

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
OF SOUTH COAST RUGBY LEAGUE GROUP SEVEN INC  
Amended 17/03/2023

**1. MEMBERS OBLIGATIONS**

- a) All members must hold their Annual General Meeting prior to the League's Annual General Meeting
- b) Prior to the Annual General Meeting of the League all members must:
  - i. Pay the prescribed affiliation fee
  - ii. Submit an audited financial statement
  - iii. Submit a list of their Office Bearers
  - iv. Make application to enter teams in the ensuing seasons competitions

**2. WITHDRAWING FROM REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS**

- a) Any player selected by the League to play in any Group, Division or any other representative team shall make himself or herself available and play as required. The Board of Directors may, by majority vote, exempt a player from this requirement if a player makes application in writing and shows good and sufficient reason for such exemption.
- b) Any player withdrawing without the sanction of the selection committee shall be suspended from playing until the Monday after the conclusion of the representative series. (Under the current representative arrangements, that would be at the conclusion of Group 7's obligations)
- c) The Board of Directors could take further action on any such player by way of fine or suspension.
- d) A player claiming to be medically unfit for the game he or she has been selected for must provide either a doctor's certificate and/or injury assessment from a registered sport treatment facility (chiropractor, physiotherapist etc). Said player will be ineligible to play until the day after the game he or she was selected.

**3. PLAYING TIMES**

First Grade 40 minutes each way. Reserve grade, Third Grade and Under 18 Grade 35 minutes each way. LLT Division 1 & 2 x 25 minutes each way.

Time off for injuries and stoppages in play, as signalled by the referee, to be taken in First Grade only. The remaining grades will apply a stoppage of the time piece in the final 5 minutes of the second half of the game only. If a major injury occurs in a lower grade game prior to the 5 minute stoppage period and there is no likelihood of a restart in play before the expiry of the 5 minute period, the game will then be concluded.

In the case of a major injury in a lower grade fixture that has a major impact on the actual play time, this must be referred to the League for a decision on the possibility of a replay. This decision will be based on the actual time lost and the score line at the time of the scheduled close of play. The League's decision in this case will stand.

If a major injury causes a delay in a lower grade game preceding First Grade, the time for available play will be divided into equal terms for all remaining lower grade games to ensure the First Grade start is not delayed. The time allocated must ensure a minimum of 20 minutes play is available to each half of play that has not commenced. If a serious injury occurs in a lower grade fixture, starting times for subsequent games may be pushed back, however the 1st grade fixture can only be delayed by a maximum of 15 minutes from the scheduled starting time.

If this is not possible a preceding game will be classified as postponed and a replay will be arranged, to be played within 2 weeks of the allocated day of play.

#### **4. TEAM LIAISON OFFICER (TLO)**

Team Liaison Officers (TLO) are now compulsory at all matches (one per visiting team) as first point of contact for Ground Managers should an incident occur. Vests will be provided by the home club and must be worn by the appointed Team Liaison Officer. Referees have been instructed not to commence the match if this requirement is not adhered to.

N.B. Prior to match commencement and prior to both teams entering the field of play, a representative from both the home and opposition teams must report to the Ground Manager (who will be at the half way line) and provide details of each team's Sports Trainer (First Aid Officer) and Team Liaison Officer (TLO). Once both teams have advised this detail the Ground Manager will then signal to the referee that the match can proceed.

#### **5. PLAYERS ADMISSION/PASSES**

All First, Reserve, Third Grade and Ladies League Tag players are to pay admission to games. Under 18 players will be issued with passes to be used only at their matches. During the final series all players will be provided with passes by the league.

#### **6. RESULTS**

All game results must be entered into the appropriate on-line system by each team. It is the responsibility of each team manager to ensure the correct point scorers are clearly identified including times of the point scoring.

The finalisation of the scoring shall not be completed until both teams have entered their scores.

The home club is to advise scores and scorers to the nominated Group representative as soon as possible after games.

## **7. DEFERRED GAMES**

Any deferred game must be played during the week of seven (7) to fourteen (14) days after deferment unless the Board considers there is a good reason to play the game on another date. If clubs are unable to mutually agree to a replay date the date will be set by the board and any team unable to fulfil their commitment on that date will be deemed to have forfeited the game.

