



## Player Transfer Policy – Junior Rugby League – 2020 Season

UPDATED 12 February, 2020.

### PURPOSE

To ensure the continued success and sustainability of the Game played under its auspices at the Junior Rugby League level, the NSWRL Junior League Association (JLA) and its constituent members and affiliates wish to ensure that teams fielded by Clubs in Junior Rugby League are as strong, well matched and viable as possible. For the purpose of achieving these objectives, the NSWRL JLA has adopted this Policy to regulate the system of Players, eligible to play Junior Rugby League, moving between Clubs within Junior Rugby League.

The intention of the NSWRL JLA in adopting this Policy is to:

1. Maintain a level of stability in the membership of Clubs and teams.
2. Prevent Clubs from obtaining an unfair proportion of the best and most talented Players.
3. Provide Clubs with incentives to develop Players, their teams and the Game.

This Policy governs Transfers separately to the provisions of the National Registration Policy and the National Clearances Policy. Where any inconsistency exists between either the National Registration Policy or the National Clearances Policy on the first part, and this Policy on the second part, the latter shall prevail, and the former shall to the extent of the inconsistency not apply.

With this purpose in mind, all Transfer Requests will be considered in the context of the best interests of the game. Any Transfer Request, whether in breach of this policy or not, may be denied if it is deemed not to be in the best interests of the game.

For the purposes of this policy, players will be considered to be transferring into another team within their 'natural' age group, or the age group above if the Club requesting the Transfer does not have a team in the player's 'natural' age group.

This Policy does not apply to, or regulate the movement of:

1. Players transferring into a team participating in a competition aged U18 or above;
2. Players in relation to Junior Rugby League where that Player has not previously Registered to play Junior Rugby League for a Club in Competitions at any time;
3. Players who have previously registered to play Junior Rugby League for a Club, who wish to register to play the Game for a team or organisation which does not either participate in Competitions, or the Game as affiliated to the NSWRL.
4. The movement of players to or from a club where they will or have only played LeagueTag/Monarch Blues Tag

This Policy is intended to improve the balance and integrity of competitions, particularly those in higher divisions. As such, the policy will be strictly enforced in these competitions (eg. Gold/Division 1 competitions). Where it is determined to be in the best interests of the game, a degree of flexibility may be applied in lower division competitions in consultation with the clubs involved.

Where a player applies to move clubs after the season has commenced, the guidelines of the NSWRL Policies and Procedures Manual will apply in the first instance. Any application for consideration of exceptional circumstances (other than player relocation across a large distance) will not be considered if the player has played more than 3 matches for their existing club in the current season.



## DEFINITIONS

The following terms have the corresponding meanings where used in this Player Transfer Policy:

Affiliate has the same meaning as given to that term in the Constitution.

Clearance means the process by which a Player is cleared to move between Clubs or other rugby league teams pursuant to the National Clearances Policy.

Club means an organisation which enters teams to participate in Competitions.

Competitions means rugby league tournaments, competitions, matches and fixtures conducted by and between Districts with the approval of, and under the auspices of, the NSWRL.

Constitution means the constitution of NSWRL JLA, as amended from time to time.

Development Player means a player who has been selected in a District Development Squad at any time within the last 12 months.

Development Player Quota means the number of Players within a club/age group who have been selected in a District Development Squad at any time within the last 12 months. Due to the variation in Development Squad sizes and team numbers in different districts, there is currently no Quota in force across NSWRL Junior League Districts. Individual districts may enforce their own guidelines in this regard.

Division 1 refers to the highest grade of competition available in any one age group within the League concerned. This applies regardless of whether there are one or more Divisions/grades.

Existing Club means the most recent Club that a Player was registered to and played a match with during the last 24 months..

External League means any NSWRL League outside of the League within which a Club operates.

Game means the sport of rugby league.

Junior Rugby League means age-limited Competitions for players aged 18 years and under.

League means an organisation which is a Member or Affiliate of the NSWRL which conducts rugby league competitions, premierships, tournaments and matches which are approved by the NSWRL.

Member has the same meaning as given to that term in the Constitution.

National Clearances Policy means the NRL National Clearances and Permits Policy v2.3 as amended or replaced from time to time.

National Registration Policy means the NRL National Registration Policy v2.3 as amended or replaced from time to time.

New Club means a Club which a Player wishes to Register to play Junior Grade Football for.

NSWRL JLA means New South Wales Rugby League Junior League Association Incorporated, **ABN 53 272 744 791**.



