



Philippine National Rugby League

Domestic Shield Competition Operations Manual

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1. Purpose and Scope

This Tournament Manual governs the operation of the Philippine National Rugby League tournament conducted with six participating teams and played at the PhilSports Complex (ULTRA) venue in Pasig City. It sets the minimum competition, match-day, officiating, discipline, and administrative standards for all clubs, players, team staff, match officials, and competition administrators.

This manual is intended for domestic national competition use and should be read together with the International Rugby League Laws of the Game and any approved competition directives issued by the Philippine National Rugby League. Where this manual is silent, the applicable International Rugby League laws and approved competition rulings will apply.

All participants are bound by this manual from the commencement of pre-match accreditation through to the finalisation of all post-match reports, reviews, and judiciary matters.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this Tournament Manual, the following terms apply unless the context otherwise requires.

Competition administrator means the person or body appointed to manage the tournament, issue competition notices, approve operational decisions, and administer discipline and judiciary processes.

Eligible player means a player who is 18 years+ properly registered, not suspended, medically cleared where required, insured where required, and validly named on the signed match-day team sheet.

Match-day team sheet means the official team list submitted for a match, signed by the required team representatives, containing no more than twenty-two players.

Match official means the referee and any appointed touch judge, reserve official, sideline official, timekeeper, or other official recognised by the competition for match control purposes.

Repeat foul play means repeated infringements, dangerous acts, professional fouls, misconduct, or repeated breaches of the Laws of the Game by the same player or by a team after warning or caution.



Sin bin means a temporary suspension (10 mins) imposed during a match in accordance with the Laws of the Game and competition rules.

Send-off means permanent dismissal from a match by the referee, requiring the player or team official to leave the field or technical area and making the matter subject to post-match review where applicable.

Judiciary means the disciplinary body or hearing process established to determine reportable offences, charges, sanctions, and appeals under this manual.

Code of Conduct means the behavioural standards set out in this manual for players, team staff, officials, and spectators.

Disciplinary points mean, the points allocated for specified offences under the disciplinary points system for the purpose of tracking repeat offending and informing sanction escalation.

3. Competition Structure

3.1 Participating Teams

The tournament shall consist of six teams approved by the competition administrator before Round 1.

3.2 Regular Season

The competition shall be played over 5 regular rounds. Each team shall be scheduled to play once per round, subject to the approved draw. Competition points may be awarded on the basis of two points for a win, one point for a draw, and zero points for a loss, unless an alternative points system is approved in writing before the season begins.

3.3 Ladder Rankings

At the completion of Round 6, teams shall be ranked on competition points. If teams are equal on competition points, ties shall be resolved in the following order: points differential, most points scored, head-to-head result, and if still equal, determination by the competition administrator.

3.4 Finals Series

The top four teams on the ladder after Round 6 shall qualify for the semi-finals. Semi Final 1 shall be 1st v 4th and Semi Final 2 shall be 2nd v 3rd. The winners of the two semi-finals shall contest the Grand Final.



3.5 Venue

All regular season rounds, semi-finals, and the Grand Final shall be played at the PhilSports Complex (ULTRA), which is a national sports complex in Pasig City under the Philippine Sports Commission. The football and athletics stadium within the complex is the designated field of play for this tournament, subject to venue availability, field inspection, and safety clearance.

4. Venue and Match Operations

4.1 Match Scheduling

The competition administrator shall publish the official draw, kick-off times, team change deadlines, warm-up areas, and technical zone procedures before the commencement of the tournament.

4.2 Field of Play

Matches shall be played on a field marked and prepared in accordance with the International Rugby League Laws of the Game as far as reasonably practicable for the venue. No match may commence unless the referee is satisfied that the field, posts, surrounds, technical areas, and player access routes are safe.

4.3 Match-Day Access

Only accredited players, team staff, match officials, medical staff, competition staff, venue personnel, and authorised media may enter controlled match-day areas. Teams are responsible for the conduct of all persons within their delegation.

4.4 Warm-Up and Technical Areas

Teams shall warm up only in allocated areas and must comply with the directions of venue management and match officials. Team staff and interchange players must remain within the designated technical or interchange area except where authorised for medical or competition purposes.

4.5 Match Ball, Timekeeping, and Medical

The competition administrator shall appoint the official match ball, timekeeper, ground manager, and medical coverage requirements. The referee shall remain the sole judge of time on the field, subject to any appointed official timekeeper procedures.



5. Team Eligibility and Match-Day Team Sheet

5.1 Team Composition

Each team may submit a maximum of twenty-two players on its official game day team sheet. No team may list more than twenty-two players under any circumstance. Any player not listed on the signed team sheet before the deadline is ineligible to participate in that match.