## **8. FORFEITS**

Clubs forfeiting will be fined the amount of \$1000.00 (First Grade), \$750.00 (Reserve Grade), \$500.00 (Under 18's, Third Grade and Ladies League Tag) , unless Forty-eight (48) hours' notice is given, whereby the fines will be halved. Forty percent (40%) of fine amount will be forwarded to the club receiving the forfeit provided an invoice for the amount is sent to the league and only after the fine payment is received by the league from the club who forfeited.

## **9. RECORDING OR FILMING OF FINAL SERIES MATCHES**

The use of any device (video or DVD recorder etc.) to record or film final series matches is forbidden without the express permission of the Senior Board. Any person refusing to comply will be escorted from the ground.

## **10. PLAYING ATTIRE (JERSEY NUMBERING)**

- a). The numbering on the rear of the jersey must be a minimum height of 250mm.
- b). The colour of the numbering must be of complete / direct contrast to the colour of the body of the jersey to ensure that the numbers are easily visible / distinguishable from a distance.
- c). Each player must wear a different number to that of each of his or her team mates.
- d). A sample of the proposed design of any playing attire must be approved by the Secretary Manager prior to the placement of all orders.
- e). All playing members of each team must wear a uniform playing strip i.e. the jersey, shorts and socks of each player must match exactly that of all their team mates in colour/colours and design.

## **11. REPRESENTATIVE PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- a). Any registered player of the St George Illawarra RLFC or the Illawarra Steelers RLFC (Grade or Junior Steelers) playing with an Affiliated Club in the South Coast Rugby League for the purpose of final series matches, including semi-finals, final and grand final, a player will be eligible for final series matches in the respective competition he played the majority of his matches throughout the season. (does not include byes) Amended 11/17
- b). Players in the Illawarra Steelers RLFC (NSW Cup) and/ or St George Illawarra RLFC are ineligible to play within the South Coast Group 7 Rugby League unless specifically given permission by the Board of Directors.

## **12. THIRD GRADE QUALIFICATION**

Any player who played eight or more first grade games in any competition in the previous season is not eligible to play in the Third Grade competition except where a club fields first and/or reserve grade teams. Players over 30 years of age are exempted from this rule. In addition, on an individual case basis, players may apply to the Board for exception to this rule.

## **13. COMPETITION POINTS**

Competition points will be awarded on the following basis:  
Win = 2 competition points / Draw = 1 competition point / Loss = 0 competition points/ Forfeit = 2 competition points

## **14. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS**

Club Championship Points will be awarded on the following basis - Competition points multiplied as below per grade:  
*"First Grade x 8 / Reserve Grade x 6 / Under 18's x 4 / Third Grade x 2 / LLT Division 1 x 2 / LLT Division 2 x 1*

## **15. TWO TEAMS IN ONE GRADE**

If a club has two teams in one grade (e.g. Women's League Tag) the players must remain in one team only and can only "fill in" for the other team if a written request is received and approved by the league and as an exception only.

Any player from a Junior League Girl's League Tag team to play in the senior Women's League Tag team can only play for one team in that competition per round.

## **16. GROUND MARKINGS**

All grounds must be marked as set out in Australian Rugby League Rules of the Game section 1.

All lines will be marked in White with the exceptions of the 40 metre lines which will be in Red.

The numbers 10/20/30 etc are optional.

## **17. TIMEKEEPERS.**

The Home Club to be responsible for timekeeping. However the visiting club may appoint an official to assist with timekeeping duties. Their decisions shall be final on all timekeeping matters.

## **18. REPLACEMENT AND INTERCHANGE RULES**

a) First Grade. Four replacements may be used and interchanged at any time during a match. A maximum of 8 interchanges only may be used during a match and all interchanges must be accompanied by an interchange card reflecting the number of the interchange.

b) If a player is injured by an act of foul play and the referee takes any 1 of the following actions:

- 1 – Sends the offending player from the field
- 2 – Sin bins the offending player

If a player is fouled by an opponent, who is then dismissed from the field or sin-binned the fouled player is caused to leave the field as a direct result of an injury sustained in that incident, this interchange will not be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges (free), provided that it is made without delay and by the time the referee has acted on the incident.