NSWRL League means each of the regional governing bodies of the NSWRL, including, but not limited to:

- a) Balmain District Junior Rugby League
- b) Canberra District Junior Rugby League
- c) Canterbury Bankstown District Junior Rugby League
- d) Cronulla-Sutherland District Junior Rugby League
- e) Manly-Warringah District Junior Rugby League
- f) North Sydney District Junior Rugby League
- g) South Sydney District Junior Rugby League
- h) St George District Junior Rugby League
- i) Sydney Roosters Junior Rugby League
- j) Parramatta District Junior Rugby League
- k) Penrith District Junior Rugby League
- l) Wests Tigers Macarthur District Junior Rugby League

Player means a person who is Registered to play rugby league.

Policy means this Player Transfer Policy.

Registered means the process of a person registering to play rugby league pursuant to the National Registration Policy, and Register and Registration have corresponding meanings.

Registration Permission means permission granted by a Player's New Club's League, allowing the Transfer of a Player.

Representative Player means a Player who has played Representative Football at any time within the last 24 months.

Representative Quota means the number of Players within a club/age group who have played Representative Football at any time in the last 24 months, determined by each League by 30 November each year in respect of the next rugby league season, or five (5) Players if the District does not nominate a specific quota. For teams participating in the NSWRL U16 Gold or U17 Gold Conference Competition the Representative Quota is five (5). For teams participating in lower Divisions of the NSWRL U16 or U17 Conference Competitions or in the U15 Gold Conference Competitions the Representative Quota is three (3). A Transfer of a Representative Player into a lower division U15 team would only be considered in exceptional circumstances. In competitions where a district has limited number of teams in the selected competitions, this number may be increased in consultation with the NSWRL Community Competitions Coordinator.

Representative Football means the Elite Competitions conducted by the NSWRL, CRL or QRL in the 16 years and 18 years age groups, namely the Andrew Johns Cup, Harold Matthews Cup, Laurie Daley Cup and S.G. Ball Cup within the NSWRL and the equivalent competitions in QRL.

Season means a rugby league season commencing in about March and ending in about September in a calendar year, for example the "2017 Season".

Senior Competitions means open-age Competitions or those competitions catering for players over 18 years which are not considered Junior Rugby League for the purposes of this Player Transfer Policy.

Transfer means the transfer of the Registration of a Player, who is eligible to play Junior Rugby League, from a Club to another Club.

Transfer Permission means permission granted by an Existing Club's League, allowing the Transfer of a Player.



## PLAYER TRANSFERS

- 1) Any Player who has previously Registered to play Junior Grade Football for a Club at any time in the previous 24 months must, before the Player plays Junior Grade Football for any other Club:
  - a) Obtain a Clearance from the relevant Existing Club (if required); and
  - b) Obtain a Transfer Permission from the Existing Club's League; and
  - c) Obtain a Registration Permission from the New Club's League.
- 2) For the purposes of rules 1(a) and 1(b), where the Existing Club's League and the New Club's League is the same League, the requirement to obtain a Transfer Permission under rule 1(b) shall be deemed satisfied upon the grant of a Registration Permission.
- 3) Any decision by an Existing Club on any request by a Player for a Clearance must be made in accordance with the National Clearance Policy and any other applicable rules.
- 4) Subject to rule 6, a League or the NSWRL may refuse to grant a Transfer Permission in any of the following circumstances:
  - a) If two (2) or more Transfer Permissions have already been granted in respect of Players, who played in the same team for the same Club in the last Season of Junior Rugby League, to move to the same New Club for the next Season.
  - b) If four (4) or more Transfer Permissions have already been granted in respect of Players, who played for any Club within the League concerned in the last Season of Junior Rugby League, to move to the same age group in the same New Club for the next Season.
  - c) In competitive football age groups (9+), where the Player is classified as a Representative Player, has been registered in a Division 1 team or a team in a higher age group within any NSWRL Competition (this includes competitions with only one Division) at any time within the previous 18 months, and where the Club which the Player intends Registering to play for qualified for the Division 1 Grand Final in that players current or correct age group in the previous season.
  - d) Where the Player has played Representative Football at any time within the last 24 months or been selected in a Development Squad within the last 12 months, and where the team which the Player intends Registering to play for with the New Club already contains the number of Representative/Development Players which is equal to or greater than the League/Competition Representative/Development Quota (see Definitions, P2 & 3).
- 5) Subject to rule 6, a League or NSWRL may refuse to grant Registration Permission in any of the following circumstances:
  - a) If two (2) or more Registration Permissions have already been granted in respect of Players, who played within the same team for the same club in the last Season of Junior Rugby League, to move to the same New Club for the next Season.
  - b) If four (4) or more Registration Permissions have already been granted in respect of Players in the same age group, who played for any External Leagues in the last Season of Junior Rugby League, to move to the same New Club for the next Season.
  - c) In competitive football age groups (9+), where the Player has been registered in a Division 1 team or a team in a higher age group within any NSWRL Competition (this includes competitions with only one Division) at any time within the previous 18 months, and where the Club which the Player intends Registering to play for qualified for the Division 1 Grand Final in that players current or correct age group in the previous season.



