

# DEUCHARS IPA NATIONAL LEAGUE

## COMPETITION RULES - 2014

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## **CR 1.0 Match Officials**

- CR1.1** The Home Club is responsible for arranging Match Officials for their fixtures. Match Officials will receive a match fee £25.50 and expenses at 31p per mile are paid in addition to the match fee. The home clubs will be responsible for paying the match fee and expenses with an upper limit of £41.00 on the day of the match any addition expenses would be claimed by the Match Official from the RFL.
- CR1.2** No person other than the appointed Match Officials, Club Secretary, or in his absence, an authorised representative may enter the Match Official's dressing room either for the period beginning 30 minutes prior to and 30 minutes after the game's conclusion. Unauthorised entry shall be deemed as misconduct and the persons concerned dealt with accordingly.
- CR1.3** For the avoidance of doubt and as clarification to Clubs on match days other than for issuing a red card, a Match Official shall verbally to the relevant club signify his/her intention to submit a report relating to alleged misconduct (including brawls, abuse or other offences including alleged involvement by spectators),
- CR1.4** The Home Club responsible for the actions of all spectators is also required to take all reasonable precautions necessary to avoid threats/abuse and/or assaults upon Match Officials before during or at the conclusion of games under the auspices of this League. Spectators must not (and each club must use its best endeavours to ensure that spectators do not) behave in an unruly/unlawful/disorderly fashion nor in any manner which in the opinion of the League's Management Committee is prejudicial to the game and amounts to improper misconduct.
- CR1.5** Clubs must ensure that Match Officials are given the full name of any dismissed player (or other person/s alleged to have committed a misconduct offence). They must at all times assist the Match Official in identifying any person, Official or Spectator of whom the Match Official has cause to enquire.
- CR1.6** A full report containing the details of any alleged misconduct (whether by a Player Club Official or other person) must be lodged by email with the League and the offending club/s concerned by the Match Official inside 48 hours of the game's conclusion. The Match Official is also obliged to record by hand on the Official Match Day Team Sheet the names of Players dismissed or temporarily dismissed from the field (sin bin) and the nature of the offence committed.
- CR1.7** All hearings in relation to allegations requiring an extended investigation or referral directly to the Rugby Football League Legal and Compliance Department prior to any formal charge being issued shall be opened by the appropriate Discipline/Management Committee within a period of 31 days from the date of the Official Charge Notification being communicated by the League.

## **CR 2.0 Disciplinary Committee**

- CR 2.1** The League's Disciplinary Committee shall deal with all matters of misconduct as clearly set out in the National Conference League's Competition Rules.
- CR 2.2** The League's Management Committee shall, either in whole or part, act as a Disciplinary Committee whose role shall be to adjudicate upon clubs, players and officials or other persons reported to them by Match Officials for alleged misconduct.
- CR 2.3** The League's Management Committee shall act in accordance with the Community Game Sentencing Guidelines.
- CR 2.4** The League's Management Committee shall have the power to reprimand, fine expel or suspend any Club, Player, Official or other person found guilty of misconduct. In addition the Management Committee shall have the power to deduct Competition Points from any such club.
- CR 2.5** The Competition Administrator shall record under the Disciplinary Charter – a segment of the Minimum Standards Criteria – all offences where Clubs, Players Officials or other persons are found guilty of misconduct, the penalties of which to be reviewed periodically by the Management Committee.

## **CR 3.0 Rights of Persons Alleged to Have Committed Misconduct**

**CR 3.1** Any Club, Player Official, or other person alleged to have committed misconduct may in their own defence or mitigation, send a letter, request a personal hearing, submit evidence and/or bring witnesses to the disciplinary hearing, provided that, in relation to personal hearings, they notify by e-mail the Competition Administrator and forward through the club's secretary the requisite personal appearance deposit for receipt within ten days of the alleged offence. In the case of a Club using the BACS "on line" system of payment, written notification indicating the reason for such payment and the reason for doing so, must be confirmed to the Competition Administrator inside ten days from the match date.

**CR 3.2** DVD evidence submitted must be a full unedited recording of the game, showing clearly and identifying without question the alleged offence(s) cited in a match officials report. Presentations extracted from You-tube or other media outlets shall not be considered appropriate nor used for the purpose of disciplinary enquiries conducted by the league.

**CR 3.3** The Match Officials may, attend any such discipline hearing in relation to any alleged misconduct they have reported. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to require the attendance of a Match Official at a hearing.

#### **CR 4.0 Sanctions**

**CR 4.1** A suspension imposed on a Player shall:

If the tariff is less than six matches:

- Commence on the second Saturday following the disciplinary hearing.
- The Player shall be allowed to resume playing with his recognised Club in the event of an appeal against the original decision – subject to representation having been made at the initial hearing - being lodged to and received by an independent authority.

