Halswell Hornets) v Division 1 qualifier 2 (Ashburton Barbarians). • Losers of Game 1 & Game 2 are knocked out, winners advance to week 2 play-offs. 	
Premier Reserve Conference	Division 1 Conference
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eastern Eagles (Bye) 2. Greymouth Greyhounds 3. Halswell Hornets 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Addington Magpies (Bye) 2. Ashburton Barbarians 3. Burnham Chevaliers
Week 2 Play-Offs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game 1: Premier Reserves qualifier 1 (Eastern Eagles) v Winner of Game 2 from week 1. • Game 2: Division 1 qualifier 1 (Addington Magpies) v Winner of Game 1 from week 1. • Losers of Game 1 & Game 2 are knocked out, winners advance to Grand Final. 	
Week 3 Grand Final	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winner of Game 1 from week 2 v Winner of Game 2 from week 2. 	

Women's Premier & All Youth Grades (where there are more than four teams):

Semi Final	Week 1	Match A	Team 1	v	Team 4
		Match B	Team 2	v	Team 3
Grand Final	Week 2	Match C	winner Match A	v	winner Match B

Women's Premier, Men's Division One & All Youth Grades (where there are four teams or less):

Grand Final	Week 1	Match A	Team 1	v	Team 2
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6. If there are four (4) teams or less in any one grade, the top two (2) teams will play in the above format. However, CRL may decide to change the finals format in the best interests of rugby league.

Section 11 Points & Ladders

1. Points and ladders will be collected and published for grades designated as competition grades, for the purpose of deciding competition winners and eligibility for a final's series.

2. In deciding competition winners in each grade, points will be awarded for a win, draw, loss or bye as follows:

Win	-	2 points
Draw	-	1 point
Bye	-	2 points
Loss	-	0 points
Default (win)	-	2 points

3. CRL may use these point values as a penalty for serious cases of team misconduct.

4. At the conclusion of the round robin competition, the top four (4) teams shall be ranked in order according to the number of round robin points awarded to them in accordance with the preceding clause and shall take part in a championship finals series of matches to determine the winner of the championship for that season.

5. Subsequently, further sections for teams placed fifth to eighth etc in the premiership may be introduced to determine a section finals winner.

6. If at the conclusion of the round robin, two (2) or more teams are equal in competition points, then for the purpose of determining the order of placement of teams for the finals series, the teams who are equal in competition points will be ranked in order according to the difference between the number of points scored for a team and the number of points scored against. The team with the greater difference will be ranked ahead of the team with the lesser difference.

7. In the event of that difference being equal then the relative position shall be determined by ascertaining the

relationship between points scored for and against expressed as a percentage to 2 decimal points i.e.

$$\frac{\text{points scored for}}{\text{points scored against}} = \frac{100}{x}$$

with a team with the higher percentage being ranked ahead of a team with the lower percentage.

8. If, after the application of the above procedures, two (2) or more teams are still of equal ranking for any of the top four (4) positions, then those teams shall take part in a series of play-offs to determine the team to take part in the finals series in the order established in accordance with the following:

- a) Where two (2) teams are involved, they shall play each other, and the winner shall occupy the higher place of the two.
- b) Where three (3) teams are involved, the order of play-offs shall be:

Match A	Team 2	v	Team 3
Match B	Team 1	v	Winner of Match A

and the winner of Match B shall occupy the highest position, the loser the next highest and the loser of Match A the next highest.

Section 12 Presidents Grade

- 1. No player under the age of 40 years as of 1 January of the year of competition is permitted to play.
- 2. CRL may grant an underage player an exemption under exceptional circumstances (disabilities etc).
- 3. No points shall be awarded in a president's grade competition.
- 4. Player transfer restrictions for the president's grade:
 - a) The president's grade shall have a separate two (2) in two (2) out quotas from other affiliated CRL clubs.
 - b) Once a player transfers to the president's grade at another club they are can only play presidents grade for the remainder of the season in which the transfer was approved.

Section 13 Out of Order Player Penalties

- 1. Any club/team found to have played an out of order player will forfeit any points gained from the match(s) and a win will be awarded to the non-offending team(s) with a score line of 60-0.
- 2. If both clubs are found to be in breach the match result will be cancelled.
- 3. Any club found to be playing an out of order player will incur a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) depending on the severity of the breach.
- 4. The decision on the level of monetary penalty will be made under the Judicial and Disciplinary Process and Policy.
- 5. The offending team will remain suspended from playing in the competition until the fine is paid in full to CRL.
- 6. Any team official found to allow an out of order player to play in a team under their responsibility will have the matter referred to the CEO CRL, Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Committee for possible further action.

