



PENRITH AND DISTRICTS
JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

2024 BY-LAWS

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Panthers Juniors By-Laws

INTRODUCTION

This handbook incorporates the rules and By-Laws for the Penrith and District Junior Rugby League Competition for Clubs participating.

These By-Laws should be read in conjunction with the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual. Note: All correspondence regarding any Competition matter is to be directed through your local League Administrator.

The Penrith and Districts Junior Rugby League Club Limited, NSWRL and NSW Community Rugby Leagues Association reserves the right to make changes and / or amendments to any Policy, Procedure or Appendix, or add new policies to the NSWRL COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL and Penrith and Districts Junior Rugby League Club Limited by-laws at any time as they see fit.

Any changes will be notified to District Administrators and Zone / Regional Managers in a timely manner for distribution to Clubs.

Blake South

General Manager

Penrith and Districts Junior Rugby League Club Limited



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CHANGES & ADDITIONS

This manual is a living document and the policies and procedures contained within may change from time to time.

Each year the Manual, and any changes required to Policies, Procedures and Appendix that were identified within the previous year, will be reviewed and approved by the Penrith and Districts Junior Rugby League Board. This review will be undertaken in September of each year. The approved Manual will then be distributed to the District by way of upload to the Panthers Juniors website and via email, and will be a live document from the 1st November each year.

The Penrith and Districts Junior Rugby League Association reserves the right to make changes and / or amendments to any Policy, Procedure or Appendix, or add new policies to the Penrith and Districts Junior Rugby League Association POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL at any time as they see fit. Any changes will be notified to Club Executives in a timely manner for distribution to members.

APPLICATION OF POLICIES & PROCEDURES & SITUATIONS NOT COVERED IN THIS MANUAL

For the avoidance of any doubt, it is intended that this Policies & Procedures Manual shall apply to all rugby league matches played under the auspices of the NSWRL, the District Clubs and the NSWRL Regional Members for the 2021 Rugby League season and beyond. Each club that participates in these matches, and its registered players and officials, shall comply fully with the provisions of this Policies & Procedures Manual.

If there is a situation not covered within this Policies & Procedures Manual, please refer to other current documents including:

- » International (13s+) Laws
- » Junior League Laws (5-12s)
- » www.playrugbyleague.com

Should the situation still remain 'not covered' then the situation should be referred to the Panthers Juniors General Manager for determination.

SITUATIONS NOT COVERED IN THIS MANUAL

If there is a situation not covered within these Policies and Procedures, please refer to:

NSWRL 2024 RULE BOOK

<https://www.nswrl.com.au/about/documents/>

Should the situation still remain 'not covered' then the situation should be referred to your Junior League Administrator for determination. If the Junior League Administrator is unable to resolve the situation, please refer to the NSWRL Junior League Association for determination.



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SECTION 1

1.1 NSWRL & PDJRL COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

At all times, Clubs should follow the protocol below when initiating contact with the PDJRL. All contact between a Club should be made through the Secretary of the Club involved. Initial contact should be made by email to info@panthersjuniors.com.au or The appropriate PDJRL staff member will respond to the email in a timely manner

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For all media enquiries please contact NSWRL Head of Public Affairs Tracie Edmondson tedmondson@nswrl.com.au

IN THE CASE OF A COMPLAINT BY AN INDIVIDUAL AGAINST A CLUB / DISTRICT OR REGION

In the first instance please contact your Community Rugby League District or Region
If you cannot resolve the issue at a District or Regional level, please contact NSWRL with evidence of your attempts to resolve through your District or Region

ALL CONTACT BETWEEN A CLUB AND THE PDJRL SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF THE CLUB INVOLVED.

Initial contact should be made by email to the appropriate PDJRL staff member where they will respond to the email in a timely manner

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY ISSUE

Contact the PDJRL General Manager Blake South blake.south@panthersjuniors.com.au

IN THE CASE OF A COMPLAINT BY AN INDIVIDUAL AGAINST A CLUB / DISTRICT OR REGION

In the first instance please contact your Community Rugby League District or Region, contact should be made by email to info@panthersjuniors.com.au

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IF THE CORRECT COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL, ARE NOT FOLLOWED, CLUBS AND INDIVIDUALS WILL BE ASKED TO FOLLOW THE PROTOCOL AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

1.2 LICENSING & SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

1. In order to participate in all PDJRL and NSWRL Community Rugby League Competitions, on-field team apparel must include the PDJRL major sponsor/s logo as directed by the PDJRL, along with the Shield and NSWRL logo.
2. New PDJRL sponsors that may come on board may have a requirement for logo placement on playing or off field apparel and as such clubs must adhere to the direction given anytime to them



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SECTION 1

1.3 CLUB CONSTITUTION & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

All Rugby League clubs must be Incorporated and have a current Constitution

1. Clubs may only alter their Constitution either at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary Meeting and in accordance with the rules of the Constitution and all applicable laws
2. Each club shall forward a copy of its Constitution to their League and advise when alterations are made.
3. A copy of the clubs Constitution must be available at all meetings of the club
4. Clubs may attach a set of By-Laws to the Constitution. Such By-Laws may be altered, deleted or established at any General Committee Meeting of the club
5. Clubs must observe and support the rules of the Constitution at all times
6. If a rule/policy cannot be found in a club Constitution, the PDJRL Constitution should be adhered to
7. The Clubs constitution must be presented at the affiliation meeting each year along with AGM minutes showing no changes, or AGM/Extraordinary Meeting minutes stating the changes and passed by the clubs' members

CLUBS GENERAL MEETING

8. All clubs must hold a general committee meeting within a calendar month. If a club is unable to conduct a monthly meeting, the Junior League General Manager must be notified in writing. The clubs Constitution to be presented at Affiliation meeting each year
9. Clubs must inform the GM the dates for scheduled general meeting dates for the following year, at the affiliation meeting

CLUBS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10. Club Annual General Meetings should be held as per club constitution
11. Clubs shall advise the date of the AGM to the PDJRL office at least 14 days prior to the AGM date.
12. A club AGM will not be held unless the Annual Financial Report is available after 31st October each year