3 - On Field Reporting in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade only - Any incident(s) that are put on Report will follow the below procedure;

- Referee to call offending player and captain out
- Explain ruling or adjudication to player and captain
- Place offending player on report with Crossed-Arm in the air signal (facing camera)
- Referee also asks offending player to turn jersey number to direction of the camera so this can be recorded.

c) In matches that extend into extra time, an additional two (2) interchanges will be permitted for each team making a total of ten (10) interchanges in these matches. Any unused interchanges of the eight (8) permissible during ordinary time may also be utilised during extra time.

- d) Reserve and Under 18. Six replacements may be used and the 19 players interchanged at any time.
- e) Third Grade. Seven replacements may be used and the 20 players interchanged at any time.
- f) LLT both Divisions. Nine replacements may be used and the 20 players interchanged at any time

### **19. INTERCHANGE OF REPLACEMENT PLAYERS.**

For First Grade only an interchange official will be appointed to manage all interchanges. The host Club must make an area close to half way for the interchange official.

All other grades the interchange of players must be managed by the team officials who must ensure all replacements are made at appropriate times without interfering with the play or game officials. Interchanges must be made behind the play and the replaced player must have left the field prior to the interchange player entering the field of play.

No interchange of players can occur once a scrum has been ruled.

### **20. BLEEDING PLAYERS.**

Any player who is bleeding must immediately leave the field of play as directed by the referee. The player may return to the field once the bleeding has stopped or the wound has been covered. The player leaving the field of play does not count as an interchange unless the player is replaced with another player for that period.

### **21. SIN BIN.**

Players sent to the Sin Bin must be escorted by a team official to a place designated by the home club which is in or near the change rooms. A player returning to the field from the Sin Bin must advise the nearest touch judge and proceed onto the field in an on-side position.

### **22. PLAYERS SENT FROM THE FIELD.**

All players sent from the field of play by the referee for misconduct must leave the playing area and resume their ordinary attire.. Any player sent from the field must be recorded on the match result form.

### **23. JUDICIARY/MATCH REVIEW.**

The Match review committee shall be appointed by the Board and review any reported incidents and advise Clubs of any penalties to be applied.

The club must respond within the advised time period of their decision to accept or appeal the decision.

Any decline of the decision or failure to advise an appropriate response within the time frame will require the charged party or parties to appear before the Judiciary and a tame and venue as arranged by the Judiciary.

## **24. GROUND ARRANGEMENTS/INTERCHANGE BENCH/DUG-OUTS**

Only team trainers and League Safe personnel are permitted near the touchline and they must be attired in the relevant shirts designating their level of competence. Trainers must not obstruct touch judges in the performance of their duties.

a) A maximum of three (3) trainers only are allowed in the players dug out per match (i.e. 2 x league safe & 1 x F.A.O/ sports trainer or 1 x league safe & 2 x F.A.O/sports trainer.

b) Coach and manager only are allowed in the players dug out – no other officials. Should the coach be playing, another official can take his place.

c) Replacement players only (fully dressed in playing gear) are allowed in the players's dug out.

d) A Team Liaison Officer (TLO) who has been clearly identified by wearing the appropriate vest

e) No other people (including children and/or injured players) at any time are allowed in the players dug out and must remain behind the rope / fence. Clubs in breach will be fined. There will be no warnings.

All other persons including officials, coaches, managers and replacement players must remain in the designated area of the ground. (e.g. fenced or roped area is where the public is not permitted). The maximum number of personnel permitted in the designated will be 3 Sports Trainers or League Safes, Coach, Manager, TLO and the permitted number of dressed replacement players.

There must be at least one (1) Sports Trainer for each team participating in the game.

## **25. GROUND MANAGERS.**

For match day each club is to appoint a Ground Manager who must be clearly identified by apparel supplied by the League. It is the responsibility of the home club to make every effort to ensure the safety and well-being of all referees prior to, during and after games.

In the instance of Finals or the result of inappropriate behavior the Board reserves the right to increase the number of Ground Managers at any game or venue.

## **26. COACH/REFEREES CONTACT**

If coaches wish to discuss any matter with the referee after a game they should be accompanied by a club official. Such discussion should not take place until at least fifteen (15) minutes after the conclusion of the game.