Section 14 Club Colours / Playing Strip

1. Each team playing in Canterbury Rugby League competitions will play in the colours registered to their club.
2. Only one set of colours per club will be permitted.
3. CRL will keep a register of authorised club colours, as recorded in the clubs constitution.
4. The register will be available to all clubs and will be added to the CRL Bylaws (Appendix A).
5. Any alteration to club colours or a clubs playing strip and design must be submitted to CRL for sanctioning and approval.
6. In the event of a clash of colours in a senior match, the team travelling away must change their playing shirts.
7. In the event of the away team not complying, a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) will be imposed.
8. Clubs may make an application to CRL during the season, for a special event, to wear an alternative colour or design of the shirt. An application must be made 21 days prior to the event in which an alternate jersey will be worn and requires approval from CRL before the event.

Section 15 Changing rooms

1. It is the responsibility of the club, team officials, players and referees to ensure they leave their changing rooms and shower facilities in a clean and tidy state.
2. Any Canterbury Park or Ngā Puna Wai changing facility not adequately cleaned by the team officials responsible shall result in the club or affiliate being fined a minimum of three hundred dollars (\$300).
3. The decision by CRL shall be final.

Section 16 Team Cards

1. Team cards must be entered into Sporty and must be available for the match manager (if one is provided) to view at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of any match.
2. Non-compliance will result in a fine of ten dollars (\$10) per player, per week, per team, being imposed on the club.
3. Full names of the players and must be spelt correctly as per name registered in Sporty.
4. The number entered into Sporty must correspond to the number on the player's jersey.
5. Only the names of the players present and participating in the match on the day are to be recorded in Sporty.
6. A player not present at the commencement of a game may participate in a game provided:
 - a. The player is present before half time,
 - b. The match manager or opposition team manager has sighted the player,
 - c. If the player takes the field before this process has been completed, the player will be deemed to be out of order.
7. If a player takes the field and is not correctly recorded in Sporty prior to playing, they will be deemed to be out of order.
8. Referees and match managers are to report to CRL anything that requires further action by CRL – sinbins, abusive behaviour, poor crowd behaviour, ordering off, the number of players stripped and available etc.

Section 17 Team Statistics

1. All clubs are responsible for entering the match score and the players who have participated in the match into Sporty 24 hours after the completion of the match for all grades.
2. Where a default has been registered the non-defaulting team must record their playing roster in Sporty. This action is required to ensure a team is not disadvantaged by eligibility criteria because of the default.
3. CRL may select specific weeks during the season to perform random checks on team cards to ensure all clubs are meeting their obligations as per the Bylaws.

If a breach of any section of the Bylaws as part of the random check process comes to CRL's attention, CRL will apply any rules or sanctions relevant to the breach.

Section 18 ID Process

1. Player eligibility dispute on match day
 - a) Each club is responsible for ensuring their players are correctly registered as per section 4 of these Bylaws and the players registered in Sporty.
 - b) On an occasion where a coach or team manager wishes to protest the eligibility of an opposing player the coach or team manager must:
 - i. Verbally register this objection with the opposing team manager and/or match manager, where one is provided.
 - ii. The match manager or team manager will request the player identification via Sporty.
 - iii. Take a photo/copy of the card and attach this information to the protest form.
 - iv. Should occasions occur where there are concerns relating to the eligibility of a player to play a match after a period of absence from the game, because of concussion, the team manager is to contact CRL Operations prior to the commencement of the match.
 - v. CRL will check the validity of the player and contact the team managers advising them of the known medical status of the player.

Section 19 Defaults

1. As per the NZRL International Laws of the game the minimum number of players per team to start a 13-a-side match is ten (10). Failure to start the match with ten (10) players will result in that team defaulting the match.
2. The minimum number of players allowed on the field is nine (9). If less than nine (9) players are on the field, for safety reasons, the match will called off immediately.
3. The team with less than nine (9) players on the field will be deemed to have forfeited the match.
4. The forfeit should be noted on the team card if an official referee has not been appointed and signed by both team managers.
5. Default Fines
 - a) Any men's premier team who fails to field a team and/or defaults a scheduled fixture will be fined one thousand dollars (\$1,000) regardless of notice given for the default.

