

PANTHERS JUNIORS

RULE

BOOK

2022



Panthers Juniors

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to introduce the Panthers Juniors Rugby League policies and procedures manual for the 2022 season.

The Manual has been developed through consultation between the NSWRL, the Penrith Referees Association, the District Club and Junior Clubs that are affiliated with the Penrith and Districts Junior Rugby League Association.

The manual is not intended for over-regulation of our game, instead we envisage that its implementation will bring consistency with regard to how the game is administered and played.

Our hope is that with consistency around rules and regulations, there will be a more even playing field from one competition to the next, and this consistency will bring stability to our game.

The Manual will be a 'living' document. It will see additions and changes as the seasons pass, when new policies and procedures are introduced or existing ones are amended.

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 both the NSWRL Board and the NSW Community Rugby Leagues Association Board. This review will be undertaken in November of each year.

The approved Manual will then be distributed to District and Regions along with Community Rugby League Clubs (by way of upload to the Panthers and NSWRL website).

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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all that had a hand in the production of the Panthers Juniors Rugby League Policies & Procedures Manual, and I look forward to seeing its continued development.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nathan Mairleitner'.

Nathan Mairleitner

General Manager

Penrith and Districts Junior Rugby League Club Limited



Panthers Juniors

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	5
CHANGES & ADDITIONS	6
APPLICATION OF POLICIES & PROCEDURES & SITUATIONS NOT COVERED IN THIS MANUAL	7
DEFINITIONS	8
SECTION 1 – ADMINISTRATION – DISTRICTS & REGIONS	10
1.1 Alcohol and Sports Betting Branding	11
1.2 Application to Combine Teams	11
1.3 Development Competitions Competitive / Non-Competitive Mini Football	13
1.4 Constitutions	14
1.5 Fines and Fees	15
1.6 Media Enquires	16
1.7 Player Portability	17
1.8 Playing with More Than One Club	19
1.9 Playing in More Than One District or Region	21
1.10 Protests and Appeals	22
1.11 Registration Requirements	26
1.12 Suspended and Disqualified Person – Officials / Parents / Supporters / Spectators	27
1.13 Trial Games / Carnivals / Gala Days – Approval Process	29



Panthers Juniors

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 2 – ADMINISTRATION – JUNIOR LEAGUE CLUB	31
2.1 Child Protection Policy	32
2.2 Child Protection Policy (Statutory Declaration Process)	34
2.3 Child Protection Policy – Working with Children Check (Requirements & Process)	35
2.4 Club Colours / Playing Uniforms	37
2.5 Club Constitutions and By Laws	38
2.6 Defaulters	39
2.7 Financial Bonds	40
2.8 Hydration, Heat and Water Bottle Guidelines	41
2.9 Insurance	43
2.10 Licensing Program	44
2.11 Mandatory Reporting	45
2.12 Maximum Age to Play Rugby League	46
2.13 Medical Exemptions	47
2.14 Minimum Age to Play Mini Footy	48
2.15 Minimum Age to Play Senior International Football (Open Age)	49
2.16 Monarch Blues Tag Competition Rule Modifications	50
2.17 NSWRL Communication Protocol	52
2.18 NSWRL Regional Member Travelling & Touring Teams	53
2.19 Play / Train Policy	54
2.20 Playing a Player Above Their Natural Age Group (Playing Up)	55
2.21 Playing a Player Below Their Natural Age Group (Playing Down)	57
2.22 Player Electronic Match Day Cards / Sign on Sheets	58
2.23 Player Transfer Policy – Community Rugby League	59
2.24 Playing Field Lighting Requirements	65
2.25 Racial, Religious and Sexual Vilification Reporting Process	66
2.26 Religious Headwear / Clothing	67
2.27 Social Media Policy	68
2.28 Video and Photography Policy	69
2.29 Weight and Age Guidelines	72



Panthers Juniors

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 3 – COMPETITIONS	74
3.1 Abandoned Matches Due to Injury, Inclement Weather or Foul Play	75
3.2 Byes	76
3.3 Competition Points	77
3.4 Competition Structures	78
3.5 Competition Tables (Ladders)	79
3.6 Duration of Matches	80
3.7 Suspended Player Guidelines	81
3.8 Finals Eligibility	84
3.9 Forfeits	85
3.10 Gradings, Divisions and Re-Gradings	86
3.11 Mixed Gender Participation	87
3.12 NSWRL Regional Members – Clayton Cup	88
3.13 NSWRL Regional Members – Cup Competition and Plate Competition Rules	89
3.14 NSWRL Regional Members – Trophies	90
3.15 Player Points Index System	91



Panthers Juniors

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 4 – GAME DAY POLICIES	98
4.1 Admission Prices, Gates & Season Passes at Regional Member Matches	99
4.2 Air Quality Policy	100
4.3 Alcohol Sales and Supply	102
4.4 Ball Persons / Kicking Tee Runners	103
4.5 Biting, Gouging, Spitting or Vilification Allegations	104
4.6 Blood Bin Procedure	105
4.7 Change Room Policy	106
4.8 Coach / Sports Trainer at Each Game	108
4.9 Compression Garments	110
4.10 Critical Incident Management	111
4.11 Drawn Matches During Finals Series	112
4.12 Electronic Communication Devices	113
4.13 Football Boots	114
4.14 Ground and Match Preparation Requirements	115
4.15 Ground Managers	116
4.16 Hearing Aids	120
4.17 Head Injury and Concussion Guidelines	121
4.18 Interchange	125
4.19 Kicking Tees	127
4.20 Making Changes to the Duration of a Game	128
4.21 Match Ball Sizes	129
4.22 Mercy Rule	130
4.23 Needle Stick Injury Management	131
4.24 Number of Players on the Field	132
4.25 On-Field Injuries	133
4.26 Player Equipment	134
4.27 Playing an Unregistered Player	135
4.28 Pre-Match Heritage or Cultural Performances	136
4.29 Referees	137
4.30 Score / Official Table Requirements	139
4.31 Send Offs	140
4.32 Singing Offensive Team Songs	141
4.33 Teams Not Ready at Kick-Off	142
4.34 Touch Judges	143
4.35 Unauthorised Person Inside the Spectator Fence (Playing Area)	144