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SECTION 1

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND REQUIREMENTS

13. A copy of the balance sheet, auditor's report, following season budget and the T12 fair trading lodgment form along with the income and expenditure accounts of each club should be forwarded to the PDJRL before December 20th of each calendar year
14. It is the responsibility of the President of each club to overview the financial management of the club and any breaches of the financial management rules or any movement of club funds, other than prescribed by the committee must be reported to the PDJRL
15. The PDJRL does not support 2 members of the same family signing club cheques
16. The Treasurer must make regular deposits to the bank and should not retain possession of cash collected on behalf of the club.
17. Clubs are required to forward the following documents to the PDJRL before the 28th of the following month: A full monthly financial statement, all club accounts bank statements and any other documentation requested.
18. A loss of one (1) competition point per team if submission of club documents is not delivered on time. If submission of club documents is not received within 48hrs of follow up, a \$500 document fee is applied. After three (3) submission failures in a season a club will receive a show cause notice, unless exceptional are conveyed to the Junior League General Manager.

1.4 ADJUDICATIONS & RESPONSIBILITY OF JUNIOR CLUBS

1. A PDJRL club may with reasonable cause disqualify, fine or take other action against any player, official or other person who is convicted of a breach of the club or NSWRL Codes of Conduct
2. The club may invite the person concerned and conduct a proper hearing into the incident if warranted
3. The minutes of the hearing shall be forwarded to the PDJRL within seven (7) days of the hearing and provided the clubs actions have been endorsed by the Junior League General Manager, the adjudication of any person so dealt with, will apply throughout all clubs in the PDJRL.
4. Should any member of a PDJRL club holding an official position have allegations or a complaint made against them regarding criminal or indictable offence or activity (stealing, assault etc.) the Junior League General Manager shall be advised as a matter of urgency for investigation.

1.5 DEFAULTERS

1. Clubs are to receive funds from the defaulter no later than 31st July. If payment has not been received by this date the player cannot be marked as a defaulter.



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SECTION 1

1.6 FEES & FINES

1. Please see the table below for Infringement & Penalties Matrix

INFRINGEMENT & PENALTIES MATRIX			
INFRINGEMENT	FIRST OFFENCE PER SEASON	SECOND & SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE PER SEASON	REMARKS
Late Fees	\$100 Per Event	\$200 Per Event	A fine will apply to clubs who ignore closing dates. The fee is paid to the PDJRL.
Playing an unregistered or unqualified player or invalid PPIS	\$400 Per Match	\$800 Per Offence and Show Cause Notice	The match will be considered a forfeit. The fee is paid to the PDJRL.
Not obtaining appropriate clearances at the time of registration	\$400 Per Offence	\$800 Per Offence	The player will not be eligible to train or play until appropriate clearances have been obtained. The fee is paid to the PDJRL.
Playing a player who exceeds the age in any grade	\$400 Per Match	\$800 Per Offence and Show Cause Notice	The match will be considered a forfeit. The fee is paid to the PDJRL.
Registration irregularity occurring after July 1 with the exception of initiated transfers prior to July 1	\$100 Per Offence	\$200 Per Offence	Depending on the breach, there may be a loss of competition points and / or deregistration of the player/s concerned. The fee is paid to the PDJRL.
Playing a player in two (2) teams in the same division	\$150 Per Match	\$300 Per Match	Loss of competition points for each breach. The fee is paid to the PDJRL.
Not notifying the League of a forfeit by 5.00pm on the Friday prior to the match	\$400 Per Offence 2-Point Deduction	\$800 Per Offence 2-Point Deduction	The fee is paid to the PDJRL.
Appeal against a Decision/Transfer	\$500/\$250 Per Appeal	N/A	This fee is paid to PDJRL.
Protest of a rule or regulation	\$500 Per Protest	N/A	This fee is paid to PDJRL.
Player Training or playing with club on denied Clearance	\$400 Per Offence	\$800 Per Offence	This fee is paid to PDJRL.

ALL AFFILIATION TEAM FEES MUST BE PAID IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING TIME LINE:

2. An affiliation payment is due prior to December 1st each year
3. 50% payment of affiliation fees due before prescribed date in PDJRL Calendar
4. Final payment of affiliation fees due before prescribed date in PDJRL Calendar
5. Unpaid monies invoiced to a club will constitute all team's ineligible for finals
6. If you withdraw a team after the cut of date set in the PDJRL Calendar you will be charged the full team fee.



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SECTION 1

1.7 TRIAL MATCHES

1. Clubs wishing to play trial matches may do so only with the prior permission of the relevant Community Rugby League District or Region.
2. Match officials for PDJRL trial matches will be appointed to matches where 2 PDJRL teams are competing only
3. Trial matches shall be controlled by appropriately qualified match officials.
4. Senior Teams May request certain games and must be approved by the General Manager.

1.8 MANDATORY REPORTING

It is a requirement for Junior League Clubs and Districts and Regions to report to PDJRL any of the following incidents that may occur:

1. The need to engage any emergency service (Police, Ambulance or Fire) at any game day or training (exceptions being non-life-threatening game related injuries attended by Ambulance)
2. Any financial impropriety by any office bearer within the Junior League Club, District or Region that is officially reported to Police
3. Any registered participant that is charged with an offence that is related to child abuse or child endangerment
4. Any registered participant that is listed as BARRED from working with children by the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian



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SECTION 1

1.9 PLAYER EQUIPMENT

1. Jerseys may not be beaded or knotted and makeshift numbers are prohibited (i.e. tape or drawn on numbers)
2. Refer to NSWRL Policies and procedures

1.10 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

1. All registrations that require a clearance (where a player has played previously for another club) must be initiated before 30 June. – PDJRL BY-LAW
2. Refer to NSWRL Policies and Procedures

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYER REGISTRATIONS PER TEAM	
UNDER 5	10
UNDER 6	10
UNDER 7	10
UNDER 8	12
UNDER 9	12
UNDER 10	15
UNDER 11	15
UNDER 12	17
UNDER 13	20
UNDER 14	20
UNDER 15	20
UNDER 16	20
UNDER 17 & 18	20
UNDER 19	20
OPEN AGE	23