## **27. GOLDEN POINT EXTRA TIME IN FINAL SERIES & GRAND FINAL ALL GRADES.**

### **i) LOWER GRADES**

In the event of a draw in any play-off, semi-final, final or grand-final an extra ten (10) minutes each way shall be played whereby the first scorer of any point or points (field goal, penalty goal or try) will immediately be declared the winner (GOLDEN POINT). If a try is scored in extra time the conversion kick will not be permitted,

Should the scores still be equal at the conclusion of extra time, a further five (5) minutes each way shall be played. Once the teams enter the five (5) minute periods the game will cease immediately after a point or points is or are scored.

If no points are scored after this time the team that finished on top in the regular season shall be declared the winner.

Prior to the commencement of the first extra time period the teams will decide by toss of a coin which team will kick-off and the direction each team will run the same procedure as at the beginning of any match. The referee to toss the coin and the captain of the team leading on competition points to call.

These timings may be amended as the Board sees appropriate.

### **ii) FIRST GRADE ONLY**

In the event of a draw in any play-off, semi-final, final or grand-final an extra ten (10) minutes each way shall be played whereby the first scorer of any point or points (field goal, penalty goal or try) will immediately be declared the winner (GOLDEN POINT). If a try is scored in extra time the conversion kick will not be permitted,

Should the scores still be equal at the conclusion of the extra time, a further five (5) minutes each way shall be played and continued to be played until a result is achieved. Once the teams enter the five (5) minute periods the game shall cease immediately a point or points is or are scored.

## **28. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS FOR FINAL SERIES**

Players are eligible to play in any grade at any time with the exception of semi-finals, finals, grand finals and play-offs. For these games the player qualification shall be:

a) A player must have played in five (5) games on separate weekends, in any grade in a season, to be eligible to play in any grade in the finals series. Clubs may appeal to the Senior Board of Management for consideration should a player have extenuating circumstances

b) Players qualify for the grade in which they played the majority of games in the season.



c) If a player plays in two (2) or more grades on the same weekend the lower grade game only will count for qualification purposes. Although all games will be included in the players history.

d) During the finals series if a Club has immediate subordinate teams playing on the same weekend all players qualified for those grades shall be eligible to play in any grade except any of the thirteen (13) players who start in First or Reserve Grade and are not qualified for the lower grade. (eg) If a Club has First Grade playing Saturday and Second Grade playing Sunday the thirteen players that started the game on Saturday would not be eligible to play Second Grade on Sunday, unless qualified under the most games rule.

e) The qualification period shall end at the conclusion of the competition rounds.

f) If a club has qualified to play in one or more grades in the final series there can be free movement of players as long as those players have qualified for that grade under rule 19.0 a), providing both grades are still alive in the final series on that given weekend

g) Any player who, after being called on to play in a higher grade, shall fail or refuse to do so, may be disqualified by the Board for the remainder of the season unless the Board is satisfied he has good and sufficient reasons for so acting. A player replacing a player representing the League or other representative match on the day on which a competition match takes place, shall be deemed not to have played in a higher grade, provided that it has been previously specified.

h) Matches forfeited shall be deemed to be matches played for qualification of players of the non-forfeiting team provided team sheets are received within the prescribed time and players have signed the sheet. (Note. Once a team has forfeited three (3) times they are deemed to have withdrawn from the competition and their scheduled games are not regarded as forfeit.

i). The qualifications of players of all grade teams for the final series must be submitted to the Qualification Committee for perusal and action not later than four (4) days prior to the fixtures. Decisions on qualifications shall be final.

## **29. NOMINATION TO ENTER TEAMS**

All affiliated clubs are eligible to apply for entry of teams in any competition approved by the Association that is inline with the Admission of Teams to Rugby League Group 7 Competitions Entry Requirements And Understanding. All clubs must nominate their intent to enter teams for approval at the Annual General Meeting of the association. Associate members have the right to enter teams into competitions played the previous season with approval required from the majority of association members for amendments based on the following:

a) Any club wishing to advance to enter 1st grade from a lower grade must provide a strategic plan detailing the progression from recognised Competition member to Club Membership. While this progression may include a period of 2nd grade only, this cannot continue for a period greater than 3 years.

b) The Under 18's competition is available to all 1st Grade clubs and any lower grade club that is registered as a junior club within the association boundaries of control. Any other nominations must be approved by a majority vote at a general meeting of the association's members.

c) The Board of management of the association may introduce other competitions as deemed appropriate to allow growth or short term competitions to groups who do not fulfil other requirements.