- b) Any women's or men's reserve grade team who fails to field a team and/or defaults a scheduled fixture will be fined four hundred dollars (\$400). Where more than 36 hours' written notice is given to CRL from the defaulting club, the fine will be reduced to two hundred dollars (\$200).
 - c) Any men's conference league, presidents or youth competition team who fails to field a team and/or defaults a scheduled fixture will be fined one hundred dollars (\$100). Where more than 36 hours' written notice is given to CRL from the defaulting club, the fine will be reduced to fifty dollars (\$50).
 - d) If a premier men's team default, all the clubs other senior teams will also be defaulted (excluding presidents and women's grades) for that round. The overall fine will reflect a default from the Premiers (\$1000) plus a default from the Reserves (\$400 or \$200) plus a default from the Division One (\$100 or \$50).
 - e) Any junior non-competition team who fails to field a team and/or defaults a scheduled fixture will be fined fifty dollars (\$50). On an occasion where more than 36 hours' written notice is given to CRL from the defaulting club, the fine will be reduced to twenty five dollars (\$25).
6. Any monies received because of an imposed fine for a default will result in the club being defaulted against receiving 50% of the fine.
 7. For all grades where a points table is relevant, a match result of 60-0 will be recorded in favour of the team defaulted against.
 8. In the event of a team being unable to play a scheduled match due to reasons beyond the teams' control e.g. tangi for a fellow team member:
 - a) The team may negotiate the rescheduling of the fixture with the opposing team to a time that will not exceed four (4) days from the day of the scheduled match.
 - b) The opposing team retains the right to decline a request to reschedule a match, and should this right be applied, the team making the request will be deemed to have defaulted the match.
 - c) The decision of this opposing team will be considered full and final and is not open to appeal.
 - d) The outcome of this request is to be communicated in writing to CRL by the respective club secretaries on the day of the decision.
 9. Any team defaulting for two (2) consecutive matches, or three (3) matches during the season, will be withdrawn from the competition. Any remaining team members can be permitted to other clubs in the same grade for the remainder of the season. A player may only be permitted to one club for the remainder of that season. The players may choose which clubs they want to be permitted to. At the conclusion of the season, players will revert back to the club they permitted from.
 10. If a team has insufficient players to start a match it will be deemed as a default. A record of the default will be recorded in Sporty.
 11. Any team defaulting or choosing to default any match during the final series will be eliminated from the competition and shall take no further part in it.

Section 20 Representative

1. To be eligible for representative selection a player must:
 - a) Have played for his/her club or school in the season in which the player gains selection.

- b) Have played two (2) games or in one (1) tournament played within Canterbury by the time the competition or tournament commences (unless otherwise agreed by NZRL).
 - c) Be fully registered as per section 4 of this Bylaw.
 - d) Be a financial member of their club.
2. When eligible for two teams in the same tournament, age group representative players may only be selected for the representative team based on their biological age.
 3. Any player registered for a Canterbury club making themselves unavailable for selection as a representative player for Canterbury must apply to CRL for dispensation to represent another South Island District.
 4. Players who trial for Canterbury representative teams and are not selected can apply for dispensation to represent another South Island district.
 5. Canterbury representative players are not permitted to be available for club or affiliate matches during the whole of three days preceding a representative fixture.
 6. Coach, manager, trainer positions for all representative teams will be circulated to all clubs and affiliates and advertised on CRL social media.
 7. Applications for the vacancies will be submitted to CRL by the due date on the prescribed form. These applications will then be considered by a panel selected by CRL.
 8. All successful applicants must consent to a Police check prior to the completion of the appointment process.
 9. All CRL appointed representative staff must hold or be working towards the appropriate NZRL accreditation for the position appointed.

Section 21 Discipline

1. Clubs or affiliates are expected to enforce discipline and control on all teams in the promotion of the game.
2. A club or affiliate is responsible for its' players, officials and financial members. Any player ordered from the field of play and found guilty (except in the case of age group and schoolboy players) of players misconduct will be subject to a penalty of fifty dollars (\$50), for the first match suspension and fifty dollars (\$50) per match suspension thereafter up to a maximum of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150).
3. Any club, affiliate or team found guilty by the CRL Board of bringing the game into disrepute can have a monetary penalty imposed not exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500). Such penalty is to be paid by the time stipulated. Other penalties such as non-team travel, removal of competition points, match forfeiture or any other appropriate penalty may be applied.

4. Any player found guilty of players misconduct and receiving a severe caution will be subject to the minimum penalty of fifty dollars (\$50) except in case of age group and secondary school players.
5. All penalties will be charged to the club/affiliate and an invoice will be sent. The player will be de-activated until such time as payment/penalty has been received in full by CRL.
6. All penalties are payable to Canterbury Rugby League Inc.