Panthers Juniors

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 5 – RULES OF THE GAME	145
5.1 District and Regional Local Rules	146
5.2 National Safe Play Code	147
5.3 NRL Code of Conduct	148
5.4 Tough Love in League Policy – Curbing Violence in our Game	149
SECTION 6 – CODE OF CONDUCT	153
6.1 Code of Conduct Discipline Procedures	154
6.2 Code of Conduct Procedure	157
6.3 Publication on MySideline	172
SECTION 7 – JUDICIARY	173
7.1 Judiciary Code of Procedure	174
7.2 Publication on MySideline	194
SECTION 8 – APPEALS CODE OF PROCEDURE (CODE OF CONDUCT & JUDICIARY)	195
8.1 Appeals Committee Code of Procedure	196
DISTRICT AND REGIONAL BY-LAWS	209
SECTION 10 – APPENDIX AND NRL POLICIES	210
10.1 Links to NSWRL Policies & Guidelines	211
10.2 Links to NRL Policies & Guidelines	212



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 Secretary
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JUNIORS





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OPERATIONS

Hours 8:30am – 4:30pm	Address 123 Mulgoa Rd Penrith	Contact 02 4720 9100	Email info@panthersjuniors.com.au
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STAFF

Nathan Mairleitner General Manager	Kylie Fitzpatrick Administration	Kelly Lewandowski Admin Assistant	Danielle Kopp Nswrl CSO
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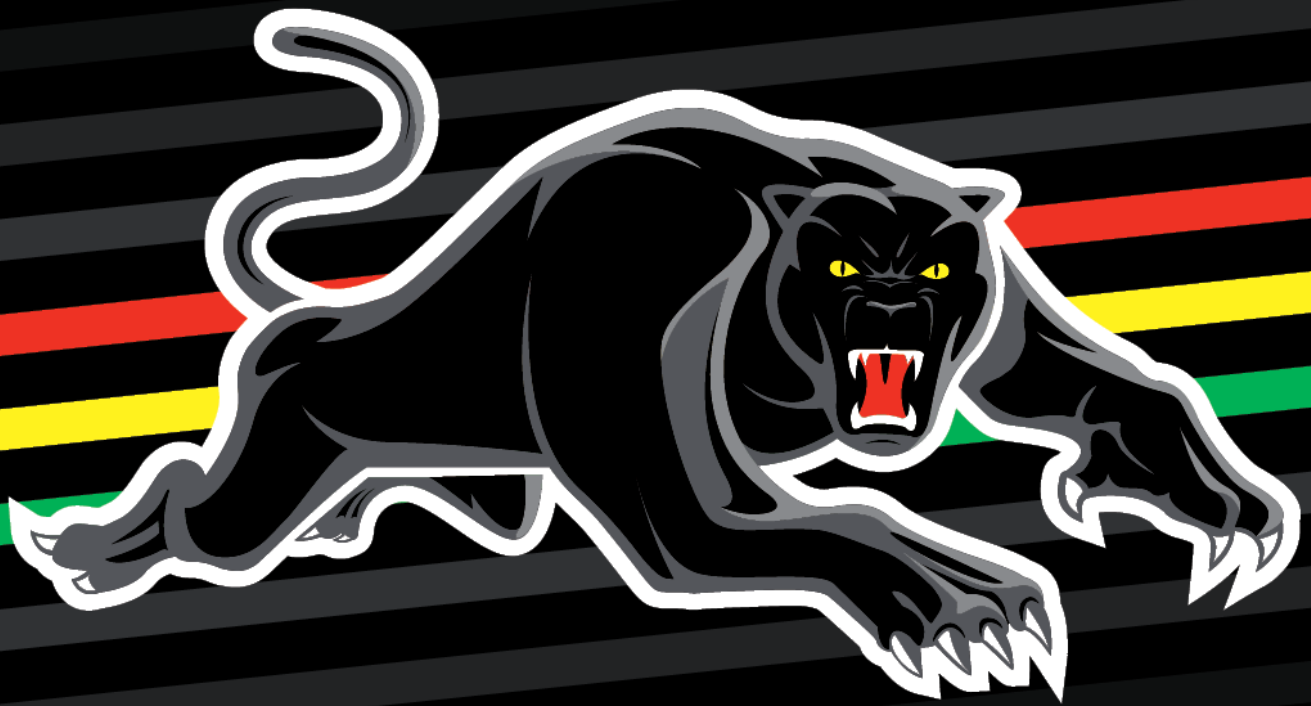
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Kerri McDiarmid Chairperson	Scott Sandford Deputy Chairperson	Vickie Campbell Director	Steve Miller Director
Jarrad Whitby Director	Nathan Mairleitner General Manager	Ian Robinson Independent	

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REFEREES ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE