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SECTION 2

2.1 PLAYER CLEARANCE POLICY

PROCESSING OF CLEARANCE/TRANSFER AND PERMITS

1. A player cannot train/play with a club if their clearance for whatever reason has been denied online with a full explanation. The coach/club will be held responsible for such breach and disciplinary action and a fine of \$400 per incident may apply.
2. A permit is required when a player is registered in one club and permitted to play with another club on an interim basis and can be initiated any time after the player has been registered in their primary club until the completion of the season, where an agreement exists between two clubs which has been approved by the governing body.
3. All movements of players must be completed in full online, approved or denied within 10 days or the district will automatically apply the by-law to the movement of the player.
4. Players must be fully cleared in the MySideline online platform, prior to being active in the new club.
5. It is the responsibility of the club the player is clearing/transferring to, to ensure the clearance/transfer is fully approved online prior to their registration.

CLEARANCE/TRANSFER – GENERAL RULES

6. A clearance/transfer is required when a player moves from a club or district to another and can only take place from 1st December to 30th June in the same season.
7. Clearance/Transfer will be limited to two (2) players per division per age group within the PDJRL district, unless a club is willing to release additional players
8. A player who had been a Rugby League registered participant, who has not registered to play Rugby League in the previous 18 months will be subject to all clearance / transfer rules pertaining to the movement of the player
9. Clearance requests that cross district borders, either coming into the PDJRL or out of the PDJRL will be at the full discretion of the NSWRL by-laws
10. A player's clearance/transfer will be adjudicated on in accordance with these rules and the players year of birth, not the age group the player may play
11. Any team that has participated in a Division 1 competition from the ages 8-18 and recognized as the top two teams or at the discretion of the PDJRL or participated in a grand final is unable to clear/transfer in any Division 1 players the following season. (A Division 1 player will be any player who was registered and participated in a Division 1 match in the PDJRL in the previous 18 months)



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SECTION 2

12. The appeal fee is \$250 upon competition of the 'Cognito form' link within the prescribed time frame of 48 hours, after both the club the player is leaving from and the club the player is applying to transfer too are notified via email by the PDJRL of a declined transfer. The fee is Nonrefundable. No second appeal will be considered.
13. No Transfer's will be considered if the player has participated in a competition match for their existing club in the current season, however if a team folds during the season all transfers will be at the discretion of the Junior league

TRANSFERS – DEVELOPMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS

14. If the club currently has four (4) Panthers Juniors Development protection list players for their age group, the clearance/transfer of protection list will be refused.
15. All Panthers protection top 30 list players may not transfer out of the team they were selected from; these transfers will be denied. Extreme circumstances may be applicable and will need to be submitted through the appeals system and a decision will be made by the appeals committee in conjunction with Pathways.
16. Any player who is identified as an external representative player or Non-Panthers internal player (Harold Matthews, SG Ball, Tarsha Gale, Lisa Fiaola, Jersey Flegg and NSW Cup) will be adjudicated on within the four (4) player team cap by the Panthers Pathways Manager and the Pathways team in conjunction with the JL General Manager and appeals committee. Any decision will be communicated to clubs.

LOCAL CONDITIONS IN RELATION TO CLEARANCE/TRANSFER /TRANSFERS AND PERMITS

17. If a player requests a transfer to a club, all transfer rules will apply. The Board of Management will have discretionary power to approve or deny a transfer on any players coming from a team that have folded only.
18. If the PDJRL becomes aware of a mass movement of players by way of clearance out of a club or district, irrespective of the reason, the clearance of such players will be denied, Including If any club becomes aware that players from another club team have refrained from registering because of encouragement from another club or official to transfer, the matter will be investigated, and appropriate action will be taken.

2.2 PLAYING IN MORE THAN ONE CLUB

1. Once a player is registered and plays a competition match (or portion of a match) with a club they are unable to play with another club in the same season.



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SECTION 2

2.3 PLAYING WITH MORE THAN ONE TEAM

1. Once a player is registered and plays their first competition match (or portion of a match) with a team, this becomes their primary team within that club.
2. A player may play in any age group for which they are eligible, but not more than (1) year above their age or as may be defined otherwise in these rules.
3. No player shall be compelled to play a higher age group or more than one (1) year above the player's age as the PDJRL does not support it and it is a serious breach of the PDJRL rules.
4. Should a player take the field in an age group more than one (1) year higher than the players age, the team officials will be in breach of our PDJRL rules and will be asked to show cause why their accreditation should not be suspended and will be stood down pending an investigation and/or hearing. Competition points and points scored by the team in the match in which the player took the field will be confiscated and Approval must be obtained from the NSWRL.
5. A player is permissible to play up a division within the same age group but must remain in that higher division for the remainder of the season. This player cannot return to the lower division. This rule should not be confused with the rule that allows the player from the lower age group to play in a higher age group. This will become the players primary team. ie. If a player's primary team is Under 13 Division 2 and they play 1 match in the Under 13 Division 1 team the higher division team will become the players primary team for the duration of the season.
6. If a team requires players to play up an age, the limit is three (3) players per match and any player may not participate for a secondary team at the expense of registered players to that team as their primary team. A player may play up unlimited times if they are playing 1 year above their natural age group. Semifinal qualification rule still applies. Within the ages affected by the PDF, those players may play up 1 year from their natural age for a maximum of five (5) matches only in the regular season. Players are not permitted to play up throughout the semifinal series in any scenario. This rule is to be applied in conjunction with PDJRL by-law 2.3.7
7. A player who plays in a higher age group than his birth age group, the player must only move to a division that is no lower than 2 divisions from the division of the team they are registered in. Only two players are permitted to move. IE Under 10 division 2 can't go below Under 11 Division 4, otherwise there is no restriction. Further, a division 1 player wanting to play in a higher age group than their birth age group, must not play in a match in a division lower than division 2.