Section 22 Code of Conduct

1. For coaches, managers, trainers, players, team officials, club executives, club volunteers, club/affiliate members and match officials.
2. A coach, manager, trainer, player, team official, club executive, club volunteers and club/affiliate member must not during the course of or after a match under the jurisdiction of CRL, abuse or address a referee or touch judge in insulting, racial, derogatory or threatening terms or act in a provocative manner toward a referee or touch judge.
3. A coach, manager, trainer, player, team official, club executive, club volunteer, club/affiliate member or match official must not use crude or abusive language or engage in any conduct detrimental to the sport or image of the game.
4. On the occasion of a coach, manager, trainer, player, team officials, club executive, club volunteer and club/affiliate member being reported for a breach of this Bylaw, a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) will be imposed on the club concerned and the offending official will be suspended. On subsequent occasions, the fine will double to two hundred dollars (\$200) and a further period of suspension will be imposed.
5. All coaches, managers, trainers, players, team officials, club executives, club volunteers, club members and match officials must comply with the Alcohol Liquor Bylaws as directed by local council. Any person(s) breaching these Bylaws may be referred to the disciplinary and judicial process and/or incur a fine as set by CRL or the Disciplinary/Judicial Committee.

Section 23 Protests

1. A club involved in the match may protest against the eligibility of a player.
2. Any club or affiliate which lodges a protest on behalf of a team against another should first ensure that their team is in order, as failure to do so may result in dismissal of the protest and loss of the protest fee.
3. CRL shall decide all protests and questions of dispute which must be in writing by the club secretary or president, affiliate or body protesting, via email, addressed to CRL and received within 48 hours after the completion of the match.
4. The protest must be accompanied with any relevant evidence relating to the details of the protest, details of the date, time and teams involved in the match. Details of the relevant section of the Bylaws the club is protesting under.
5. The protest must be accompanied by the protesting team card and a protest fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) which shall be refunded if the protest is upheld.
6. The club or affiliate protested against is to be notified by CRL within 72 hours of the match of the details of the protest.

7. CRL will not entertain any protest or dispute that relate to a player's misconduct as defined in the International Laws of the game of Rugby League, until and unless that matter has first been heard by a judicial committee(s).

Section 24 Player Sent Off

1. When a player is sent from the field of play, a referee's report, outlining the alleged offence committed by the player, will be sent to the CRL office within 48 hours of the match concluding.
2. The player sent from the field, will be automatically under suspension and not permitted to play until the judicial process is completed.
3. CRL will endeavour to hold a judiciary hearing within the week post the match in which the player was sent off. However, due to circumstances outside of CRL's control this may not always be possible due to the unavailability of judicial panel members.
4. On receipt of the referee's report, CRL will decide whether the matter can be dealt with under the provisions of the "Automatic Suspensions" schedule or needs to be dealt with by the Judicial Committee.
5. If it is decided that the offence can be dealt with by way of an "automatic suspension" the player's club will be contacted and advised of the automatic suspension to be imposed on the player (see Appendix B).
 - a) If the club accepts the penalty on the player's behalf, the suspension shall be imposed, and the fine will be issued to the club (senior competition players will be fined \$50 per match suspension).
 - b) If the club does not accept the proposed automatic suspension, the matter will be referred to the CRL Judicial Committee for disposition.
 - c) If the club requests an appeal with the CRL Judicial Committee, such request must clearly state the reasons for the hearing. (See Section 25 – Appeals)
 - d) The player may be accompanied by an official of their club at the judicial hearing.
6. Where a player has been found guilty of players misconduct and is suspended, he/she shall not be permitted to play in any match until the suspension has been served. Should a player under suspension play during that time, they will automatically be subject to a further suspension and with an additional fine of fifty dollars (\$50) per game played.
7. A player found guilty of players' misconduct and is suspended will be deemed to be an out of order player and the out of order process, as per Section 13 will be applied.
8. Should any player or team official who has been summoned to, or has requested a judicial hearing, fail to attend that judicial hearing, that person(s) will be suspended until the matter is dealt with by the Judicial Committee.
9. All suspensions given by the CRL Judicial Committee from playing the game of rugby league, will include any rugby league match subject to the jurisdiction of CRL, another district, NZRL or any match subject to the jurisdiction of the International Board.
10. At the conclusion of the season, all sinbins accumulated by any player shall be cancelled.
11. Any period of suspension, which remains outstanding at the conclusion of the season, shall be served in the grade it was obtained at the commencement of the following season.
12. For the purposes of this Bylaw, the words "conclusion of the season" shall mean all competition matches of the club team for which the player normally plays have been completed.