If the tariff is six or more matches:

- Commence with immediate effect.
- The Player shall not be allowed to resume playing with his recognised Club in the event of an appeal against the original decision – subject to representation having been made at the initial hearing - being lodged to and received by an independent authority.

**CR 4.2** A suspended Player is not permitted to play in any game of rugby league nor become involved in any other Match Day activity until the suspension is served and written notification received from the Competition Administrator to that effect. Any Club deemed to have violated this rule will be fined accordingly and the Player shall be suspended for a further period of six matches.

**CR 4.3** A suspension from the game varying from between two and five years shall be imposed on any person found guilty of assaulting Match Official. A review by the full Management Committee shall not proceed until the second "Anniversary Date" upon which the original suspension has lapsed.

**CR 4.4** Serious offences carrying lengthy suspensions to a maximum of five years shall not be reviewed by the full Management Committee until the second "Anniversary Date" upon which the original sanction imposed has lapsed.

**CR 4.5** All fines imposed by the League on Clubs, Officials or Players for whatever reason shall be settled in full within 28 days from the date of imposition. Fines unpaid on 28 days from the date of imposition shall be doubled accordingly and should a further 14 days lapse without payment having been received in full then, in relation to a Club, its fixtures shall be suspended forthwith and, in relation to a Player or Official, they shall be suspended from participating until such a fine is paid.

**CR 4.6** All Disciplinary fines are to be paid to and collected by the Competition Administrator who acts for and on behalf of the League. In the case of a Club using the BACS "on line" system of payment, written notification indicating the reason for such payment and the reason for doing so, must be confirmed to the Competition Administrator inside ten days from the match date.

**CR 4.7** A Club failing to fulfil without an explanation which satisfies the Management Committee a League or Grand Final Series play off fixture as scheduled by the Competition Administrator and/or Management Committee shall, in addition to being relegated from its respective division at the conclusion of the playing season, be fined up to £250.

- CR 4.8** The Management Committee shall impose upon that Club the deduction from its current playing record of two League points and in the case of a club having failed a League fixture and completion of its programme, up to a further £250 shall apply.
- CR 4.9** Where the fixture failure applies to a club in the lowest division, that club, in addition to the penalties applied as enumerated in Rule 4.7 shall, at the sole discretion of the Management Committee and taking all contributory factors into consideration, either be expelled from membership or obliged to seek re-selection.
- CR4.10** Where the failure impacts on the Grand Final series, the defaulting Club may, in addition, face a net loss from the subsequent season's League programme of up to four match points.
- CR 4.11** A Club found guilty of fielding within its match day squad an Ineligible Player will be fined as appropriate and at the conclusion of the season have two points deducted from its playing record.
- CR 4.12** In the event of a club winning a League game by fielding a player deemed to be ineligible, then the Championship Points accrued from the win shall be forfeited automatically with an additional two Championship Points being deducted from the Club's playing record on conclusion of the season. A defeated team fielding an ineligible player shall lose two Championship Points on conclusion of the season.
- CR 4.13** A Club found guilty of fielding an un-registered player i.e. someone retained on the Club's official listing from the previous season as held by the League but having not confirmed his current registration via signature with that club on or before a specified Competition Date annually shall be fined as appropriate. In the event of that team winning the fixture then the Championship Points accrued from it shall be forfeited automatically.
- CR 4.14** Championship points shall not be awarded to Clubs for any reason and all games including Play Off ties arranged by the Competition Administrator and /or Management Committee shall proceed as detailed/issued on the schedule distributed to Clubs.
- CR 4.15** The Competition Rules covering Grand Final Series or other Play Off matches under the League's strict jurisdiction shall be circulated by the Administrator to all the competing clubs at least 96 hours prior to the first scheduled tie.
- CR 4.16** Clubs on reaching a Play Off phase shall, without deviation or local agreement to the contrary, comply with the Competition Rules governing such Play Off games as issued by the Administrator

## **CR 5.0 Appeals**

- CR 5.1** This rule shall supersede Tier 4 Operational Rule D1:2:1(c) Every Club, Player, Official or other persons found guilty of misconduct shall have the right to appeal the decision of the League's Discipline Committee to an Independent Appeals Panel provided that, the Club, Player, Official or other persons made representations either personally, or by a representative or in writing at the original hearing.
- CR 5.2** Every Club, Player, Officials or other persons wishing to appeal against decisions by the Disciplinary Committee must do so in writing to the Competition Administrator for receipt within ten days from the decision date and include the appropriate appeal/administration fee.
- CR 5.3** Clubs must, in addition to applying Rule CR5.2 and for the purpose of consistency with procedure, notify the Competition Administrator whether, in giving formal notice of the appeal, such notice is based on the:
- Finding of Guilt
  - Severity of Sentence Imposed.

