



# NSWRL

## Community Competitions

### COVID-19 HANDBOOK MODIFICATIONS



Social distancing 1.5m



Stay at home if you're sick



Wash your hands regularly and cover coughs and sneezes

**Modifications to 2021 NSWRL Community Competitions as a result of COVID-19 impacts**The following document provides a summary of rule modifications to the 2021 Community Rugby League season as a result of the impacts of COVID-19.

These rule modifications supersede existing Rules and By-laws outlined in local Region/Districts Handbooks.

*Note: Please be advised that these amendments have been implemented for the 2021 season only and should not form the basis of applications for dispensation to rules in future seasons.*

#### **1. CODE OF CONDUCT AND JUDICIARY PROCEDURES**

In 2021, all Judiciary and Code of Conduct hearings will be held via video conferencing / zoom Meetings.

#### **2. FORFEITS**

If a team is required to undertake mandatory quarantining requirements in the event that a player or players from the team have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus, and those requirements result in a forfeit, the result of the match will be considered a draw, with teams receiving the average for and against for their previous matches played in the season. Adequate medical proof is required to be submitted to the NSWRL Competition Coordinator or Local League Administrator for approval.

#### **3. MATCH SCHEDULING**

Current Government restrictions for outdoor gatherings must not exceed 3,000 participants or a maximum of 1 person per 2 square metres. If clubs can't comply with the 1 person per 2 square metre rule, consideration should be given by the club and league to increase the time between scheduled games and training sessions. If teams are using changerooms, clubs should be conducting deep cleaning between games and increased time between games should be incorporated to accommodate the cleaning times.

#### **4. FIRST AID / TRAINERS**

All trainers who enter the field of play, must not carry water bottles or administer water to players during play. Drink breaks will be scheduled at the halfway point of each half. These stoppages are to take place on the field where play was ceased, and coaches are NOT permitted to enter the field of play. These stoppages are for two minutes only.

Water bottles must be clearly marked with individual players name / jersey number. Drinks can be administered after a try is scored but water bottles can't be shared between players



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#### 5. GRADING / RE-GRADING

If the 2021 season is interrupted due to a COVID outbreak and the duration of the season is interrupted, the NSWRL may change the timing of the Gradings and Re-Gradings process.

#### 6. MATCH DAY OPERATIONS

Once a team has signed on, they are permitted to carry out their warm up. Teams should not return to change rooms and should enter the field of play straight from their warm up location.

At the conclusion of games, teams should be encouraged to 'elbow bump' rather than shaking hands with opposition players.

#### 7. DUMMY HALF/ FIRST RECEIVER VESTS (DH AND FR)

The requirement for DH and FR vests to be rotated at half-time in matches is null and void for the 2021 season only. That is, the same players may wear the DH vest and FR vest for the whole match.

Teams have the option of rotating FR and DH vests at half-time in matches, but only if FRESHLY LAUNDERED vests are to be used. That means clothing and equipment MUST NOT be shared between players, as per COVID safe practices.

The NSWRL recommends all participants are given the opportunity to play in the DH or FR role at some point during the seas