Gary Haines Chairperson	James Davidson Deputy Chairperson	Eliescha Bazley Executive officer
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SECTION 1:

- 1.5 FINES AND FEES**
- 1.10 PROTESTS AND APPEALS**
- 1.11 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**
- 1.13 TRIAL GAMES**



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SECTION 1

1.5 FINES AND FEES

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

1. \$2000 affiliation payment is due prior to the PDJRL AGM in December – deducted in April of the following year
2. 50% payment of affiliation fees due before prescribed date in PDJRL Calendar
3. Final payment of affiliation fees due before prescribed date in PDJRL Calendar
4. Unpaid fines or fees invoiced to a club will constitute all teams not being eligible for finals in the same season
5. Fees for protests and appeals will be \$250

1.10 PROTESTS AND APPEALS

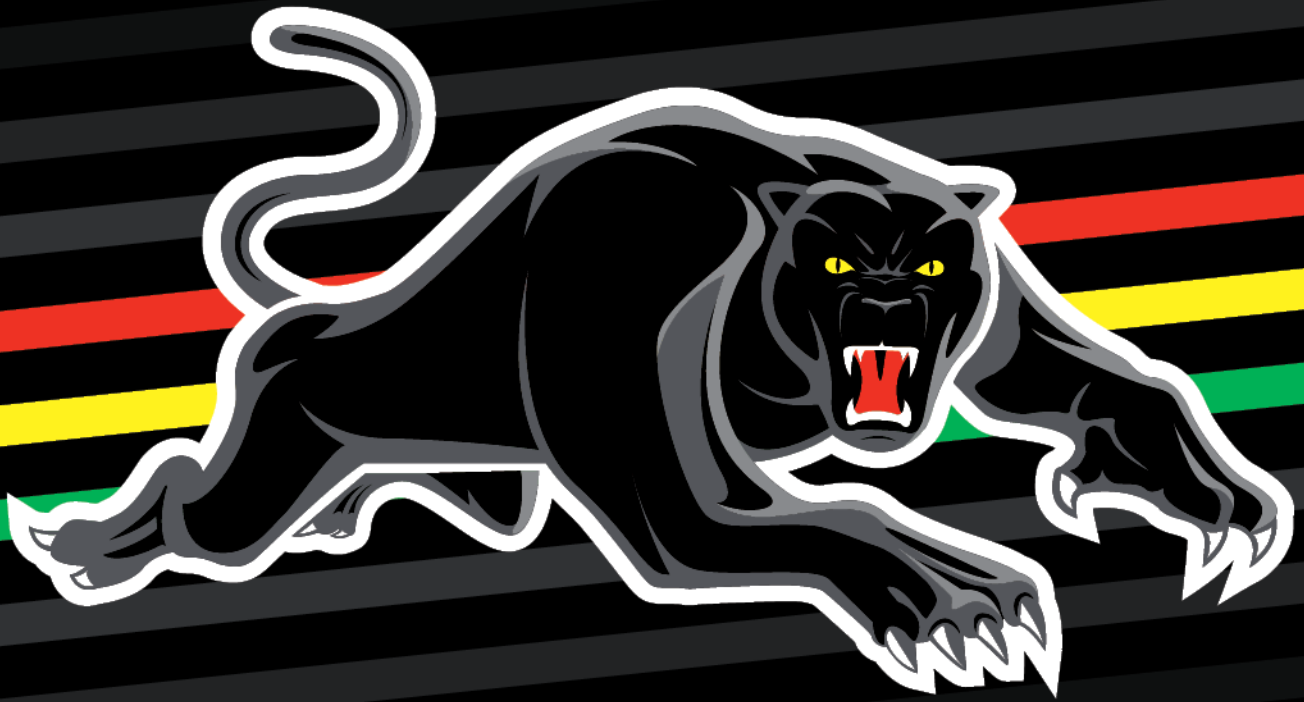
1. Protests on a match in a PDJRL Competition to be submitted to the PDJRL through your club Secretary
2. Protests on a match in a NSWRL Competition to be submitted to the NSWRL through your club Secretary
3. Appeals on transfers within the PDJRL to be submitted to the PDJRL online through the Cognito form
4. Appeals on transfers coming into the district or going outside of the district to be submitted to the NSWRL
5. Appeals related to Judiciary matters to be submitted to the NSWRL
6. Appeals related to Code of Conduct matters to be submitted to the NSWRL

1.11 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

AGE GROUP	PLAYER REGISTRATION PER TEAM	MALE TEAMS PER AGE GROUP	MIXED TEAMS PER AGE GROUP	FEMALE TEAMS PER AGE GROUP
Under 5s / 6s / 7s	10 Per Team	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED	2
Under 8s / 9s	12 Per Team	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED	2
Under 10s / 11s	15 Per Team	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED	2
Under 12s	17 Per Team	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED	2
Under 13s / 14s / 15s	20 Per Team	UNLIMITED	N/A	2
Under 16s / 18s	20 Per Team	2	N/A	2
Under 20s / Opens	23 Per Team	2	N/A	1

1.13 TRIAL GAMES / CARNIVALS / GALA DAYS – APPROVAL PROCESS

1. Match officials for PDJRL trial matches will be appointed to matches where 2 PDJRL teams are competing only



SECTION 2:

2.5 CLUB CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

2.22 PLAYER TRANSFER POLICY

2.27 VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY



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SECTION 2

2.5 CLUB CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

CLUBS GENERAL MEETING

1. All clubs must hold a general committee meeting within a calendar month.
2. Minutes, financial report, bank statement and any other requested documentation that must be supplied at each monthly meeting must be forwarded to PDJRL before the 28th of the following month.