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SECTION 2

8. A player who registers in a higher age group than his birth age group is NOT permitted to return to the lower age group at any time during the season. Competition points and points scored by the team in the match in which the player took the field will be confiscated and fined or other penalty. This is a serious breach of the PDJRL rules, and the player will be declared unqualified and/or be suspended.
9. A player that qualifies for a final's series in their registered team, and the age group above is higher and not more than 1 year above their actual age group, the player automatically qualifies for the older age group or division finals series without playing a competition match.

2.4 PLAYING A PLAYER ABOVE THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP

NATURAL AGE GROUP

1. Under 5 to Under 10 participants are to play in their natural age group, however a player dispensation in these age groups can be requested with the PDJRL General Manager for approval providing it is not a direct conflict with the Player Development PDF.
2. Refer to NSWRL Policies and Procedures.

2.5 PLAYING A PLAYER BELOW THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP

1. Players who are granted approval for dispensation based on 18-month window, are unable to trial for a representative team.
2. Refer to NSWRL Policies and Procedures
3. In female competitions players may request to play down and will be granted on discretion of the general manager and NSWRL



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SECTION 2

2.6 NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON THE FIELD

MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS REQUIRED ON FIELD FOR EACH AGE GROUP			
AGE	MINIMUM NUMBER TO TAKE FIELD	MAXIMUM NUMBER TO TAKE FIELD	MAXIMUM TIME LIMIT TO TAKE FIELD
UNDER 5	4	6	Half-Time
UNDER 6	4	6	Half-Time
UNDER 7	4	6	Half-Time
UNDER 8	6	8	Half-Time
UNDER 9	6	8	Half-Time
UNDER 10	8	11	Half-Time
UNDER 11	8	11	Half-Time
UNDER 12	11	13	Half-Time
UNDER 13	9	13	Full-Time
UNDER 14	9	13	Full-Time
UNDER 15	9	13	Full-Time
UNDER 16	9	13	Full-Time
UNDER 17	9	13	Full-Time
UNDER 19	9	13	Full-Time
OPEN AGE	9	13	Full-Time



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SECTION 3

3.1 COMPETITION POINTS

THE FOLLOWING POINTS SYSTEM CAN BE ADOPTED FOR COMPETITIONS IN NSWRL.

1. PDJRL Points system

WIN – Two (2) points for the winning team

DRAW – One (1) point for each team

LOSS – Nil points awarded to losing team

FORFEIT – Two (2) points awarded for the non-offending team

BYE – Two (2) points for the team that has the Bye

3.2 NOMINATIONS AND GRADINGS

In localised Community Rugby League competitions, the League Administrator (in consultation with their board) will make determination on the following points.

1. Closing date for team Nominations are as per PDJRL calendar each year
2. A maximum of 45 male and 6 female teams may be nominated for the age groups of U5's to U16's
3. Distribute a nomination form to each club, which contains the terms and conditions on which a club may apply to nominate a team to participate in a competition, noting that a club which enters a team or teams in any competition in a particular season shall not be entitled as of right to enter any team or teams in any competitions in any subsequent season, and that the League Administrator and their board shall be entitled to refuse the application of any club to enter team(s) in its competitions.
4. Following completion of the forms, the clubs will return the form prior to the date determined
5. Grading of teams will take place in 3 phases and clubs will be advised of those gradings on each occasion for reassessment, then prior to the commencement of competitions
6. The competition rules and by-laws will determine late nomination of teams and may make adjustment to those already nominated if required.
7. Clubs may make representations to the Junior League General Manager regarding to any nomination or grading matter.
8. At the end of the season the Junior League will advise clubs of the proposed grading's for the following season (if applicable).



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SECTION 3

9. At the time of the next seasons nomination of teams, clubs have the opportunity to advise any matter associated with grading of teams (i.e. loss of players, number of first year players) to meet club Development Strategies.
10. In line with the competition rules and by-laws teams will be regraded in the event that there are two teams from the same club in the same Division, those teams will be drawn to play each other in accordance with normal draw allocations.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TEAM REGISTRATIONS PER AGE GROUP		
AGE	MALE & MIXED	FEMALE
UNDER 5	UNLIMITED	
UNDER 6	UNLIMITED	
UNDER 7	UNLIMITED	
UNDER 8	UNLIMITED	ONE
UNDER 9	UNLIMITED	
UNDER 10	UNLIMITED	ONE
UNDER 11	UNLIMITED	
UNDER 12	UNLIMITED	ONE
UNDER 13	UNLIMITED	ONE
UNDER 14	UNLIMITED	ONE
UNDER 15	UNLIMITED	ONE
UNDER 16	THREE	ONE
UNDER 17	TWO	
UNDER 18		ONE
UNDER 19	ONE	
OPEN AGE	TWO	ONE

3.3 FORFEITS

1. Any team that has forfeited twice in succession or three times in total will face elimination from the respective competition
2. When a team forfeits to another, that match shall count as a match played and be declared in favor of the club forfeited to
3. When a team/club is aware it is going to forfeit the following people should be advised immediately:
 - a. The Junior League Administrator



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SECTION 3

4. The competition by-laws will determine the for and against points allocated when there is a forfeit:
 - a. 1st Forfeit score to become mercy rule, if the fine is before 5pm Friday no fine or loss of points will occur, if the forfeit is after 5pm Friday please refer to fine table.
 - b. 2nd forfeit regardless of time will result in mercy rule as well as a \$800 fine and loss of 2 points deduction from the ladder
 - c. In the non-competitive age's fines will be implemented subject to the PDJRL and 50% of the fine will go to the hosting club
 - d. Forfeits after 5pm in the competitive age groups fines will be implemented subject to the PDJRL and 50% of the fine will go to the hosting club
5. If a team forfeits the last round of a competition or a Finals match, all the registered players and officials in that team will have an immediate 12-month calendar suspension imposed unless there are proven exceptional circumstances

3.4 COMPETITION STRUCTURES

For PDJRL competitions, the competition structure, by-laws and method of conducting the competitions each season, includes but is not limited to:

1. A Divisional competition must be identified and sustainable for any competition to proceed into a new season. There is a requirement to have a minimum of six (6) teams in a specific age group/division to form an official competition
2. The top two (2) teams in each division or the two (2) teams that contested the previous season's Grand Final will be elevated one (1) division in the following season
3. Where a female aged competition is formalized from U5 to U12s, a female participant may only play in one (1) gender-based competition in a season. i.e. A female players primary team is denoted by playing their first game in a particular gender-based competition and may not participate in another gender-based competition in the same season
4. The Junior League General Manager in conjunction with the Board may at time approve of competitions outside the minimum number of 6 teams where applicable

The Female Competition structure will be as follows: -

5. Saturdays: U8 – U10 – U12 – U13 – U14 – U15 – U16
6. Sundays: U18 – Open Women



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The Male and Mixed Competition structure will be as follows:

7. Saturday: U5 to U12 in Mixed in consecutive age groups
8. Saturday: U13 to U16 Male Only in consecutive age groups
9. Sundays: U17 – U19 – Open Men
10. Sundays: U17 – U19 – Open Men

3.5 GAME MANAGEMENT – DURATION / PERIODS / BALL SIZE

- 1) In localised Community Rugby League competitions, the League Administrator (in consultation with their board) will make determination on the following points.

GAME DURATION			
AGE	NUMBER OF PERIODS	DURATION PER PERIOD	BALL SIZE
UNDER 5	4	8 MINS	MINI
UNDER 6	4	8 MINS	MINI
UNDER 7	4	8 MINS	MINI
UNDER 8 *	4	8 MINS	MINI
UNDER 9 *	4	8 MINS	MINI
UNDER 10	2	20 MINS	MOD
UNDER 11	2	20 MINS	MOD
UNDER 12	2	20 MINS	MOD
UNDER 13	2	25 MINS	INTERNATIONAL
UNDER 14	2	25 MINS	INTERNATIONAL
UNDER 15	2	25 MINS	INTERNATIONAL
UNDER 16	2	30 MINS	INTERNATIONAL
UNDER 17 & 18	2	30 MINS	INTERNATIONAL
UNDER 19	2	35 MINS	INTERNATIONAL
OPEN AGE	2	40 MINS	INTERNATIONAL

* Refers to Under 8 and Under 9 competition

- 2) Game times are to be played as per national laws of the game in the under 8s and under 9s competition. Where scheduling restrictions apply with the draw matches can be adjusted to two (2) x 15-minute halves.



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SECTION 4

4.1 TIME OFF DURING A MATCH

1. For competitions administered by PDJRL, time off shall NOT be allowed in both halves during regular season competition matches for ages 5 – 15.
2. There will be time off from Under 16s through to open age competitions with a 30-minute cap on those age groups per time off called

4.2 HOSTING VENUE RESPONSIBILITIES

The HOSTING VENUE is responsible to ensure the following matters are provided to the satisfaction of a Junior League match day:

1. Correct size footballs and at least 2 of each (Only PDJRL Balls are to be used for any fixture and the correct balls for Sunday must be used)
2. Corner posts and goal post pads – agility poles cannot be used as corner posts
3. Correct ground/field markings in accordance with the Laws of the Game, any other applicable rules or regulations under which the applicable matches are played, and any directives of NSWRL/NSWCRLA
4. Competition rules match day procedures manual
5. Time keepers table and 5 chairs, 1 for ground manager, 2 for opposing managers and 2 for sin bin
6. 1 x bell or hooter to signal players to field, half time and end of play
7. Working Pens
8. HIA and Injury form Pads
9. Match sign on sheets
10. First aid box and bags of Ice
11. Receptacle for blood soiled dressings etc.
12. Clean dressing rooms and toilets
13. Canteen facilities for spectators
14. Easy access for ambulance and prompt medical contact
15. Keep unauthorised persons outside spectator fence
16. Only use approved Kicking Tee's



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SECTION 4

17. Inspect playing field and surrounds to ensure all safety measures are in place and there are no foreign or dangerous articles or implements protruding or evident.
18. Must supply one medical per field as per the on-field policy
19. Ground managers must not have two roles at once i.e. Ground manger and a sports trainer

VISITING CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

To support and assist the home club in relation to the provision of the above (if possible) and the following:

1. Control of their own spectators, supporters and parents
2. Good behaviour of their players and team support staff
3. Provide a time keeper (team manager)
4. Assist home club to keep unauthorised persons outside spectator fence
5. Proper medical procedures for care of own players

4.3 TEAM COACH

1. Clubs shall arrange a meeting of all team coaches prior to the commencement of the competitions and shall advise the date of such meeting to the PDJRL office well in advance.
2. All under 5's to under 8's coaches are required to referee their own fixtures each week. No other person is to referee these games i.e. trainers.
3. If a coach is not wearing their Panthers Juniors accredited team official shirt or their Junior Club attire, a coach will not be permitted inside the fence or allowed to enter the playing field.
4. If a coach is removed from the game for any reason the game will result in a forfeit, unless a qualified coach is available to step in. The clock will continue to run
5. If a game is played without an accredited coach it will result in a forfeit
6. In open ages where a captain coach is applicable an accredited coach must be present on the scoresheet and sideline during game day, failure to provide this will result in a forfeit
7. Refer to NSWRL policies and procedures



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SECTION 4

4.4 TEAM MANAGER

1. If a manager is not wearing their Panthers Juniors accredited official shirt or their Junior Club attire, a Manager will not be permitted inside the fence or allowed to enter the playing field.
2. Refer to NSWRL policy and procedures

4.5 TEAM TRAINER

1. If a trainer is not wearing their Panthers Juniors accredited team official shirt, a trainer will not be permitted inside the fence or allowed to enter the playing field.
2. Refer to NSWRL policy and procedures

No trainers are allowed on the field in Under 5s, Under 7s and 8s to 'assist' in coaching

4.6 TEAM STAFF AT EACH MATCH

The following officials will be required to wear the compulsory accreditation to access the field of play. No accreditations will be handed out on the day:

1. Coach / Manager – Please ensure you have your club polo or hoodie on to be permitted on field
2. Trainers – Please ensure you collect or purchase a shirt from your club to be permitted on field
3. If your official is NOT compliant – No Entry

TEAM BENCH ONLY:

4. 1 x Coach – 1 x Manager
5. 1 x Trainer for U5 to U8 – No on field access unless injury/break in play
6. 2 x Trainers for U9 to U12 (Minimum League Safe as Host Venue must supply medical) No on field access in U9 only unless injury/break in play
7. 3 x Trainers for U13 to Open age (Minimum Green to 15s – Minimum Blue 16s and above per team)
8. No Injured players, No Assistant Coach, No Physio, No Stats Person etc.