Section 25 Appeals

1. Any appeals of CRL automatic suspensions shall be heard by the CRL Judicial Committee
2. Any appeals of CRL Judicial Committee decisions shall be heard by the Southern Zone Appeals Committee
3. Any appeal of any decision made in the first instance by CRL, or the Judicial Committee must meet the following criteria:
 - a) Shall be in writing via email from either the club president or club secretary.
 - b) Accompanied by an appeal fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) payable to Canterbury Rugby League.
 - c) Clearly set out the grounds of the appeal and the argument supporting those grounds.
4. Any appeal of a CRL automatic suspension must be lodged with the CRL CEO. Any appeal of a CRL Judicial Committee decision must be lodged with the Southern Zone General Manager. All appeals must be lodged no later than ten (10) days from the time of the original decision being advised to the parties concerned.
5. Any player who appeals a CRL automatic suspension or a CRL Judicial Committee decision which involves a period of suspension shall be suspended until such time as the appeal has been heard and adjudication determined.
6. If the appeal is upheld, CRL or the Southern Zone Committee may at its discretion, order that any appeal fee paid on the lodgement of the appeal, or any part of it, be refunded.
7. Should the appeal be denied, the fee is not refundable.

Section 26 Finance

1. Competition and affiliation fees are payable each year and payment shall be as follows:
 - a) Competition Fees:
 - i. Competition fees will be payable and due by the last business day of June of that year.
 - ii. Any club who pays the total amount due by the last business day in May will be entitled to a 5% discount (including GST).
 - iii. Any club failing to make payment of the total amount due by the last day of June shall be automatically disqualified from taking part in any further matches until payment is made in full.
 - b) Affiliation Fees (per player fee):
 - i. Affiliation fees will be payable and due by the last business day of July of that year.
 - ii. Any club failing to make payment of the total amount due by 20 August or before the final's series (whichever falls first) shall be automatically disqualified from taking part in any further matches until payment is made in full.
2. Any monies remitted to CRL shall be applied in payment of the oldest debt outstanding.
3. The CRL Board shall have the power to charge penalty interest on outstanding accounts.
4. Any club entitled to monies payable by CRL will be held until that club is fully financial to CRL.

Section 27 Travelling Teams

1. Where a team wishes to travel outside Canterbury, whether to play a match or not, an NZRL application to tour form must be completed and submitted to CRL for approval.
2. All NZRL application to tour forms must be accompanied with a bond payment of one hundred dollars (\$100) payable to CRL when travelling in New Zealand or one thousand dollars (\$1,000) payable to NZRL when travelling overseas.
3. Any team known and proven to have travelled without CRL permission will be fined the sum of three hundred dollars (\$300) and the club or affiliate a similar sum.

Section 28 Sanctioned Events

1. Any Club or Affiliate running a tournament or event in Canterbury and either:
 - a) want the event to be endorsed by CRL, or
 - b) would like CRL to provide Match Officials or services for the event.

must complete a NZRL tournament application form and submit this to CRL for approval.

2. As a minimum requirement the event must adopt the CRL Health and Safety regulations as set in these Bylaws to protect the Health & Safety of Match Officials and participants.

Section 29 Health and Safety

1. CRL is committed to ensuring the health, safety and well-being of all its members and as such CRL requires:
 - a) All clubs adhere to and administer the CRL Match Safety Plan.
 - b) All clubs have in place appropriate health and safety practices and procedures for the effective management of health and safety related matters for their facilities, fields, car parks and the surrounding environment.
 - c) All clubs and their members to abide by the health and safety practices applied at Canterbury Park and all other venues under CRL control.
 - d) All clubs and their members to abide by NZRL Mouthguard Policy. (This policy is available on CRL website www.canterburyrugbyleague.co.nz)
 - e) All clubs and their members to abide by NZRL Concussion Policy. (This policy is available on CRL website www.canterburyrugbyleague.co.nz)

Section 30 Banned Substances

1. CRL follows the drug free sport clean sport protocols. All players playing under the jurisdiction of the CRL are subject to the NZRL regulations and bylaws and Drug Free Sport NZ policy in relation to the illegal use, trafficking and possession of illegal substances.

2. Persons found to be in breach of these protocols will be subject to Drug Free Sport NZ judicial process.

Section 31 NZRL Concussion/Head Injury Policy

1. All clubs, teams and players must abide by the concussion guidelines set by the NZRL these can be found on the NZRL and CRL websites.