CLUBS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3. Club Annual General Meetings should be held each year prior to November 30th.
4. Clubs shall advise the date of the AGM to the PDJRL office at least 14 days prior to the AGM date.
5. A club AGM should not be held unless the Annual Audit is available.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND REQUIREMENTS

6. A copy of the balance sheet, auditor's report from each club should be forwarded to the GM **before December 10th** of each calendar year.
7. It's the responsibility of the President and Executive 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.
8. The PDJRL Board does not support 2 members of the same family signing club cheques and it is recommended that clubs arrange cheques signing authority to avoid this from happening.
9. All clubs are asked to close off their financial books on 31st October each year.
10. The Treasurer should make regular deposits to the bank and should not retain possession of monies collected on behalf of the club unless there are extenuating reasons approved by the President.
11. The PDJRL does not support the lending of club funds to club members and it shall be a breach of rules for any person to retain, use, or be loaned funds for temporary or personal reasons.



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SECTION 2

2.22 PLAYER TRANSFER POLICY – COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE

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. 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.**
3. In the event of a clearance being requested from a club no longer active, the PDJRL must complete the process in lieu of the inactive club.
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.
6. Transfer/Clearance laws WILL apply to players transferring to a team participating in an U18 aged competition;
7. Where a player applies to move clubs after the season has commenced, any application will not be considered if the player has participated in a competition match for their existing club in the current season.

CLEARANCE/TRANSFER – GENERAL RULES

8. A clearance/transfer is required when a player moves from a club or district to another and can only take place from 1st November to 30th June in the same season.
9. 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
10. A player who had been a Rugby League registered participant, who has not registered to play Rugby League in the previous 24 months will be subject to all clearance/transfer rules pertaining to the movement of the player
11. 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
12. Any team that participated in a Division 1 Grand Final in mixed, male or female competition, in the age groups from U9's up to and including U18's or were distinguished as first or second on the competition table, if the previous season was abandoned, 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 played in a Division 1 match in the PDJRL in the previous 18 months).

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

13. If the GM becomes aware there is a mass movement of players by way of clearance out of district, irrespective of the reason, the clearance of such players will be denied.



DELAY IN REGISTERING PLAYERS

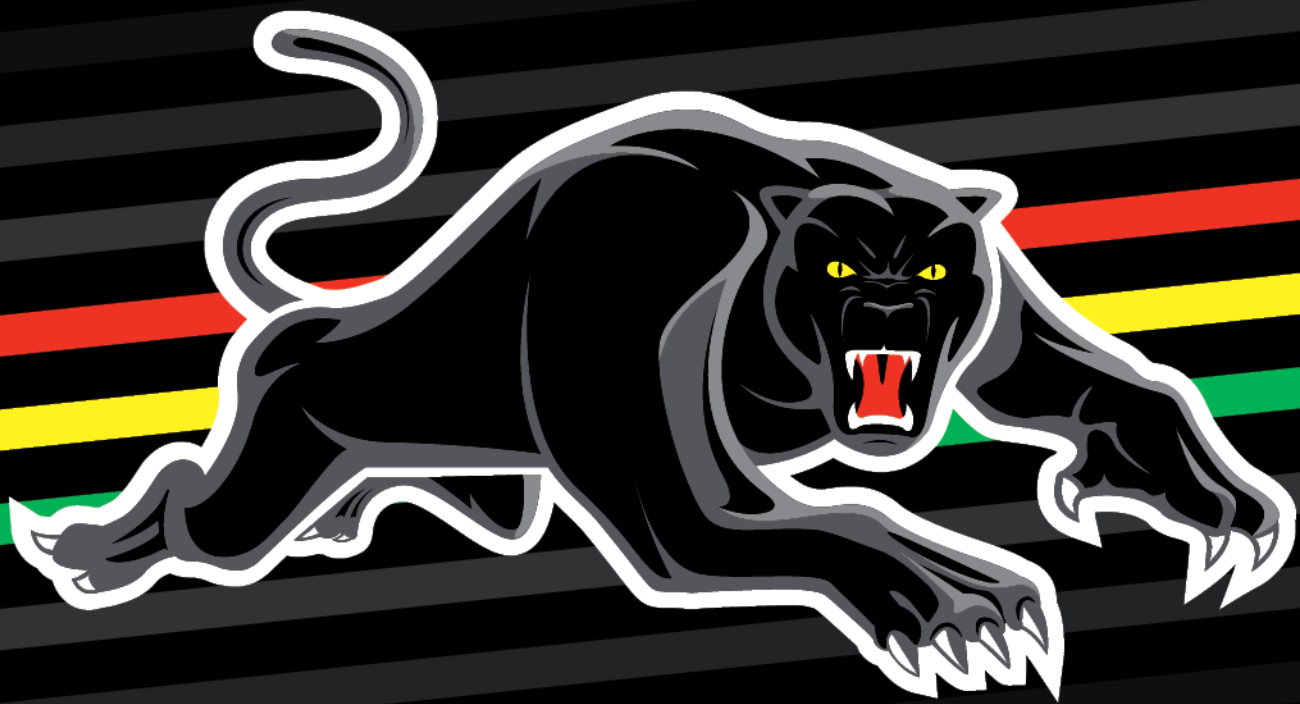
14. If any club becomes aware that players from another club team have refrained from registering because of encouragement from another club or official to transfer and further, because of that situation there is a real possibility that the club will be unable to nominate or field a team in that age group the club may, if it has the evidence to support a complaint, report the facts to the GM. The matter will be investigated, and appropriate action taken.