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SECTION 4

COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES:

9. Team Staff have a designated box – stay within it or be ejected
10. Team Staff are NOT to comment on, question or abuse match officials or their decisions
11. Trainers are not to sledge, use unseemly language, walk or coach at any time on field during play
12. Team Staff are not to yell or coach from the bunker under any circumstances
13. The minimum requirements for on-field safety personnel for each match are prescribed by section 1.2 of the NRL On-Field Policy. These vary for each age range and from the under 14 age group upwards require there to be a currently accredited and registered sports trainer at the venue for each team playing in the match.
14. No match will start under any circumstances whatsoever without, as a minimum, the on-field safety personnel prescribed by the NRL On-Field Policy present and available at the match venue. Reference must be made to the NRL On-Field Policy, where these requirements are specified.
15. A team staff member cannot act in multiple roles within the 1 match.
16. For the avoidance of any doubt, it shall be considered an egregious and extremely serious breach, by each club participating in a match, to allow or be involved in allowing a match to commence or continue under any circumstances, where one or more of the people required by this Policy 4.8 and the NRL On-Field Policy to be in attendance at the commencement of and for the duration of that match is not in attendance or present, regardless as to the reason for the absence or non-attendance of that person. Without limiting the sanction that might be imposed on a club, the match will be deemed as a forfeit by any team that does not have the required personnel present.
17. For the avoidance of any doubt, the minimum qualification requirements for sports trainer and other roles specified in these rules are as set out in the applicable NRL Policies incorporated into this Policies and Procedures Manual, including in particular the NRL On-Field Policy.



TRAINERS ARE ALLOWED TO ACCESS THE FIELD OF PLAY:

HOME TEAM		WHEN YOUR TEAM IS IN POSSESSION OF THE BALL 1 TRAINER ONLY	AWAY TEAM	
				
		WHEN THE REFEREE CALLS 'TIME OUT' 2 TRAINERS ONLY		
TEAM COACH	TEAM MANAGER	WHEN A TRY IS SCORED 2 TRAINERS ONLY	TEAM COACH	TEAM MANAGER
COACH 1ST WARNING	MANAGER 1ST WARNING	WHEN YOUR PLAYER IS INJURED ON THE GROUND 1 TRAINER ONLY	COACH 1ST WARNING	MANAGER 1ST WARNING

TRAINERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ACCESS THE FIELD:

TEAM TRAINER	TEAM TRAINER	WHEN YOUR TEAM IS NOT IN POSSESSION OF THE BALL NOT NEGOTIABLE	TEAM TRAINER	TEAM TRAINER
LEVEL 1 1ST WARNING	LEVEL 1 2ND WARNING	AT A SCRUM OR DROP OUT NOT NEGOTIABLE	LEVEL 1 1ST WARNING	LEVEL 1 2ND WARNING
FIRST AID 1ST WARNING	FIRST AID 2ND WARNING	WHEN A MELE OR FIGHT BREAKS OUT ON THE FIELD NOT NEGOTIABLE	FIRST AID 1ST WARNING	FIRST AID 2ND WARNING
LEAGUE SAFE 1ST WARNING	LEAGUE SAFE 2ND WARNING	WHEN ANY TEAM ATTEMPTS A PENALTY GOAL NOT NEGOTIABLE	LEAGUE SAFE 1ST WARNING	LEAGUE SAFE 2ND WARNING

EJECTED COACH = FORFEIT



Panthers Juniors By-Laws

SECTION 5

5.1 ABANDONED MATCHES DUE TO INJURY, WEATHER OR FOUL PLAY

INJURY

1. Regular Competition matches abandoned with less than one full half of a game being completed will need to be replayed within 14 days.
2. The result of matches abandoned after half time shall be recorded as the final score at the point of abandonment.
3. In the event of an injury during the second half of play the clock should continue to run. If the injury has not been cleared by the full-time bell, then the result shall stand as the start of each half had occurred.

FOUL PLAY

4. In the event that a match is abandoned due to foul play the match will be considered abandoned.
5. Competition points will not be awarded to either side if evidence from the referee or the Ground Manager proves that both teams participated in foul play which lead to the match being abandoned.
6. Penalties for games abandoned due to foul play will be at the discretion of the relevant judicial/Code of Conduct Review Processes.

WET WEATHER

7. PDJRL hosting venues for each round must email blake.south@panthersjuniors.com.au each Friday Before 10am and officially communicate their venues playability for that weekend.
8. If communication is NOT received prior to 10am each Friday the hosting club's venue is deemed playable.
9. If communication is NOT received prior to 10am each Friday that club's venue will only have the following options and outcomes available to them:
 - a. Council closes their venue usually after 2pm or 4pm each Friday – each team will receive 1 competition point for both Saturday and Sunday competitions
 - b. If a venue is deemed unplayable from 8am each Saturday morning, each team will receive 1 competition point for both Saturday and Sunday competitions or be replayed at the discretion of the Junior league General Manager
 - c. If a Hosting venue deems their venue unplayable between 10am Friday and 8am Saturday – the non-hosting team will receive 2 competition points and all neutral venue fixtures will be replayed within 14 days for both Saturday and Sunday competitions



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SECTION 5

10. In the event majority of councils' close venues where no games are to be played the round will be deemed abandoned

In Conclusion, regardless of the number of fixtures played each round all matches will be deemed validated. Naturally, our Junior League office will attempt to transfer games from one venue to another where both time, referee availability and venue capacity allows us to do so.