### **30. COACHES AND TRAINERS ACCREDITATION.**

It is the responsibility of all clubs to ensure their coaches and trainers hold current (and correct) qualifications. Failure to comply with this By-Law will leave the club open to strong action through fine, suspension or disqualification.

A full list of Coaches and Trainers including the qualifications and expiries must be submitted to the Secretary Manager prior to the commencement of the competition.

### **31. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

a) A Registrar shall be appointed annually by the Board of Directors and that person shall be Chairperson of the Qualifications Committee. The Registrar on behalf of the Qualifications Committee recommends to the Board of Directors (for decision) any action necessary by way of deduction of competition points, fines etc. on any club playing an unqualified or unregistered player.

b) All players must be fully registered on line prior to training or playing any game.

c) Clubs are expected to clear players immediately upon request unless specific reasons have been previously outlined to that player. In the event the League receives a request from a new club that a clearance is not being issued and unless a detailed response is returned (providing full details of non release) within 14 days, the League shall have the right to provide said clearance.

d) Any club playing an unregistered and/or unqualified player in a team, the club shall be fined a sum deemed appropriate by the League and the result of the game that the player participated in will be awarded to the non-offending team.

e) Prior to the commencement of the semi final series, all registration fees due and payable are to be paid to the NSWRL (or League) otherwise said club will not be eligible for inclusion in the final series.

f) Every player required by the Group to play in any Group or other Representative team shall make himself available therefore and play as required. Players making themselves unavailable for representative matches (without exemption from the Selection Committee) will not be eligible to participate in competition fixtures during the period of such representative fixtures.

g) No player registrations will be approved after 5.00pm on the Friday of any competition round. Registrations will recommence of the following Monday.

## **32. PROTESTS & DISPUTES**

a) Every protest or other application (not being an appeal) by any Club Constituent League or other competent appellant to the Board of Directors shall be accompanied by a deposit of not less than \$100.00.

b) The payment of the foregoing sums shall be a condition precedent to the right of the appellant to have the matter heard by the Board of Directors or Disputes Committee and no protest or application shall be deemed to have been properly instituted unless the appropriate sum as aforesaid is paid within the time allowed to protest or appeal.

c) Every protest or other application to the Board of Directors shall within 72 Hours of the match or decision. The subject of the protest or application be lodged with the Secretary Manager.

d) Every protest or other application to the Board of Directors shall state the grounds of the protest or application and the nature of the evidence to be adduced in support thereof.

e) The Secretary Manager shall give the parties concerned in every protest or other application to the Board of Directors or Disputes Committee twenty four hours notice of the time and place appointed for the consideration of the matter by that committee.

f) If any application or protest to the Board of Directors or Disputes Committee is upheld the sums lodged therewith in accordance with the foregoing shall be refunded.

g) The Board of Directors shall observe the principle of penalising the unsuccessful party in expenses incurred in the matter.

## **33. APPEALS**

Any person, Club or affiliated League aggrieved by a decision of the General Committee, Board of Directors or any sub-committee may appeal to the Appeals Board of the League.

a) Such appeal shall be lodged with the Secretary Manager by them within seven (7) days of the notification of the decision and shall be accompanied by a fee of \$300.00. This fee (or part thereof) may be retained or refunded at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The appellant must produce fresh evidence, indicating which part of the evidence that was presented to the previous hearing, the appellant wishes to have re-opened. The appeal must indicate the nature of the new evidence which was not available at the previous hearing. The fresh evidence is evidence which the appellant did not know before the conclusion of the hearing before that Committee and of which the appellant could not have become aware if the appellant had before conclusion of the hearing before that Committee made all those investigations and enquiries that could have been made by the appellant.

- b) The Executive of the League at its utmost discretion, may permit an appeal to be lodged against the severity of a sentence.
- c) The League shall give the parties concerned at least twenty-four (24) hours notice of the date, time and venue of the hearing of the appeal.
- d) Any person, Club or Constituent League aggrieved by a decision of the Appeals Board may appeal to the Appeals Board of the Country Rugby League and such appeals shall be subject to the requirements privileges and obligations set forth in Rule 30 of the constitution of that league.