TRANSFERS – DEVELOPMENT AND REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS

15. Any player who is named in any Panthers Juniors Development Squad, Harold Matthews and SG Ball Train on Squads and declines an offer to play for Penrith and accepts an offer to play in another NRL District, will not be permitted to return to the Penrith District to play Junior Rugby League for the remainder of that season or until such time that their contract/JRA with the other District expires.
16. Any player who declines a position to trial in the Tasha Gale and Lisa Fiaola Train on Squads and declines an offer to play for Penrith and accepts an offer to play in another NRL District, will not be permitted to return to the Penrith District to play Junior Rugby League for the remainder of that season or until such time that their contract with the other District expires.
17. When players are advised at the commencement of each season of selection in the representative squads a copy of the transfer rules will be issued to them.
18. All final squad members of and Panthers Juniors Development Squads, Harold Matthews, and SG Ball Squads, that requests a transfer to another Junior League Club will be adjudicated on by the Panthers Pathways staff.
19. All transfer applications will be considered in their age group, not the age they may play. If the club currently has five (5) Panthers District Development and Representative Players for their age group, the clearance / transfer will be refused.
20. If a PDJRL player is NOT selected for any PDJRL Panthers District Development and Representative squads in the current season, however, is successful in obtaining a representative position with another NRL district club in the same current season, the player can return to the PDJRL and not be included in the Panthers District Development and Representative player quota if the player returns to the original club, he transferred from in the previous season
21. If a PDJRL player is NOT selected for any PDJRL representative squads in the current season, however is successful in obtaining a representative position with another district club in the same current season, the player can return to the PDJRL and if the PDJRL club the player wishes to join is not the club the player transferred from in the previous season, to the out of district representative squad, the player will be classed as a representative player and accepts all transfers and other condition pertaining to it.
22. If a player has represented another District representative team, who has never played in PDJRL competition and is required to return to the other District representative team for the following season or a development fee is payable if the player is selected or signed to play in a Panthers representative team for the following season, the transfer will be denied.

2.27 VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY

1. The use of cameras, video cameras, phone cameras or electronic/mechanical device (for film, imaging or photo) are not permitted to be used inside change rooms, the playing area that is roped, fenced or marked off at any ground under the control of the PDJRL



SECTION 3:

- 3.1 ABANDONED MATCHES DUE TO INJURY, INCLEMENT WEATHER OR FOUL PLAY**
- 3.4 COMPETITION STRUCTURES**
- 3.8 FINALS ELIGIBILITY**



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SECTION 3

3.1 ABANDONED MATCHES DUE TO INJURY, INCLEMENT WEATHER, FOUL PLAY

1. The only person authorised to abandon a PDJRL game is the Referee.
2. The PDJRL abandoned matches (excluding foul play) must be played within 14 days of the original scheduling.
3. It is the hosting club's responsibility to ensure that the district administrator is notified of any abandoned matches that have occurred at the venue.
4. If councils close their grounds prior to the weekend (Friday 2:30pm) or the GM declares a washout on the morning of matches scheduled to play all matches for that weekend will be cancelled and will NOT be replayed
5. If wet weather occurs from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning, all clubs with scheduled games must inspect their grounds with the match officials and the match official to declare field open or closed.

3.4 COMPETITION STRUCTURES

1. A first division 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. Matches are played on dates fixed and shall commence at such times and played upon such grounds as may be directed by the PDJRL General Manager. This includes Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
3. Clubs are unable to nominate more than 48 teams in the age groups from under 5's to under 15's
4. The PDJRL has adopted a policy that sees all U5's to U8's played as non-competitive Rugby League.
5. The two (2) teams that contested the previous season's Grand Final will be elevated one (1) division unless the previous season being cut short by an unforeseen circumstance, the 2 teams placed first and second on the ladder will be elevated one (1) division

REGULAR COMPETITIONS

The Female Competition structure will be as follows:

6. Saturday – U8. U10. U12. U14. – Sundays – U16. U18. Opens.

The Mixed Competition structure will be as follows:

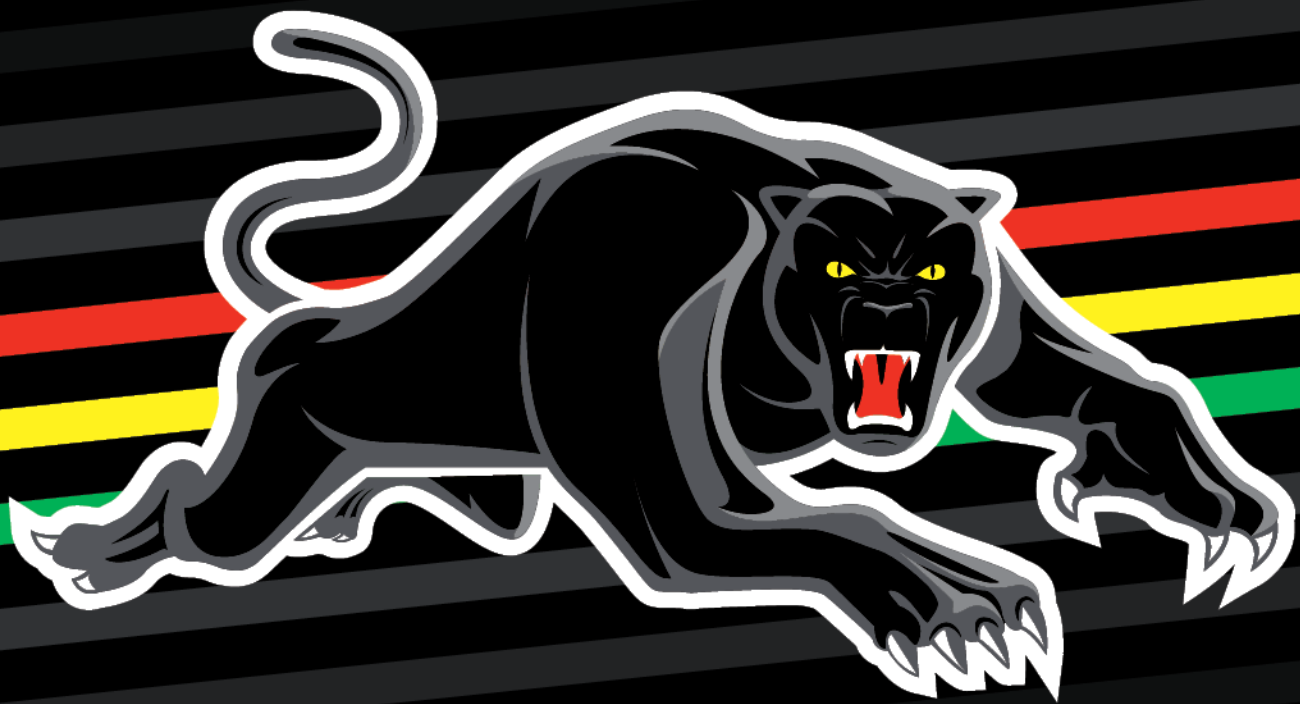
7. Saturday – U5. U6. U7. U8. U9. U10. U11. U12.

The Male Competition structure will be as follows:

8. Saturday – U5. U6. U7. U8. U9. U10. U11. U12. U13. U14. U15. – Sundays – U16. U18. U20. Opens.

3.8 FINALS ELIGIBILITY

1. To be eligible to participate in semi-finals, finals and Grand Finals in competitions administered by PDJRL, a player must have played a minimum of five (5) competition games with the club team you are registered with.
2. In the case of a player not being able to play the required five (5) matches as indicated above due to injury sustained during the season or other incident outside of a match, upon investigation of medical evidence by the GM, such player may be permitted to take part in a final's series match. Adequate medical proof (medical certificate) is required to be submitted to the GM within fourteen (14) days of the incident (injury).
3. Any player that qualifies for a final's series match in their registered age group, and the age group above is not more than 1 year above their actual age, automatically qualifies for the older age groups finals series without playing a competition match.



SECTION 4:

4.11 DRAWN MATCHES DURING FINALS SERIES

4.18 INTERCHANGE

4.20 MAKING CHANGES TO THE DURATION OF THE GAME

4.22 MERCY RULE

4.32 TEAMS NOT READY AT KICK OFF



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SECTION 4

4.11 DRAWN MATCHES DURING FINALS SERIES

1. In semi-finals and finals, in the event that neither team has scored following two periods of extra-time, the team who scored the first try in the match will be deemed the winner

4.18 INTERCHANGE

1. PDJRL does not apply the national guideline '3-minute rule' for interchanges in Mini and Mod Rugby League
2. PDJRL does not permit a player to be replaced in the first period of a match for Mini/Mod fixtures. If a player is replaced in the first period, injured or not the player may not return to the field for the remainder of the match

4.20 MAKING CHANGES TO THE DURATION OF THE 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.
2. At the end of a period of play the break clock starts and continues until the end of the break.
3. At the end of 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

EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION PROCEDURES

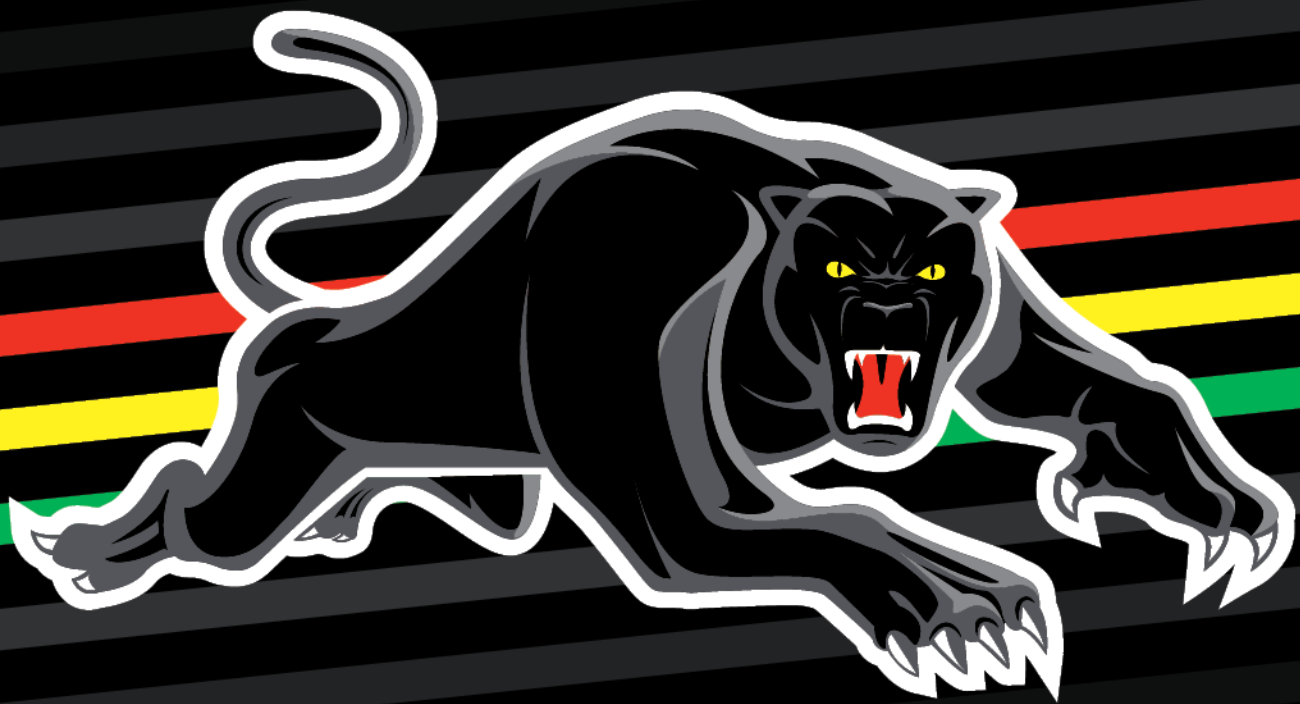
1. If the second half of a match is commenced but due to unforeseen circumstances which includes, but is no limited to, injury or weather conditions, the game shall be declared as 'played' and points awarded accordingly.