Section 32 Alcohol Restrictions

1. Canterbury Rugby League is committed to providing a safe, family friendly facilities that enable people of all ages to have fun and be active. It recognises that the misuse of alcohol at local grounds constitutes a threat to this commitment and the safety of the community and users.
2. This policy applies to all Canterbury rugby league clubs utilising Christchurch City Council parks and grounds, their players, members, and spectators.
3. Alcohol Ban Bylaw Christchurch City Council (CCC) grounds
Reference CNCL/2020/00029 – 12 March 2020
4. The permanent alcohol ban on all CCC fields, as per reference, while in use for rugby league is extended from April to August annually to include every month of the year whenever rugby league is played on CCC fields.
5. As per the Council Bylaw the permanent alcohol ban pertains to side-lines and adjoining areas of carparks, changing areas, walkways, and playgrounds all year round.
6. Clubs who utilise CCC grounds are required to display provided signage and only permit drinking in licensed areas of the clubrooms or areas with special licenses. This Bylaw is supported by the NZ Police and any player, club member, member of the public who is spectating and does not comply with the alcohol ban is subject to a \$250 instant fine.
7. Rules:
 - Alcohol can only be purchased from the licensed area and any other areas temporarily granted a special license.
 - No BYO alcohol is permitted.
 - Alcohol can only be consumed in the licensed areas.
 - The changing rooms and car parks are not licensed areas.
 - Drinking alcohol in the changing rooms, side lines and car parks is not permitted.

Appendix A – Club Colours

Club Colours approved under Section 15 of these Bylaws:

Addington Magpies - white/black
Ashburton Barbarians - green/red
Burnham Chevaliers – burgundy/blue
Celebration Lions - purple/yellow/white
Eastern Eagles - grey/white/red
Halswell Hornets - red/black/gold
Hornby Panthers - black/white
Linwood Keas - green/black/red/white

Northern Bulldogs - blue/white
Papanui Tigers - orange/black/white
Riccarton Knights - red/black/white
Rolleston Warriors – green/white/grey
Shirley Hawks - cambridge blue/black/gold
Sydenham Swans - red/royal blue/white
Woolston Rams - blue/gold

Appendix B – Automatic Player Suspensions

Schedule illustrating minimum entry point automatic suspension for players or team officials sent from the field of play by a match official.

Entry Point Match Suspension Guidelines

Offence	GRADE 1 CRL	GRADE 2 CRL	GRADE 3 Judicial Committee
Careless tackle	N/A	2 weeks	4+ weeks
Contrary conduct	discretionary	discretionary	discretionary
Dangerous conduct	2 weeks	4 weeks	6 weeks
Dangerous throw	4 weeks	8 weeks	12+ weeks
Dissent towards match official	4 weeks	6 weeks	8 weeks
Dropping knees	2 weeks	4 weeks	8+ weeks
Grass cutting	discretionary	discretionary	discretionary
Kicking or kneeing	3 weeks	6 weeks	9+ weeks
Head high tackle (intentionally)	N/A	6 weeks	12+ weeks
Offensive or intimidating language towards match officials	4 weeks	6 weeks	8+ weeks
Persistent law breaking	2 weeks	4 weeks	6+ weeks
Reckless tackle	N/A	4 weeks	8+ weeks
Re-entering field of play without permission	1 week	3 weeks	6+ weeks
Striking (closed fist, open hand, elbow)	3 weeks	6 weeks	9+ weeks
Tripping	1 week	3 weeks	6+ weeks

Mandatory Judicial Attendance

Match called off	N/A	discretionary	discretionary
Citing's	N/A	discretionary	discretionary
Non-mandatory ordering off offences	N/A	discretionary	discretionary
Bringing the game into disrepute charge	N/A	discretionary	discretionary
Side-line eviction	N/A	discretionary	discretionary
Second offence or more in a playing season	N/A	discretionary	discretionary

1 week will mean a maximum of 1 game or 1 tournament per 7 days towards suspension. A scheduled bye round does not count a week towards suspension.

Grade 1 – Offences are those incidents of foul play deemed by Canterbury Rugby League to be CARELESS in nature.

Grade 2 – Offences are those of foul play deemed by Canterbury Rugby League to be RECKLESS in nature but sufficiently serious in the context of the match to warrant dismissal from the field of play.

Grade 3 – Offences are those of foul play deemed by Canterbury Rugby League to be DELIBERATE in nature but sufficiently serious in the context of the match to warrant dismissal from the field of play.

Notes:

The grading of the offence shall be at the sole discretion of CRL or their representative and is based on information provided by match officials and by any other supporting material lodged within a specified or agreed time frame.

At the discretion of the Judicial committee, penalties may be reduced if the offender volunteers at junior games or similar.

Any offences deemed to constitute misconduct shall be referred by CRL management direct to a hearing before the judiciary tribunal for determination. Any player or team official facing such an allegation shall have the right to attend such a judiciary hearing and present evidence and/or submissions on his or her behalf as to culpability or mitigation. The period of times listed above serve as a guideline for the minimum period of suspension. The Judicial Committee reserve the right to extend the period of time a player is suspended from the game under the categories listed above.