### **34. 18 MONTH REGISTRATION POLICY**

Adherence to the NSWRL policy on eligibility of players based on an 18 month registration will be considered for players within the Under 18's grade.

#### **Administering the Policy**

For more complex cases surrounding eligibility, it is strongly recommended that the Group 7 committee be utilised to determine the suitability of these cases.

In specific cases where the weight and/or height of a player is in question, we will utilise the percentiles (appendix) as a guide only. This consideration should not be used in isolation but as part of a larger collection of supporting evidence such as a player's mental and emotional maturity, advice from the participant's club, playing history and/or previous medical conditions. All elements of the application should be considered when coming to a determination on the suitability of the applicant.

The policy within the Group 7 competition allows a maximum of 2 players only to be approved for any 1 club.

Exemptions to play down an age group may be considered through a formal application process relating to one of the below Policies / Laws:

- a) Medical Exemption by application to the NSWRL CMO
- b) NSWRL Weight and Age Guidelines
- c) Players turning 19 after the 30<sup>th</sup> June in the current year and 62kg or under may be considered to play U/18's but Group 7 policy states a maximum of 2 players only can be considered by any 1 club

### **35. LADIES LEAGUE TAG 2 DIVISIONS**

These rules apply specifically to having 2 Divisions in Ladies League Tag

- a) If any Club has 2 or more teams 1 team must be in the Division 1 Competition.
- b) Clubs with teams in both Division 1 and Division 2 competitions must nominate 6 players for each Division 1 team that cannot participate in a Division 2 game. A list of nominated players must be advised to the Secretary Manager prior to the competition commencing. The Qualification Committee has final approval and may substitute nominated players as deemed appropriate.

- c) Only approved playing shorts are to be used. The Velcro patch must be 50mm from the top of the shorts.

### **36. TEAM QUALIFYING POSITIONS FOR FINALS SERIES**

At the conclusion of matches in the competition rounds as provided for in the draw, all teams will be ranked in descending order according to the number of competition points accrued during the season. This is subject only to any other provisions of the Group Rules regarding the deduction of competition points.

Positions in the final series will be determined on this basis subject to the number of teams to be included in the final series as determined by the Group.

At the conclusion of matches in the Competition rounds provided for in the Draw, if two (2) or more teams are equal in competition points, rankings will be determined according to the following criteria from the total results of all matches played in the Competition rounds:

- i) Greater positive difference between points scored for and against, then if equal,
- ii) Greater percentage of points scored for and against, being determined by:

Points scored for x 100

Points scored against 1

Then if equal

- iii) most tries scored, then if equal,
- iv) most goals kicked, then if equal,
- v) most drop goals kicked, then if equal, by the toss of a coin.

### **37. FINAL SERIES MATCHES**

In all cases final series matches will be played at venues determined by the Board of Directors with preference given to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade clubs participating in the final series.

All finals series matches are under the control of the Group and are considered neutral matches.

All gate takings from finals series games shall be retained by the Group

#### ***FOUR TEAM FINAL SERIES FORMAT***

- a) The first four clubs in the competition points shall meet in the finals
- b) The Club placed third shall play the Club placed fourth in the Minor Semi Final.
- c) The Club placed first shall play the Club placed second in the Major Semi Final.
- d) The winner of the Minor Semi Final shall play the loser of the Major Semi Final in the Preliminary Final.
- e) The winner of the Major Semi Final shall then play the winner of the Preliminary Final in the Grand Final.

### **FIVE TEAM FINAL SERIES FORMAT**

- a) The first five clubs in the competition points shall meet in the finals
- b) The Club placed fourth in competition points shall play the Club placed fifth in the Elimination Final
- c) The Club placed second in the competition points shall play the Club placed third in the Qualifying Final.
- d) The winner of the Elimination Final shall play the loser of the Qualifying Final in the Minor Semi Final.
- e) The Club placed first on the competition points shall play the winner of the Qualifying Final in the Major Semi Final.
- f) The winner of the Minor Semi Final shall play the loser of the Major Semi Final in the Preliminary Final.
- g) The winner of the Major Semi Final shall play the winner of the Preliminary Final in the Grand Final.