4.22 MERCY RULE

1. All matches played in competition age groups from Under 9s to Open's will stop immediately when there is a points differential of 50 points.

4.32 TEAMS NOT READY AT KICK OFF

1. The clock will start at the scheduled match time



SECTION 9:

9.1 DISTRICT AND REGIONAL BY-LAWS

PLAYING WITH MORE THAN 1 TEAM

WITHDRAWAL OF TEAM

CANNOT START A MATCH

TEAM BENCH AREA

TIME OFF DURING REGULAR SEASON MATCHES

FINALS SERIES MATCHES

JUNIOR LEAGUE CLUB POWERS

TRAINERS RULES



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SECTION 9

9.1 DISTRICT AND REGIONAL BY-LAWS

PLAYING WITH MORE THAN 1 TEAM

1. 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.
2. Within the same age group, a player may play in a higher DIVISION a maximum of four (4) matches. On the fifth occasion, a player will be considered to be part of the secondary team (the higher division team) and are no longer permitted to play in their primary team
3. If a team requires players to play up an age or up a division, 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
4. 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. (If in doubt, contact the Junior League Office.) Further, a division 1 player wanting to play in a higher age group than his birth age group, must not play in a match in a division lower than division 2.
5. 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 each match in which the player took the field will be confiscated. This is a serious breach of the PDJRL rules, and the player will be declared unqualified and/or be suspended.
6. A player that qualifies for a final's series in their registered team, and the age group or division 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.

WITHDRAWAL OF TEAM

7. A club that withdraws a team after a competition has started will be invoiced the team fee and a \$400 withdrawal fee.
8. 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.
9. If the reason for withdrawal is the loss of the coach, the reason for the coaches' withdrawal is to be advised and the steps the club has made to keep the team functioning.



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SECTION 9

CANNOT START A MATCH

10. The clock will start at the scheduled match time
11. No match is permitted to kick off without, as a minimum, each team having an accredited coach and each fixture or team having an accredited League First Aid (Green Shirt) or Level 1 sports trainer (Blue Shirt).
12. From U5 to U12 a team may have 2 trainers on game day and must be a minimum of a LeagueSafe (Yellow) trainer and must have a minimum of a League First Aid ready and available at each field.
13. For U13 – U15 each team must have a minimum of a League First Aid.
14. U16 to 'A' Grade each team must have a minimum of a level 1 sports trainer.
15. If a trainer is not wearing their Panthers Juniors accredited team official shirt they will not be permitted inside the fence or enter the playing field.
16. Please note a coach cannot act as the Sports trainer and vice versa, even if appropriately accredited. One individual is required for each role in a match.

TEAM BENCH AREA

17. All team officials inside the fence or roped area on match day must hold an appropriate qualification and the bench is restricted to the following for all PDJRL administered competitions:
 - a. One (1) Coach – One (1) Manager all age groups
 - b. Two (2) Trainers – U5s to U12s
 - c. Three (3) Trainers – U13s to A Grade
 - d. Four (4) Reserve players maximum only – no injured players inside the fence
 - i. Under 13s to U15s – one (1) trainer per team must be a qualified Green shirt
 - ii. Under 16s to Open's - one (1) trainer per team must be a qualified Blue shirt

TIME OFF DURING REGULAR SEASON MATCHES

18. For competitions administered by PDJRL, time off shall NOT be allowed in both halves during regular season competition matches

FINALS SERIES MATCHES

19. For competitions administered by PDJRL, time off shall be allowed in both halves during finals series matches
20. The finals series will be a Super 6 series over 3 weeks:
 - a. Week 1: 3rd Place vs 6th Place and 4th Place vs 5th Place – Elimination Finals
 - b. Week 2: Winner of 3rd vs 6th Plays 2nd Place and Winner of 4th vs 5th Plays 1st Place – GF Qualifiers
 - c. Week 3: Winner of week 2 matches play in the Grand Final