## **CR 6.0 Registrations**

- CR 6.1** The League shall by a "Specified Competition Date - 1<sup>st</sup> June -, remove from its records a Player whose re-registration at a Club in the current season has remained dormant or otherwise not been confirmed, via a personal signature, an intention to re-register.

**CR 6.2** An un-registered Player returning to that club after the “Specified Competition Date” has elapsed, shall be Obligated, using a standard form to re-register as New.

- Clubs must inform the League’s Administrator immediately in writing when a Player either retires, has transferred to another Club or, otherwise no longer serving on the official listing of personnel held on file.
- Clubs may, in writing to the League’s Administrator at any time, request a current copy of all eligible Players held on their databases.

**CR 6.3** Any Player once registered by the League in the prescribed manner is deemed eligible to play. Transfers must be lodged with and received by the Competition Administrator at least 24 hours prior to any player participating in a fixture. An agreed deadline date of the 1<sup>st</sup> July is fixed for the transfer or registration of Players - save for amateurs not registered for any club that season nor ex-professionals having been out of contract for twelve months and not having participated in games at any level of competition during the intervening period. Players are allowed to participate in the Professional Game on amateur terms only and shall not receive payment for playing in this League.

**CR 6.4** No transfers will be accepted following the end of the league campaign and before the play-offs start.

**CR 6.5** **Players** whose contractual arrangements with a Professional club during the current season have been terminated by mutual consent shall not after the 1<sup>st</sup> July annually be allowed to register in the National Conference League.

**CR 6.6** For the avoidance of doubt regarding contractual arrangements of a player seeking a return to the National Conference League, clubs wishing to register them are, in the first instance obliged to seek in writing with the Competition Administrator confirmation of their current status. The details of all transactions must be notified to and approved/confirmed by the Competition Administrator not later than 12noon on the preceding Friday prior to these players participating in the NCL otherwise their eligibility for selection shall be deemed invalid.

**CR 6.7** The failure of clubs to observe/comply with Rule 6.6 may lead to the taking of disciplinary action.

**CR 6.8** A Professional Player is not allowed to register with the National Conference League until all contractual arrangements are completed or otherwise terminated by written mutual consent of both the player and Professional Club, full details of which must be confirmed in writing with this League at the time of registration.

**CR 6.9** **Once** two calendar years have elapsed from the confirmed date of a Player’s registration with the National Conference League then the Players shall not count as an ex-professional.

**CR 6.9a** A Professional player is defined as a Player who has signed a contractual agreement and is on the register of a Professional club (Super League, Championship etc.)

## **CR 7.0** Substitutes

**CR 7.1** Each team may nominate a maximum of (4) four replacements whose names must be communicated to the Match Official prior to the game. Unlimited interchanges will be permitted from (17) seventeen named players. Substitutes will be sanctioned either by the Match Official alone or an official designated to oversee the interchange process.

## **CR 8.0** Match Day Squad announcements

**CR 8.1** Each team is required to name their match day squad by 21:00 on the Thursday preceding their fixture to [info@scotlandrl.com](mailto:info@scotlandrl.com) for publication on the SRL website.

**CR 8.2** Match Officials must be confirmed with the League Administrator by 21:00 on the Thursday preceding their fixture to [info@scotlandrl.com](mailto:info@scotlandrl.com) for publication on the SRL website.

## **CR 9.0** Promotion/Relegation

**CR 9.1** Promotion and relegation issues throughout the divisional structure will be determined annually by the League's Management Committee.

### **CR 10.0 Representative Games**

**CR 10.1** This rule shall supersede Tier 4 Operational Rule B 4:2:6: A Club obliged to fulfilling a National League fixture and having three or more players playing in a Representative Match, recognised by the National League may seek a postponement. Such applications in writing for consideration by the Management Committee must be forwarded directly to the Competition Administrator for receipt within 72 hours of the fixture and copied to the Club's match day opponents.

### **CR 11.0 Match Day Duties**

**CR11.1** Clubs must within 15 minutes of the game's conclusion, communicate via a texting service the score from their home games.

**CR11.2** Clubs must confer with each other and the Match Official to reach agreement prior to the result being communicated.

**CR11.4** Full match details must be accurate and verified at the ground ahead of communication to the League's Press Officer by telephone or email within two hours of the final whistle having been blown by the Match Official.

**CR11.5** Clubs in default on either count will be fined appropriately. The League's Management Committee may from time to time direct other requirements.