- d) Where the Player has played Representative Football at any time within the last 24 months or been selected in a Development Squad within the last 12 months, and where the team which the Player intends Registering to play for with the New Club already contains the number of Representative/Development Players which is equal to or greater than the League/Competition Representative/Development Quota (see Definitions, p2 & 3).
- 6) The League or NSWRL may grant a Transfer Permission or a Registration Permission which would otherwise breach this Policy in what it determines to be “Exceptional Circumstances”. In all examples, applications for consideration of exceptional circumstances will be assessed in the context of the best interests of the game. These considerations are intended for use in providing some flexibility in the limiting of player movement in lower divisions rather than compromising the application of rules in Division 1 competitions, particularly with regard to Grand Final teams. For the purpose of this Policy, “Exceptional Circumstances” may include but is not limited to:
- a) If the Existing Club is disbanded, merges with any other Club, or ceases to exist.
- b) If the Player is a child of, or otherwise under the guardianship of, a person who has relocated their usual place of residence:
- i) in connection with that person’s employment; or
- ii) for compassionate reasons; and
- where the Player lives with that parent or guardian, and where as a consequence of that relocation, the Player would have to travel an unreasonable distance to play “home” matches in Competitions for the Existing Club.
- c) If the Player is in a situation where his/her parents, guardians or family unit has separated, and where custody arrangements are in place in relation to the Player meaning that would be unreasonable for the Player to play for, or train with, the Existing Club.
- 7) The only right of appeal open to a Player, Club or District Junior League (together an “Appellant”) in respect of any decision made under this Policy in relation to a Player is set out in this rule 7.

**Where the Existing Club’s League and the New Club’s League is the same League and teams involved participate in a Junior League competition conducted solely by that League**

- a) An Appellant may appeal a decision (an “Appeal”) to grant or refuse to grant a:
- i) Clearance;
- ii) Transfer Permission; or
- iii) Registration Permission;
- (a “Transfer Decision”) to the General Manager/Administrator of the League, by written notice addressed to the General Manager/Administrator setting out the grounds on which the Appeal is made and attaching all relevant documents and information relied on by the Appellant.
- b) Any Appeal made pursuant to rule 7(a) must be made within five (5) days of the Appellant receiving notification of the Transfer Decision which is appealed against.
- c) The only basis on which an Appellant may Appeal a Transfer Decision is:
- i) If this Policy has been incorrectly applied by the Existing Club or the League in making a Transfer Decision;
- ii) If a Transfer Decision has been made on the basis of incorrect or incomplete information in relation to the Player concerned; or
- iii) If Exceptional Circumstances exist in relation to the Player, and those Exceptional Circumstances have not been properly taken into account in relation to the Transfer Decision the subject of the Appeal.
- d) The League General Manager/Administrator shall, after having considered the Appellant’s Appeal, refer the Appeal on to the nominated Head of the Appeals Committee either:



- i) Refuse the Appeal, in which case the original Transfer Decision stands; or
- ii) Grant Leave to Appeal, in which case the General Manager/Administrator shall organise for an Appeals Committee to adjudicate on the matter. This Appeals Committee will be made up of nominated representatives of the relevant League.
- e) The decision of the Appeals Committee in relation to any Appeal is final, and shall not be capable of review or be otherwise justiciable.

**Where the Existing Club's League is different to the New Club's League or the teams involved participates in Conference or other cross-boundary competitions**

- f) In any case where an Appeal concerns a Transfer Decision involving or concerning more than one League:
  - i) The application for Leave to Appeal shall be made to, and determined by, the NSWRL JLA Appeals Chairperson(s); with rules 7 (a), (b), (c) and (e) applicable.
  - ii) Appeal Applications are to be completed on the NSW Junior Leagues Association 'Request for Leave to Appeal NSWRL Player Transfer Policy Decision Form'.
  - iii) The presiding three NSW JLA Appeals Chairperson's shall, after having considered the Appellant's Appeal, either;
    - (1) Deny the Appeal having considered the evidence provided,
    - (2) Uphold the Appeal without holding a formal hearing, based on the evidence provided, or
    - (3) Grant a formal appeal hearing, requiring the attendance of the Appellant who may bring with them one parent/guardian as a representative.