Any player or team official who is ordered from the field of play for an offence listed in the schedule shall be entitled to request an appeal hearing of the CRL Judiciary Committee to dispute culpability only. If the player or team official establishes to the comfortable satisfaction of the CRL judiciary that he or she is not guilty of the alleged offence that resulted in his or her ordering from the field, the CRL judiciary shall have the ability to rescind the ordering off and quash the applicable automatic suspension. Likewise, should the judicial panel deem the original penalty as insufficient, it has the right to impose further penalties as deemed appropriate.

Any player or team official who wishes to appeal a decision of the CRL management or judiciary is bound by the constitutional and Bylaw requirements of CRL and NZRL.

Any player sent to the sinbin on three (3) occasions during one season shall automatically be suspended for the two (2) competition matches immediately following the match in which he or she incurred his or her third sin bin.

The club of any player or team official who is ordered from the field of play shall incur an automatic fine of thirty dollars (\$30) for each match of the automatic suspension period imposed for the offence. Such a fine must be paid by the club before the player or team official is eligible to play or participate in any subsequent competition match.

Appendix C – Fine Sanction Structure

Grade	Sanction	Additional Action
First Offence - out of order player, not registered to the club, no player ID, owes debt to CRL, does not meet finals eligibility criteria	\$100 per player Loss of points	Reminder by club to team officials about the criteria
Second Offence - out of order player, not registered to the club, no player ID, owes debt to CRL, does not meet finals eligibility criteria	\$200 per player Loss of points	Letter of warning to the club regarding possible suspension of team officials
3rd Offence – out of order player, not registered to the club, no player ID, owes debt to CRL, does not meet finals eligibility criteria	\$300 per player Loss of points Suspension of team officials	Meeting with club committee
First Offence - out of order player, player temporarily/permanently suspended on rugby league judicial matter	\$500 per player Loss of points	CRL Letter of warning to the club regarding possible suspension of team officials
Second Offence - out of order player, player temporarily/permanently suspended on rugby league judicial matter	\$750 per player Loss of points Suspension of team officials	Meeting with club committee
First Offence - out of order player, player deemed medically unfit for any reason	\$1,000 per player Loss of points Suspension of team officials	Meeting with club committee

Incidents Involving Match Officials	Sanction	Additional Action
First Offence - offensive language towards a match official	\$250	CRL letter to the player
Second Offence - offensive language towards a match official	\$500	CRL letter to the player
First Offence - dissent towards a match official	\$100	CRL letter to the player
Second Offence - dissent towards a match official	\$200	CRL letter to the player

CRL Men’s Premier Rugby League Entry Criteria

Fundamentally, for stand-alone clubs who are not playing in the men’s premier and men’s premier reserve grade the entry point will be through the division 1 grade. For dual clubs operating under an MOU arrangement the entry point to men’s premier and men’s premier reserve grade may be different with the possibility of these clubs entering these grades without having to enter through the division 1 pathway.

Stand-Alone Club Entry:

- The club wanting to enter the men’s premier and men’s premier reserve competition must demonstrate they are either meeting or on a trajectory towards meeting the Senior Club Criteria (see Item 1 below).
- To enter the men’s senior competition a stand-alone club must commence at Division 1
- To enter Division 1 the club must have 20 registered players for this grade one month prior to competition commencement.
- To play men’s premier rugby league a club must also enter a men’s premier reserve team.
- To enter the men’s premier and premier reserve grade this will be an application to CRL; or a CRL invite. Any applications are required by the first week of December preceding the year the club is applying for.
- Key facets of entering the men’s premier and premier reserve grade will be:
 - Over a two-year period in Division 1 the club has demonstrated on-field performances implying competitiveness at a higher level.
 - The year prior to seeking entry into the CRL men’s premier and premier reserve grades the club can demonstrate they have had 40 registered senior men’s players.
 - Coaching appointments indicate capability at this level and there is engagement with the CRL Coach Education programme.
 - They have or are on a trajectory to having two youth boys’ teams.

Dual Club Entry (through an MOU arrangement):

- To enter the men's premier grade and men's premier reserve grade the two clubs operating under an MOU would need to apply to Canterbury Rugby League.
- One of the two clubs must have had a team play in men's premiers and/or men's premier reserves the year prior; or each of the two clubs has played in the men's division 1 grade for the two years prior and performances suggest competitiveness at a higher level.
- Each of the clubs is a CRL and/or NZRL affiliate and operates under a constitution.
- One of the clubs has demonstrated that performances in the previous season would be competitive at men's premier and/or premier men's reserve level and when their player pool is combined with the other club in the MOU it is believed by CRL that between the two clubs they have the appropriate quantity of quality of players to be competitive in the men's premier and men's premier reserve grades.
- For the two clubs to enter the men's premier and men's premier reserve grades under an MOU arrangement they must have a combined 40 registered players with Canterbury Rugby League one month prior to competition commencement.
- Between the two clubs they have; or are on a trajectory to having two youth boys' teams.

