



MASTERS RUGBY LEAGUE - FESTIVAL/GAME DAY RULES

1. MASTERS RUGBY LEAGUE

- 1.1 The purpose of Masters Rugby League (MRL) is to provide opportunities for people to play social rugby league by organising and administering matches and festivals for participating member clubs.
- 1.2 All Masters matches, festivals and tours organised and administered by the Management Group shall be governed by the [RFL Tiers 4 – 6 Operational Rules](#).

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 Membership to MRL is open to all clubs capable of meeting an Annual Entry Criteria as specified by the MRL Management Group.
- 2.2 Applications from new clubs must be submitted in writing to the Competition Officer at competition@rfl.co.uk. Membership is granted for one season only requiring all clubs to reapply annually when invited by the RFL.
- 2.3 The annual subscription for membership of MRL shall be £100 or as determined by the Masters Management Group.
- 2.4 Any Member Club that does not pay Masters Rugby League Fees and submit a completed Club Application Form by the published deadline will be ineligible to participate in festivals and the launch day event
- 2.5 Each club will be required to ensure that the Volunteers listed below are appropriately qualified (where applicable) and registered on GameDay:
 - (a) A Club Secretary.
 - (b) A Nominated Club Person. (Main Primary Contact)

3 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 3.1 All players shall annually register to a club using the RFL GameDay system. The RFL will circulate a link to the registration portal to the clubs to commence the registration process. Players without a club may register to Club Masters
- 3.2 It is the responsibility of Clubs to ensure that male players have reached their 35th Birthday and female players have reached their 30th birthday, and that they have retired from or stopped playing open age Rugby League. If a player decides to play open-age Rugby League, they will not be eligible to play Masters RL until the following calendar year.
- 3.3 No player may take part in matches until they have been registered for MRL. A player who has not previously played MRL can register once only as a guest on the day of the game prior to playing.
- 3.4 A player can register for any Member Club irrespective of their geographical location.



- 3.5 Players once registered can play for any registered Masters team by invitation.
- 3.6 In the event a player needs to play outside of the age group-coloured shorts, specified in the Laws, a player may apply for dispensation to the RFL however this will only be considered if there are medical reasons and will be reviewed annually.

4 FIXTURES-GENERAL

- 4.1 All fixtures are to be arranged by clubs with the exception of Regional/Central Festivals. Clubs must ensure that the regional representatives and the RFL - competitions@rfl.co.uk are notified of all fixtures.
- 4.2 Club fixtures cannot be scheduled during central festival weekends or within the region of a Regional Festival.
- 4.3 The Management Group will organise, with host clubs a number of central and regional Festivals each year.
- 4.4 Any Clubs seeking to host, any fixtures involving incoming touring teams, must ensure that the [touring protocols](#) are followed, which includes notifying the RFL
- 4.5 The Club will be required to pay a fee for players taking part in the regional and national festivals, this is to cover the costs. This will be a cost of £10 per player with a £130 deposit (covering the first 13 player's payments.) and will be reviewed annually by the Management Group.
- 4.6 Any MRL fixtures organised by clubs will cost £5 per player.

5 MATCH DAY OPERATIONS

5.1 Medical Requirements

It is the requirement of each home club to ensure that a first aider attends each game. The first aider should make themselves known to the Match Official before the start of any Match and shall remain for a minimum of 15 minutes after the end of the Game and shall speak directly with a designated Official from both clubs, if necessary, to ensure that the correct reporting paperwork is completed. If no first aider is present, the Match Official will cancel the game .

First aiders should be listed on the team sheet and are required to register on the GameDay system as a volunteer.

In the event a player sustains an injury to the head, the Match Official will stop the game and ask for the first aider to attend to them. If the first aider suspects concussion the player should be removed from the field of play. If the player refuses to follow the first aider's advice, then the Match Officials can hold up play until the player follows the instruction of the first aider. Advice for managing concussion can be found [HERE](#)

5.2 Reporting Injuries and Concussion

In the event there is a serious injury or concussion at a Match this must be reported using the GameDay system. Reports are added in the post-game section which is the same area as where results are added. Reporting head injuries via the system is mandatory.



5.3 Team Sheet

Official team sheets must be completed correctly before the commencement of all matches and shall be signed by a recognised official from each club and the Match Official.

Completed team sheets should include the full forename and surname (no initials), of all participants and must be sent by the home club official to the RFL at competitions@rfl.co.uk within 48 hours following the completion of the game. The club also has the option of updating the information directly on GameDay. Failure to submit a completed team sheet will result in a fine of £10 being issued.

6. DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSIONS AND FINES

- 6.1 A discipline panel is in place to deal with all discipline matters arising, in accordance with section D of the Operational Rules. The disciplinary panel shall have the full power to expel, suspend and/or fine any club, player, official or other person, subject to the Operational Rules, found guilty of misconduct and/or breach of these rules and/or breach of the Operational Rules and to order them to meet any costs incurred.
- 6.2 A written report of a Match Official on the misconduct of any club, player or official must be sent via email to the RFL with a copy to the offending club for receipt inside 48 hours from the conclusion of the game.
- 6.3 Reports of brawling – defined as three or more players involved - should be sent via email by the Match Official, for receipt within 48 hours of a game's conclusion, to the Competition Officer. Separate copies of the report will then be forwarded to the clubs concerned.
- 6.4 Any club which does not receive, within 48 hours, a report outlining a dismissal or brawl having occurred should contact the RFL immediately. The failure of a club to receive a written report will not prevent action being dealt by the relevant discipline committee.
- 6.5 A reported club, player, official or any other person may, to defend an allegation of misconduct, send a letter for receipt by the Competition Officer within seven days of the date of the match. The club or such persons may in their own defence request a personal appearance and/or bring witnesses and/or submit written mitigation, to the hearing, if they notify the RFL within seven days of the alleged offence. A £20 administrative fee will be charged for any personal hearings or written submissions that result in a guilty verdict. This will be added afterwards to any fines that are issued or waived provided that the appellant or their designated representative attends in person and are found not guilty.
- 6.6 Unedited DVD evidence shall be an accepted method through which to defend or confirm the alleged actions that have been reported to the committee by a Match Official.
- 6.7 Should a case of alleged assault by a player, club official or spectator be lodged it will be reported to the RFL by a Match Official. The Match Official will then be instructed to make themselves available to the disciplinary committee, for the purposes of interview, due notice of which shall be given in writing. A Match Official shall in such circumstances be entitled to claim reasonable travel expenses.



6.8 A suspension will commence with immediate effect and a suspended player is prohibited from participating in any Rugby League game until the following conditions are met:

- Any imposed fines are fully paid as per rule 6.10.
- The suspension is served in full.
- The Notification of Games Served Form is completed, submitted to, and approved by the Competition Officer.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in a minimum fine of £100 for the player or club. Additionally, the offending player may face further suspension and will remain ineligible to play until all fines are paid.

The MRL Management Group reserves the right to impose further sanctions if deemed appropriate. These may include suspending or expelling the offending club from the competition.

6.10 All fines, payable to the RFL must be settled within 28 days and must be forwarded to the RFL. Failure to meet this obligation shall result in the fine being doubled automatically. If a further seven days elapse without receipt of payment, then the club's fixtures will be suspended.

7. APPEALS

7.1 All appeals against disciplinary sanctions imposed by the MRL are to be dealt with by an independent RFL appointed panel.

7.2 If a player wishes to appeal against a decision they shall not be permitted to play in any Match until their appeal has been heard.

7.3 Clubs wishing to appeal a decision must do so within 7 days of the decision being issued. The appeal must include:

- A £40.00 fee, payable to the "RFL"; and
- A written letter explaining the grounds for the appeal.

Both the fee and the letter must be submitted to the Competition Officer within the specified time frame.

7.4 The only grounds for appeal are that the original Disciplinary Panel:

- i) came to a decision to which no reasonable body could have come; or
- ii) failed to act fairly in a procedural sense; or
- iii) the sanction imposed was so excessive or lenient as to be unreasonable.

7.5 The Notice of Appeal must include any fresh evidence the Appellant wishes to introduce. The Appellant must also provide reasons why this evidence is relevant, credible, and



was unavailable at the original hearing. Fresh evidence will only be admitted with the permission of the Disciplinary Appeals Panel. Permission will generally only be granted if the evidence meets the outlined criteria and is submitted alongside the Notice of Appeal.

- 7.6 An appeal shall be heard by way of review and shall not be a de novo hearing.
- 7.7 The Disciplinary Appeals Panel shall have all the same powers as the Disciplinary Panel in relation to evidence, experts, witnesses and conduct of proceedings, as well as the power to:
- (a) dismiss the appeal.
 - (b) quash a sanction or finding.
 - (c) remit the matter for rehearing.
 - (d) substitute an alternative finding or sanction.
 - (e) reduce or increase the original sanction; or
 - (f) make such orders as it considers appropriate

Fresh evidence may only be presented to the Disciplinary Appeals Panel with its permission

- 7.8 No member of the Discipline Panel is actively involved in a decision taken at the initial hearing other than the Competition Officer - who has no voting rights - shall be permitted to adjudicate on matters that will be the subject of appeal.