GENERAL RULES

11. The only person authorised to abandon a PDJRL game is a 3-part vote with the Referee in conjunction with the hosting club Executive member and General Manager. This must be notified to the General Manager

5.2 MAKING CHANGES TO THE DURATION OF A GAME

PROCEDURES FOR GAMES DELAYED DUE TO OR INJURY OR OTHER MATTER NORMAL PROCEDURES

1. If an injury or incident occurs in the first half or period of a match, clocks do not stop during periods of play and continue until the end of play. (Exception to this is Under 16s to opens– Maximum 30 min time)
2. At the end of a period of play the break clock starts and continues until the end of the break.
3. After the break, the clock starts for the next period of play and continues until the end of the match.
4. All players are to remain on field until the end of the scheduled match time
5. If an injury or incident occurs in the second half or period of a match, clocks do not stop during periods of play and continue until the end of play. If the match is unable to resume, as the match official commenced 2 periods of play, this will constitute a match being played and the result deemed valid.
6. If an injury or incident occurs from the previous match and the next match is unable to kick off at the scheduled start time, the match official will start the clock at the scheduled time and wait until the match is safe to start.
7. If the match kicks off before the end of the first half of play (or 2 periods of play for U9's or below age groups) and the match restarts for a second half of play (or 2 periods of play for U9's or below age groups) this will constitute a match being played and the final result valid.
8. If a match does not kick off before the scheduled break, the match will be deemed abandoned. A match is abandoned when two (2) periods of play are not started by a match official



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SECTION 5

EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION PROCEDURES

9. If the second half of a match is commenced but due to unforeseen circumstances which includes, but is no limited to, injury or weather conditions, the game shall be declared as 'played' and points awarded accordingly.

5.3 INTERCHANGE

U5's TO U9's JUNIOR LEAGUE

1. Each player is to play a MINIMUM OF TWO UNBROKEN PERIODS of eight (8) minutes.
2. A player, having played an UNBROKEN period of play and been replaced, may be used at a later period as a replacement for a player who has also completed TWO (2) unbroken periods of play and not been replaced, or, for a player who has been injured or sent off.
3. A player may NOT be temporarily replaced if injured – the PDJRL does not adopt the three (3) minutes at any one-time rule. The replacement of a player is permanent, unless a player has completed two (2) unbroken periods of play.

U8'S TO U12'S JUNIOR LEAGUE

4. Each player is to play a MINIMUM OF ONE UNBROKEN HALF of a match (i.e. Fifteen (15) or twenty (20) minutes).
5. A player, having played an UNBROKEN half of a match and been replaced, may be used in the next half of a match to replace a player who has also completed an unbroken half or for a player who has been injured or suspended.
6. A player may NOT be temporarily replaced if injured – the PDJRL does not adopt the three (3) minutes at any one-time rule. The replacement of a player is permanent, unless a player has completed an unbroken period of play.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL (U13'S TO OPENS)

Interchange rules are as per the Laws of the game. In International Rugby League matches:

7. Teams may sign on and use up to seventeen (17) players only in all divisions in international games only. Coaches who do not support this rule do not have to use the additional players if they prefer not to do so.
8. For age groups U13's to Open age, in all divisions, only 10 interchanges are allowed each game per team.
9. In the event of a head injury or concussion, a free interchange will be given for the player leaving the field however, that player will not be permitted to return to the field of play for the remainder of the match.



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SECTION 5

RULES WHEN INTERCHANGING PLAYERS

10. Interchange may only occur during general play (i.e. when the ball is in motion), after any scoring has been completed, or if play has been temporarily suspended by the Referee (e.g. injury or caution)
11. Maximum of two (2) interchange of players may take place at any one time
12. A replaced player MUST cross the touchline or dead ball line prior to his replacement taking the field
13. Interchange must not be made after the referee has ordered a scrum and cannot be made until the scrum has been completed, unless it is to replace a bleeding player and the referee has signaled blood bin

5.4 SIN BIN

1. Players sent to the sin bin by the Referee should immediately leave the field without comment, must report to the official table and obey all reasonable directions and remain there under supervision until he is authorised to re-enter the field of play.
2. The sin bin clock will commence when the player reports to the official table.
3. Players who leave the sin bin without permission face substantial penalty.
4. MINI & MOD players dismissed by the Referee for any misconduct, may be replaced immediately, any may return at the Referee's discretion. The dismissed player may be required to attend a meeting with the PDJRL after a match report is submitted from the match official and review process has taken place.

5.5 SEND OFF

1. Any player who has been dismissed from the field of play please refer to NSWRL policies and procedures

5.6 BLOOD BIN

1. The Referee may direct a player who is bleeding to leave the field for attention and if necessary change any part of his / her playing uniform.
2. When a player leaves the field for the Blood Bin, the letters BB should be endorsed in the replaced player's column on the sign on sheet.



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SECTION 5

3. If a player is replaced because of the Blood Bin rule, provided the player who replaced the affected player is in turn replaced by the Blood Bin player when he returns to the field, it will not count as a replacement
4. Only the Referee can determine whether a player should be put in the Blood Bin. If a player is taken off without the knowledge of the Referee it will be deemed as a normal replacement in U5's to U12's competitions. That player cannot go back on the field except for Senior football where there is unlimited interchange
5. Any player returning to the field of play after being in the Blood Bin must exchange places with the player that replaced him. If a different player comes off, he shall be deemed to be a replacement.
6. Clubs are expected to provide proper receptacles for the collection of blood soiled bandages.

5.7 CREATING POSITIVE CULTURE CONFERENCE

The Creating Positive Culture Conference is a Compulsory Pre-season education program delivered for any player, coach, manager and trainer participating in an

Under 12 age group

PDJRL team in the coming season.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Completion of the Positive Culture Conference by every squad and staff member to take the field in round 1 of the PDJRL Competition is Compulsory each season
2. Team squad and staff members who do not participate will be de-registered before Round 1 of the PDJRL Competition

COACHES CONFERENCE

3. In 2024 there will be a second part of the conference which includes coaches only. This will be compulsory for coaches participating in an
 - Under 5 – 15 competition

5.8 SITUATIONS NOT COVERED

DETERMINATIONS

1. PDJRL Determination shall be final should any situation arise that is not covered under these rules including adjusting these rules where applicable.