### **CR 12.0 Fixtures**

**CR12.1** The Competition Administrator is permitted to introduce any backlog of fixtures as deemed appropriate. In exceptional circumstances, fixtures may be brought forward.

**CR12.2** However, if that/those fixtures are not played on the scheduled date they will return to the original date(s) as programmed by the League.

**CR12.3** All scheduled games shall kick off at 2.00pm unless an alternative commencement time is given.

**CR12.4** Visiting teams must arrive at the ground of their opponents at least thirty minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time. Any team running late must inform the opposition team and keep them updated of their progress.

### **CR 13.0 Grounds Unfit for Play**

**CR13.1** In the event of the Home Club suspecting that the ground will not be fit for play owing to frost or other cause, the Home club must immediately call a local Referee to carry out a ground inspection. If the local Referee states the ground is unfit for play and in his opinion there is no chance of it being so prior to the scheduled kick off then that decision must be communicated immediately to the Visiting club, Match Official and Competition Administrator. At that point the match shall be deemed postponed and subject to re-arrangement either by the mutual consent of both Clubs or League at a later date.

**CR13.2** If having made such an inspection the local referee states there is doubt as to the fitness of the ground but not certain that at the scheduled kick off time it will remain unfit, then the Home Club must immediately advise the Visiting Club and Competition Administrator of the position. A further inspection by that local Referee or colleague connected with a Referee Society shall be carried out prior to the Visiting team embarking upon their journey. The decision to play or otherwise shall be final. The Home Club shall on being advised by the local Referee that a match is postponed must immediately advise the Visiting team, Match Official and Competition Administrator.

**CR13.3** In the event of a sudden or late deterioration in conditions with both teams present at the ground, then the Match Official alone shall have the power to decide whether the game should be played or not. The competing teams shall not place the Match Official under any undue or adverse pressure in the making of his decision which shall be binding upon all parties.

**CR13.4** Unless it has received or been notified by telephone/text message of cancellation by the Home Club, as enumerated under Rule CR 13.1 and CR 13.2 then the Visiting team if having made the journey when the local Referee declares the pitch to be unplayable, shall be entitled to claim full travel expenses from the Home club.

**CR13.5** It shall be the duty of the Match Official under the auspices of the National League to ensure that under these Rules and the Laws of the Game, grounds and pitches are fit for play. If a ground is not fit, however, and both teams by mutual agreement are happy for a game to take place then the Match Official may, to ensure play proceeds, order the making of such alterations as he thinks fit. A Match Official may as a statutory Duty of Care refuse to allow the staging of a match if he considers that the ground conditions may potentially compromise the safety and welfare of all players participating in that activity.

**CR13.5.1** In the event of no mutual agreement between both clubs, then the Match Official's decision to allow the game to proceed or otherwise shall be final.

**CR13.6** The League shall accept without question a decision of a Local Authority to order the closure of its facility which in any event overrides the need for an inspection by a Match Official.

**CR13.7** If less than 65 minutes playing time has elapsed, the League's Management Committee may, at its sole discretion, order the game to be replayed on a subsequent occasion.

#### **CR14.0 Trophies**

**CR14.1** Member Clubs winning trophies shall, within 28 days from the date of presentation by the League, and using a standard template provided for that purpose, give to the Competition Administrator a written guarantee for their safe return, to the Administrator on or before 1st May each year. Costs arising from the cleaning or repair of trophies, no matter how caused, or replacement should such damage be deemed beyond repair, shall be levied upon the current cup holders.

#### **CR15.0 Racially Discriminatory Practices**

**CR15.1** The SRL, RFL and National League jointly are committed to eradicating all forms of racial discrimination a commitment, which will enhance equality of opportunity in all aspects of the game. Racial language and the behaviour of a minority to support it have no part to play in the game and as a result, will not be tolerated. Anyone engaging in and found guilty of racist behaviour will be dealt with promptly through the relevant procedures. We must be wholly responsible for tackling racism and by doing so ensuring that everyone can enjoy the sport of rugby league football.

#### **CR 16.0 Breach of the Rules**

**CR16.1** Clubs admitted to the National League shall, as a condition of their admission and participation in the Competition, agree to be bound by:

- These Competition Rules
- The Playing & Tier 4 Operational Rules
- The Appendices
- The Disciplinary Code
- Other Rules, Standards or Regulations adopted periodically by the NL Management, which are notified to all clubs.

**CR16.2** The failure to comply with any and all of these Rules may result in the expulsion or non-admission of a Club from the NL Competition or such other penalty as deemed appropriate by the NL Management in its discretion. The exercise of such discretion shall be proportionate to the seriousness of non-compliance by that Club.

