



LAWS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Constitution

The Board of the RFL (Governing Body) Limited (the “Board” and the “RFL” respectively) has established a Laws Committee as a sub-committee of the Board (the “Committee”) for the purpose set out below.

The Terms of Reference of the Committee were approved by the Board on 23 August 2019 and are set out below (replacing the Terms of Reference previously in force).

Purpose

The purpose of the Committee is to:

- ensure that the Laws of the Game, and any associated interpretations or policies, best serve the sport of Rugby League in the UK with reference to the three pillars of entertainment, safety and fairness;
- consider game improvement interpretations ahead of each season;
- propose new game improvement interpretations to the RFL Board;
- review any game improvement interpretations previously implemented;
- oversee experimental law initiatives;
- consult with the game’s stakeholders in relation to the above;
- liaise with the NRL and/or the RLIF when necessary in relation to harmonisation issues.

1. Membership

1.1 The Membership of the Committee shall be:

- RFL CEO
- Super League (Europe) Limited CEO
- Super League Head Coach Representative
- Super League Club Representative
- Championship / League 1 Club Representative(s)
- RFL Performance Department Representative
- RFL Legal and Compliance Representative
- Media/Broadcast Representative
- Club Head of Youth Representative
- Player Representative
- RFL Match Officials Department Representative
- Medical Representative
- Rugby League Players Association Representative

1.2 The Chairperson of the Committee shall be the RFL Chief Executive, or in his absence, a nominated deputy.

1.3 A member of RFL staff shall be appointed as the Committee’s Secretary.

1.4 The RFL Chief Executive as Chair shall determine by whom each of the Representatives set out in Paragraph 1.1 shall be nominated. The guiding principle being that they should represent the relevant stakeholder group.

1.5 Appointments shall usually be made for an initial period of three years, with one appointment of an additional term of 3 years being possible. This shall not apply to the Chair who shall remain as the Chair as long as he is the RFL Chief Executive or other employees of the RFL or SLE.

1.6 In the event that a representative leaves his/her position, their membership of the Laws Committee shall, at the discretion of the Chair, be discontinued.

2.0 Meetings

2.1 Meetings shall be held as a minimum once a year.

2.2 The RFL shall be responsible for calling the meetings and providing the organisational support to the Committee.

2.3 Agendas and papers will ordinarily be circulated at least one week in advance of Committee meetings. Committee members may at any time request the addition of agenda items via the Committee Secretary.

2.4 The quorum at any meeting of the Committee shall be a simple majority of the Members.

2.5 Minutes of each meeting will ordinarily be circulated within 14 days of the meeting to the Committee (and in due course to the Board).

2.6 Papers for and discussions within meetings shall remain confidential.

2.7 Each Member shall consult with their stakeholder group in advance of meetings and shall represent the views of their stakeholder group within Committee meetings.

3.0 Authority

3.1 The Committee is authorised by the Board to:

- Investigate any activity within its Terms of Reference;
- Seek external input as it considers necessary;
- Make recommendations to the RFL Board on any area within its remit,

provided that it shall not be entitled to incur any expenditure on behalf of the RFL (unless approved in advance in writing by the RFL Board or relevant RFL Executive Board member) or bind the RFL in anyway.

3.0 Code of Conduct

3.1 Each member of the Committee shall be required to agree to the appended Code of Conduct.

4.0 Other

4.1 There shall be no fees or expenses payable to any member of the Committee.

SCHEDULE 1

LAWS COMMITTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Scope

- (a) This Code of Conduct applies to all members of the Laws Committee (an “**Office Holder**”).

2. Accountability and Responsibilities

- (a) You must exercise your powers as an Office Holder in good faith and for the benefit of the RFL, its members, and the sport of Rugby League.
- (b) You acknowledge that it is a condition of your membership of the Committee that you provide a Fit and Proper Person Declaration (in the form specified by the RFL) confirming that you are not subject to any of the conditions set out in the Declaration (the “**Disqualifying Conditions**”). You shall notify the Secretary if any event occurs which means you are or are reasonably likely to be subjected to a Disqualifying Condition. If you are subject to a Disqualifying Condition you have the right to ask for a dispensation from the prohibition on being a Committee member: any such request will be considered by the RFL Board (whose decision shall be final).

3. Confidentiality

- (a) For the purpose of this clause, Confidential Information means information that is either marked confidential or which by its nature would be assumed by a reasonable person to be confidential.
- (b) You must ensure that you handle Confidential Information obtained solely as result of your membership of the Committee in accordance with the law and with regard to the best interests and reputation of the RFL. You must not use Confidential Information for private purposes or to harm the RFL or to maliciously damage the reputation of others or disclose confidential information to the media or any other third party without the prior written authority of the RFL. This obligation continues indefinitely after you cease to be an Office Holder.

4. Decision Making, Conflicts of interest and Independence

- (a) When taking any decision as part of the Committee, you agree to act in the best interests of the RFL and the sport in general.
- (b) You must fully declare all conflicts of interest in advance. As well as avoiding actual impropriety, you should avoid any appearance of it.
- (c) You have the right to argue for your point of view, and express disagreement with colleagues during discussions, but after a collective decision has been taken you should support that decision in your capacity as a member of the Committee.

5. Behaviours

- (a) You shall actively engage in respectful discussion, debate and voting in meetings. This includes contributing positively, listening carefully, challenging sensitively and avoiding unnecessary conflict.



- (b) You shall carry out your role as an Office Holder in accordance with the RFL Values. This includes working considerately and respectfully with all.

6. **General**

- (a) No Code of Conduct can be all-embracing and it is necessary to honour the spirit of the Code as well as its letter. Where questions arise which are not covered explicitly by his Code, your behaviour should be honest, ethical, impartial and considerate, and dedicated to the development and good management of the sport of Rugby League and the RFL.

7. **Breach**

- (a) Any allegation of a breach of this Code of Conduct, will be considered by the Chair who may, at his discretion, terminate your membership of the Committee. You will be given the right to make representations to the Chair in relation to any such allegation.
- (b) There shall be a right of appeal against such a decision to the RFL Board.