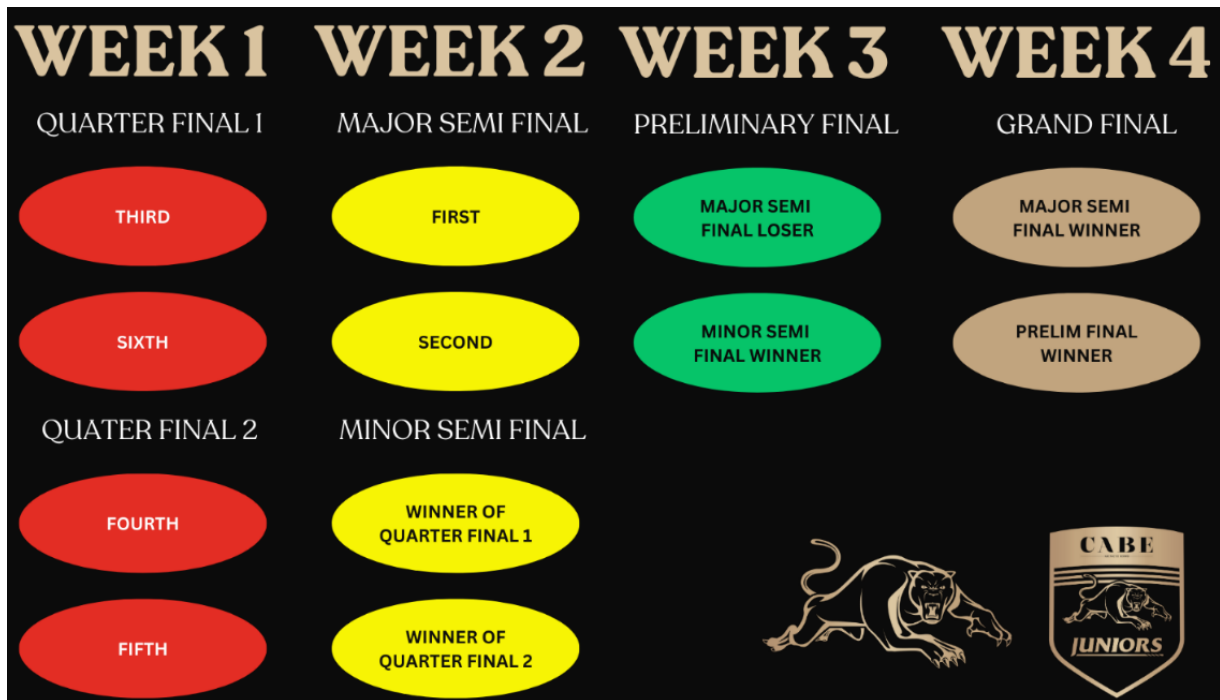
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SECTION 6

6.1 FINALS SERIES MATCHES

FINALS SERIES MATCHES

1. For competitions administered by PDJRL, time off shall be allowed in both halves during finals series matches
2. The finals series will be a Super 6 series over 4 weeks:



6.2 FINALS SERIES TIME KEEPING

1. During all finals series matches, all team mangers will continue to fulfil their role at the official table and time keep as you would as per any competition round.
2. In Semi-Finals, Finals and Grand Finals for competitions administered by PDJRL, time off shall be allowed in both halves.
3. In Semi-finals, Finals and Grand Finals, should thirty (30) continuous minutes of play be lost due to injury or for any other reason (foul play will be at the discretion of the GM and may result in the match being forfeited), the venue manager in consultation with the GM will determine to continue with the schedule or have the game(s) replayed.



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SECTION 6

6.3 ABANDONED END OF SEASON FINALS MATCHES

1. Should a play-off, semi-final, final or Grand Final be abandoned, due to the pressing need to conclude an investigation before the following weekend, the PDJRL shall obtain reports from both teams, match and ground officials and other appropriate persons and cause an immediate investigation to be carried out into the reasons that caused the game to be abandoned.

6.4 DRAWN FINALS SERIES MATCHES

1. If scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time in any final series match, then in such matches, including the Grand Final a period of extra time will follow.

EXTRA TIME

1. There will be a 2-minute break between full time and extra time commencing
2. The commencement of the period of extra time shall be determined by the toss of a coin as described under the laws of the game
3. Extra time shall be 2 x 5-minute periods, after the initial 5-minutes of play the referee will cease play and teams shall immediately change ends. The team that did not kickoff to commence the initial period of extra time, will kick-off to recommence the second period.
4. If scores are equal at the conclusion of extra time, play shall stop
5. There will be a 1-minute break
6. Gold Point Extra Time will commence with a toss of a coin.
7. Then play will continue on an unlimited basis until the first point or points have been scored (e.g., field goal, penalty goal or try) or in ages 9 – 12 (Try only) to determine the winner of the match. If a try is scored to determine the winner, the conversion kick will not be permitted.
8. Each team will receive two additional interchanges during extra time, interchange cards 1 and 2. These are in addition to any remaining interchanges a team may have. These are issued once only, prior to beginning of extra time half 1.
9. The normal interchange process will apply for any interchanges that are made during the break (including the two additional interchanges).



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SECTION 6

6.5 PROTESTS DURING DRAWN FINALS SERIES MATCHES

1. Should a protest occur during or immediately after a play-off, semi-final, final or Grand Final every effort will be made to resolve the issue at the venue as soon as possible.
2. Should a protest be unable to be resolved at the venue, all protests will be heard if possible on the day of the match, at a time and venue to be advised by the GM. Any protest shall be immediately referred to the GM who will arrange an urgent hearing.
3. For a protest to be accepted from Clubs involved in the final series matches it must be lodged in writing online, no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the completion of the game. The GM may institute action regarding a breach of PDJRL rules at any time.
4. The GM is authorised to investigate all protests, complaints and other concerns and make adjudication. This may be done by involving a match review committee should that be desired.

