



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 rugby league by organising and administering matches and festivals on behalf of the 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 in January each year. Membership shall be granted to a club for one season only and all clubs must reapply for membership each year.
- 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 Registration Form by the published deadline shall be excluded from festivals.
- 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.

3. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 3.1 All players shall annually register to the club using the RFL GameDay system. The RFL will circulate a link to the registration portal to the clubs to commence the registration process. During this process a Player must become an Our League Active member.
- 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 have stopped playing open age Rugby League
- 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 to be arranged by clubs with the exception of Regional/Central Festivals. No club fixtures are to be arranged on the weekend of a central festival, or in the defined region of a Regional Festival.
- 4.2 The Management Group will organise, with host clubs a number of central and regional Festivals each year.
- 4.3 The Management group will organise, with host clubs any fixtures involving incoming touring teams.
- 4.4 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 at a cost of £10 per player with a £100 deposit (covering first ten players payment.) and will be reviewed annually by the Management Group. General 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. In the event that there is no first aider then the Match Official will not permit a game to take place.

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. It is imperative that any head injuries are reported on the system as this information must be provided to the insurers.

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.

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 player's suspension shall commence on the Saturday following the meeting at which the suspension was imposed, with the exception of any suspension of six matches or more which shall take immediate effect.
- 6.9 A suspended player is not permitted to play in any other game of Rugby League until any fines are paid and their suspension is served, and the completed Notification of Games Served Form has been completed, received, and approved by the RFL. Any



player or club violating this rule will be fined not less than £100. The offending player may also incur an additional suspension and will not be able to play until such time as the fine is paid. The MRL Management Group, should it deem appropriate, reserves the right to apply other sanctions which may include a club's suspension or expulsion 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 Clubs who have the right to appeal may do so within 7 days of a decision made. A £40.00 fee, payable to the "RFL", should be submitted together with an accompanying letter outlining the reason the appeal is sought. This must be forwarded to the RFL.
- 7.3 An appeal by a club may be based solely on the following grounds: a) the finding of guilt or b) the severity of sentence imposed.
- 7.4 No member of the Discipline Panel actively involved in a decision taken at the initial hearing shall be permitted to adjudicate on matters which will be the subject of appeal.
- 7.5 Adjudication by the Appeals Panel precludes the right of individual players or their clubs towards seeking a further representation.