Please note: - One of the clubs that are in an MOU may decide they want to apply to CRL to enter the men's premier and premier reserve grades the following season as a standalone club. These requests will be acknowledged and will technically allow clubs to enter without going through division 1. Criteria to allow such entry by CRL would include, but is not limited to:

- Status of partner club (club they are currently in an MOU with).
- What this would mean for the partner club.
- Number of registrations the club had in the men's senior grade the previous season.
- On field performance imply competitiveness in the men's premier grade.
- The club's coaching capability.

Removal of Team and their Club from the CRL Men's Premier and Premier Reserve Grade

There will also be a requirement to ensure teams within these competitions perform at an appropriate level. Removal from the men's premiers and premier reserves will be based on:

1. A premier team being the recipient of multiple 'mercy rule scores' within the one season.
2. A club's inability to consistently field a premier reserve team.
3. A club defaulting its men's premier or men's premier reserve team on multiple occasions (two or more) within the one season (as per CRL Bylaws).
4. Prior to any removal from the Men's Senior competition CRL will make every effort to retain the club within the competition. This could be through an 'in season' MoU

5. A club losing its Incorporated Societies status.
6. A club consistently not meeting the senior club criteria.

Item 1: Senior Club Criteria

- Are an incorporated society.
- Organisational procedures, policies and processes are aligned with the clubs constitution.
- Have governance and auditing processes in place.
- Have a current strategic plan.
- Have an active and engaged committee.
- Can consistently field two men's senior teams* (NB: presidents or masters do not constitute a men's senior team).
- Consistently have two boys' youth teams playing in the CRL youth competition (or if not, it can demonstrate youth growth).
- Have six junior teams.
- 80% of coaches, managers and trainers hold the relevant accreditation as per CRL coach development framework.

NB: It is not expected that all senior clubs will meet these criteria in 2026 however clubs need to demonstrate they are progressing towards meeting these criteria by 2027.

Updated 20/02/2026

Medical and scientific data has detailed the physical and mental risk that young players under the age of 17 face of sustaining serious and or long-term injuries as a result of competing against older and heavier players and in particular to players competing in grades more than **two** age groups above their eligibly date of birth grade.

The risk factors are:

- The continuing physical and mental development of adolescent males and females from the age 5 to 17 years.
- Considerable increases of the impact forces generated and required to be absorbed by players when playing against older and heavier opposition in competition.

The NZRL (New Zealand Rugby League) has a required duty of care to take all practical steps to ensure the safety of all players participating in the sport of Rugby League. As a result of this duty of care, the NZRL has reviewed its current Player Participation Eligibility Policy and based on review recommendations received from the NZRL Medical Council have reconfirmed the following policies:

1. Minimum age to play Rugby League:

The minimum age a player can be registered is 4 years of age on or after 1 January in the year of registration. Cannot play until they have reached 4 years of age.

2. Maximum age for mixed gender full contact Rugby League.

The maximum age for males and females to play in mixed gender full contact Rugby League is 12 years of age. That being the players are to attain the age of 12 years during the year of the competition.

3. Minimum age requirements to participate in open age, open weight rugby league grades:

The player has attained or will have attained at least seventeen (17) years of age by the 31 December in the year **preceding** the commencement of the season.

- This policy shall apply equally to male and female Rugby League players.
- Exemption consideration from this policy will be treated on a case-by-case basis.

4. Maximum age that players may play above their registered age:

Players, male and female can only play above their eligible age in age restricted grades to a maximum of 2 years as at 1 January in the year of participation. For clear definition, this applies to all games, including any trials and friendly games.

The following exemption only will apply to Point 4:

- i. Players participating in open age, but restricted weight competitions will have attained at least seventeen (17) years of age by the 31 December in the year **preceding** the commencement of the season.
- ii. Players participating in an under 20-year age competition, **must attain the age of 17 years** before being eligible to participate in a 20s competition. This policy shall apply equally to male and female players.

NO DISPENSATION will be accepted or considered for any player (both male and female) to play above the 2-year policy up to U16 grade. For clarification this includes Educational Football grades.

Zones, District Leagues, Affiliates or Associates shall implement these policies within their areas of control.

