

# COUNTRY RUGBY LEAGUE OF NEW SOUTH WALES

## Player Transfer Policy – Junior Grade Football (CRL Rules, Appendix 1.7)

### PURPOSE

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

The intention of the CRL 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.

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

1. Players in relation to Open Grade Football;
2. Players in relation to Junior Grade Football where that Player has not previously Registered to play Junior Grade Football for a Club in Competitions at any time;
3. Players who have previously Registered to play Junior Grade Football 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 under the control of the CRL.

### 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 Member Groups / Divisions with the approval of, and under the auspices of, the CRL.

**Constitution** means the constitution of CRL, as amended from time to time.

**CRL** means Country Rugby League of New South Wales Incorporated, ABN 55 953 246 709.

**CRL Region** means each of the six (6) regional governing bodies of the CRL, they being the:

- (a) Newcastle / Central Coast Region;
- (b) East Coast Region;
- (c) Greater Southern Region;
- (d) Bidgee Region;
- (e) Western Region; and
- (f) Northern Region.

**Existing Club** means the most recent Club that a Player was within the last 24 months Registered to play the Game for in Junior Grade Football.

**Game** means the sport of rugby league.

**Junior Grade Football** means age-limited Competitions for players aged 18 years and under.

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

**Member Group / Division** means an organisation which is a Member or Affiliate of the CRL which conducts rugby league competitions, premierships, tournaments and matches which are approved by the CRL.

**National Clearances Policy** means the *NRL National Clearances and Permits Policy v 2.3* 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.

**Open Grade Football** means open-age Competitions which are not Junior Grade Football.

**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 New Club's Member Group / Division, 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 who have played Representative Football at any time in the last 24 months, determined by each Member Division / Group by 30 November each year in respect of the next rugby league season, or three (3) Players, whichever is the greater number.

**Representative Football** means where a Player is selected on merit, talent or achievement by a Member / Group, the CRL, a CRL Region or otherwise to play the Game at a higher level than intra Member / Group level.

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

**Transfer** means the transfer of the Registration of a Player, who is eligible to play Junior Grade Football, from a Club to another Club.

**Transfer Permission** means permission granted by an Existing Club’s Member Group / Division, 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 Member Group / Division; and
  - (c) Obtain a Registration Permission from the New Club’s Member Group / Division.
- 2 For the purposes of rules 1(a) and 1(b), where the Existing Club’s Member Group / Division and the New Club’s Member Group Division is the same Member Group / Division, 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 rules 6 and 7, a Member / Group may refuse to grant a Transfer Permission in any of the following circumstances:
  - (a) If greater than [number to be determined by the Member / Group] Transfer Permissions have already been granted by the Member Group / Division in respect of Players, who played in the same team for the same Club in the last Season of Junior Grade Football, to move to the same New Club for the next Season.
- 5 Subject to rules 6 and 7, a Member Group / Division must not grant a Registration Permission if any of the following circumstances apply:
  - (a) Where the Player has played Representative Football at any time within the last 24 months, and where the team which the Player intends Registering to play for with the New Club already contains the number of Representative Players which is equal to or greater than the Representative Quota.
- 6 Notwithstanding rules 4 and 5, a Member Group / Division may grant a Transfer Permission or a Registration Permission under this Policy in “**Exceptional Circumstances**”. For the purpose of this Policy, “**Exceptional Circumstances**” means:
  - (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 over 150 kilometres to play “home” matches in Competitions for the Existing Club.

- (c) If the Player is in a situation where his 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 Notwithstanding rules 4 and 5, in any circumstances where an Existing Club is not; will not be; or does not intend fielding a team in a Competition for a forthcoming Season which a Player is eligible to play in by reference to that Player’s age and ability:
- (a) The Existing Club must grant a Clearance;
  - (b) A Transfer Permission must be granted by an Existing Club’s Member Group / Division; and
  - (c) A Registration Permission must be granted by a New Club’s Member Group / Division;

in the event the Player wishes to Transfer to a New Club for that forthcoming Season.

- 8 The only right of appeal open to a Player, Club or Member Group / Division (together an “**Appellant**”) in respect of any decision made under this Policy in relation to a Player is set out in this rule 8.

***Where the Existing Club’s Member Group / Division and the New Club’s Member Group Division is the same Member Group Division***

- (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 [regional manager] of the CRL Region of the Member / Group Division, by written notice addressed to the [regional manager] 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 8(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 Member Group / Division 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 [regional manager] of the CRL Region shall, after having considered the Appellant’s Appeal, either:

- (i) Refuse the Appeal, in which case the original Transfer Decision stands; or
  - (ii) Allow the Appeal, in which case the [regional manager] of the CRL Region shall substitute the Transfer Decision for a new decision and then order the Existing Club and the Member Group / Division to do all things necessary to give effect to the new Transfer Decision.
- (e) The decision of the [regional manager] of the CRL Region in relation to any Appeal is final, and shall not be capable of review or be otherwise justiciable.

***Where the Existing Club's Member Group / Division is different to the New Club's Member Group Division***

- (f) In any case where an Appeal concerns a Transfer Decision involving different Member Groups / Divisions:
- (i) The Appeal shall be made to, and determined by, the CRL's Operations Manager; but
  - (ii) In all other respects, rules 8(a) to 8(e) shall apply and govern the determination of the Appeal.