Panthers Juniors

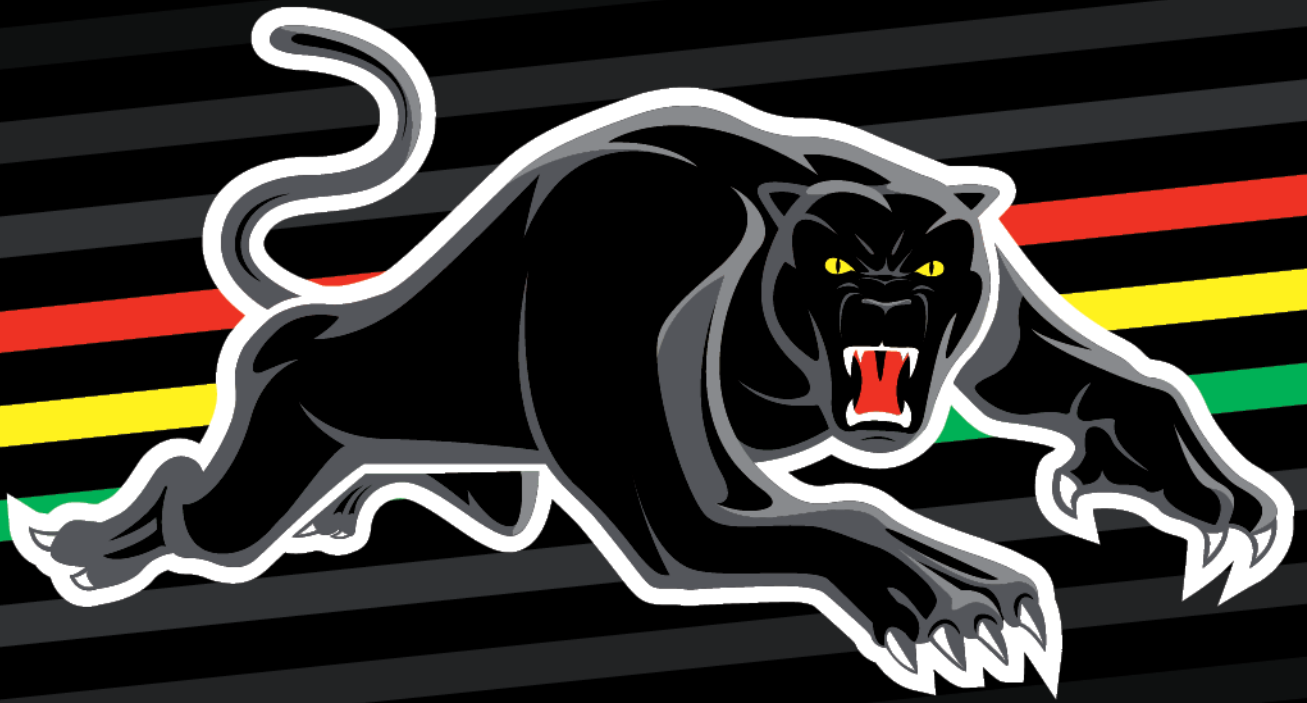
SECTION 9

JUNIOR LEAGUE CLUB POWERS

21. 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.
22. The club shall invite the person concerned and conduct a proper hearing into the incident.
23. The minutes of the hearing shall be forwarded to the GM within seven (7) days of the hearing and provided the clubs actions have been endorsed by the GM, the adjudication of any person so dealt with, will apply throughout all clubs in the PDJRL.
24. 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 GM shall be advised as a matter of urgency for investigation.

TRAINERS RULES

TRAINERS ARE ALLOWED TO ACCESS THE FIELD OF PLAY:					
HOME TEAM			AWAY TEAM		
		WHEN YOUR TEAM IS IN POSSESSION OF THE BALL			
		1 TRAINER ONLY			
TEAM COACH TEAM MANAGER		WHEN THE REFEREE CALLS 'TIME OUT'		TEAM COACH TEAM MANAGER	
		2 TRAINERS ONLY			
COACH 1ST WARNING MANAGER 1ST WARNING		WHEN A 'TRY' IS SCORED		COACH 1ST WARNING MANAGER 1ST WARNING	
		2 TRAINERS ONLY			
		WHEN YOUR PLAYER IS INJURED ON THE GROUND			
		1 TRAINER ONLY			
TRAINERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ACCESS THE FIELD OF PLAY:					
TEAM TRAINER TEAM TRAINER		WHEN YOUR TEAM IS NOT IN POSSESSION OF THE BALL		TEAM TRAINER TEAM TRAINER	
		NOT NEGOTIABLE			
LEVEL 1 1ST WARNING LEVEL 1 2ND WARNING		AT A SCRUM OR A DROP OUT		LEVEL 1 1ST WARNING LEVEL 1 2ND WARNING	
		NOT NEGOTIABLE			
FIRST AID 1ST WARNING FIRST AID 2ND WARNING		WHEN A MELE OR FIGHT BREAKS OUT ON THE FIELD		FIRST AID 1ST WARNING FIRST AID 2ND WARNING	
		NOT NEGOTIABLE			
LEAGUE SAFE 1ST WARNING LEAGUE SAFE 2ND WARNING		WHEN ANY TEAM ATTEMPTS A PENALTY GOAL		LEAGUE SAFE 1ST WARNING LEAGUE SAFE 2ND WARNING	
		NOT NEGOTIABLE			
EJECTED COACH = FORFEIT					



PANTHERS JUNIORS

RULE BOOK

2022