



## 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 *non-competitive* 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 the 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](mailto: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 will be ineligible to participate in any sanctioned Masters Rugby League activity.
- 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 with a club using the RFL GameDay system. There is an annual registration charge for each player (Our League Active). The RFL will circulate a link to the registration portal to the clubs to commence the registration process. Players without a club may register with Club Masters.
- 3.2 *Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all Masters players meet the minimum age requirements:*



- *Male players must have reached their 35th birthday, and*
- *Female players must have reached their 30th birthday, and must have retired from or ceased playing competitive, open age Rugby League.*

*If a registered Master's player chooses to return to competitive Rugby League, they must inform RFL Competitions. [competition@rfl.co.uk](mailto:competition@rfl.co.uk)*

*A Masters player who wishes to play competitive Rugby League may request dispensation from the Masters Management Group to participate for that weekend. Dispensation is granted on a case-by-case basis.*

*If a player does not receive dispensation and still participates in competitive Rugby League, they will be ineligible to play Masters Rugby League for the remainder of the calendar year.*

- 3.3 No player may take part in sanctioned Masters activity 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. These players should be clearly highlighted in the Masters Team Sheet on the second page.
- 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. Players must NEVER play in a lower age group short colour than their actual age.

#### **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](mailto:competitions@rfl.co.uk) are notified of all fixtures using this form: [2026 Masters Rugby League - Men's Club Fixtures Submission](#)*
- 4.2 *Club fixtures cannot be scheduled during central festival weekends or within the region of a Regional Festival. The only circumstance where a club fixture will be sanctioned on the same weekend in the same region as a regional festival, is when the host club of a regional festival contacts the Masters Management Group to confirm the festival is full.*
- 4.3 *The Management Group will support and co-ordinate with volunteer host clubs a number of Regional and Launch 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 at the earliest possible time/opportunity, so that the RFL can provide the necessary support.
- 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.

## 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 completed by the assigned team manager, for the fixture, from each club and signed by the Match Official after the game.

It is the responsibility of each club to submit a completed team sheet which should include the full forename and surname (no initials), of all participants and must be sent to the RFL at [competitions@rfl.co.uk](mailto: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 All disciplinary matters, suspensions, fines and appeals shall be dealt with in accordance with Section D of the RFL Operational Rules and the F9 On Field Sentencing Guidelines.

## **7 APPEALS**

- 7.1 Appeals against disciplinary sanctions shall be conducted under Section D of the RFL Operational Rules, with reference to the F9 On Field Sentencing Guidelines where applicable.