### **38. ADMISSION OF TEAMS TO RUGBY LEAGUE GROUP 7 COMPETITIONS ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND UNDERSTANDING**

1. A club which enters a team or teams in any competition conducted by Rugby League Group 7 (a NSWRL Regional Member) in a particular season shall not be entitled as of right to enter any team or teams in any competitions conducted by that NSWRL Regional Member or Region in any subsequent season. A NSWRL Regional Member or Group 7 board shall be entitled to refuse the application of any club to enter team(s) in its competitions on terms determined by the NSWRL Regional Member or Region.

>>> At the discretion of the Rugby League Group 7 Board of Management a club may nominate teams with the application to be considered on its merits.

>>> A Club entering a team or teams in NSWRL Major Competitions does on the understanding that as a minimum they maintain teams in the Rugby League Group 7 First, Reserve and one other Grade competition.

>>> Joint venture partnerships will be assessed and approved or rejected upon their merits by the Rugby League Group 7 Board of Management

2. Any club wishing to participate in any competition played under the auspices of (NSWRL Regional Member) must be accepted by the NSWRL Regional Member or Region responsible for the organisation and conduct of that competition. A club wishing to enter any team in any competition conducted by a NSWRL Regional Member or Region shall lodge an application (in the form set out below) with the NSWRL Regional Member or Region by the date prescribed by the NSWRL Regional Member or Region.

3. Any club proceeding in accordance with rule 2 shall prepare for endorsement a systematic three-year business plan covering the current Financial Year and the two subsequent Financial Years, setting out:

>>> The legal structure and governance structure of the club including identity of committee members and their designated portfolios.

>>> The source(s) of funding and the financial resources of the club >>> The playing resources of the club

>>> The coaching, sports training and team management infrastructure of the club including verification of current accreditation and registration on MySideline database.

>>> Nominated MySideline proficient club personnel to be granted access to database.

>>> The Clubs Links & Pathways Development Program detailing the demonstrated plan for the development of subsidiary clubs, players, coaches, and the like accompanied by associated plans for servicing and financing same.

>>> The home ground and facilities infrastructure of the club detailing the Club's plans for financing capital expenditure and activities of the Club over the period covered by the Business Plan.

>>> An itemised budget specifying an estimate of income to be received and expenses to be incurred by the Club in implementing the Business Plan.

4. Further to rule 3, a NSWRL Regional Member or Region may approve the application of a club on terms and conditions determined by the NSWRL Regional Member or Region, and the NSWRL Regional Member or Region may at its discretion cancel such conditional approval if, in the opinion of the board of the NSWRL Regional Member or Region, the Club or any member of the club has failed to comply with any such term or conditions, PROVIDED THAT:

>>> Before the NSWRL Regional Member or Region makes any such decision to cancel the conditional approval, the NSWRL Regional Member or Region has given the club at least seven (7) days prior notice of its intention to cancel the conditional approval.

>>> That written notice to the club states that the club may make written representations to the NSWRL Regional Member or Region as to why the NSWRL Regional Member or Region should not make the decision to cancel the conditional approval and / or any other matter that the club considers relevant in the circumstances.

>>> That written notice states that the club and its representatives may attend the meeting of the NSWRL Regional Member or Region at which the decision as to whether to cancel the conditional approval will be deliberated, for the purposes of making oral submissions as to why the NSWRL Regional Member or Region should not make the decision to cancel the conditional approval and / or any other matter that the club considers relevant in the circumstances; and

>>> Any written and / or oral submissions provided by the Club have been duly considered by the NSWRL Regional Member or Region.

5. Appendix 1.1 Deed of Agreement is executed in the knowledge that the signatories and The Club agree and undertake to be bound by the NSWRL Regional Member Constitution and By-Laws, the Constitution of New South Wales Rugby League Limited, the NSWRL Rules and all other Rules and Regulations of the NSWRL and the decisions of the NSWRL Regional Member Board of Directors and Competition Committee. Furthermore, the signatories and The Club warrant to the NSWRL Regional Member or Region that the club is not insolvent and will be able to make payment of its debts as and when they fall due for payment.