5.2 Minimum Team Numbers

A team must have the minimum number of eligible players required by the applicable Laws of the Game to start and continue a match. If a team is unable to field the required number of players, the competition administrator may declare a forfeit or apply other sanctions.

5.3 Eligibility and Registration

Only properly registered, insured, and cleared players may be listed on a match-day team sheet. Teams must ensure that suspended, unregistered, unqualified, or medically unfit players are not selected.

5.4 Match-Day Team Sheet Deadline

Each team must submit its completed match-day team sheet and match-day declaration form by the deadline set by the competition administrator, and in any event no later than sixty minutes before kick-off unless otherwise directed.

5.5 Signed Match-Day Forms

Every match-day team sheet and declaration form must be signed by the head coach or team manager and by the team captain before submission. By signing, the team confirms that all named players are eligible, properly equipped, medically fit to play, and bound by this manual, the competition code of conduct, and the Laws of the Game.

5.6 Amendments After Submission

After submission, changes may only be made with the approval of the competition administrator and notification to the referee. No replacement may be added if it causes the team sheet to exceed the twenty-two-player maximum.



6. Match Officials and On-Field Discipline

6.1 Authority of Match Officials

The referee has full authority to control the match, enforce the Laws of the Game, manage player conduct, and maintain safety and respect at all times. Touch judges, reserve officials, sideline officials, and appointed timekeepers shall perform their duties under the relevant laws and competition procedures.

6.2 Zero-Tolerance Standards

Abuse, intimidation, dissent, threatening conduct, repeated foul play, striking, dangerous contact, contrary conduct, and any act that brings the game into disrepute shall be dealt with strictly. Match officials must penalise unacceptable player behaviour immediately and consistently.

6.3 Escalating Sanctions for Bad Player Behaviour

Where player behaviour is unacceptable, the referee may apply any lawful sanction including a verbal warning, formal caution through the captain, penalty, temporary suspension, sin bin, send-off, or report to the judiciary. Repeated team infringements may also result in stronger sanctions against the offending player or team.

6.4 Repeat Foul Play

Repeat foul play shall be treated as an aggravating factor. A player who repeatedly commits infringements, dangerous acts, professional fouls, or misconduct after warning may be temporarily suspended or sent off even where a single incident might otherwise attract a lesser sanction. A team that repeatedly infringes in its defensive zone or repeatedly slows the play of the ball may be subject to additional penalties consistent with the Laws of the Game.

6.5 Mandatory Reporting

Any send-off, alleged striking, dangerous throw, crusher-style action, shoulder charge, biting, trampling, spitting, abuse of an official, or conduct involving intimidation, threats, or discriminatory language must be reported by the referee after the match for review under the judiciary system.

6.6 Team Official Behaviour

Coaches, managers, trainers, and support staff must not abuse or challenge match officials. Team officials who engage in misconduct may be removed from the technical



area, reported to the competition administrator, and referred to the judiciary or disciplinary process.

7. Rules of the Game

7.1 Applicable Laws

All matches shall be played under the current International Rugby League Laws of the Game as adopted for international-level rugby league. This includes the laws relating to the playing field, player equipment, mode of play, scoring, timekeeping, kick-offs, touch, knock-ons, forward passes, tackles, play-the-ball, scrums, penalties, offside, misconduct, and the duties of referees and touch judges.

7.2 Competition-Specific Playing Conditions

The competition administrator may issue written playing conditions for domestic administration matters such as match scheduling, interchange control, match ball procedures, accreditation, or wet-weather contingencies, provided such conditions do not conflict with the Laws of the Game.

7.3 Equipment and Safety

Players must wear legal playing gear and any protective equipment permitted under the applicable laws. Match officials may order a player to leave the field to correct unsafe or illegal equipment.

7.4 Captain's Responsibility

Captains are responsible for assisting with communication between the referee and their team. Where the referee instructs the captain to address repeated infringements or poor behaviour, the captain must act immediately.

7.5 Forfeits, Abandonments, and Extraordinary Circumstances

The competition administrator may determine the outcome of a match that is forfeited, abandoned, postponed, or materially affected by extraordinary circumstances, considering safety, fairness, the match report, and the integrity of the competition.



8. Judiciary System

8.1 Purpose

The judiciary system exists to protect player welfare, uphold the integrity of the competition, support match officials, and provide fair and timely determination of misconduct matters.

8.2 Reportable Offences

Any player or team official reported by match officials, cited by the competition administrator, or identified through match footage may be charged for misconduct. Reportable offences include, but are not limited to, striking, dangerous contact, dangerous throw, high tackle, shoulder charge, contrary conduct, repeated foul play, abuse of officials, and conduct prejudicial to the game.

8.3 Match Review and Charge Process

Following each match, the competition administrator or appointed match review panel shall review official reports and available footage. If there is a case to answer, a notice of charge shall be issued to the team and participant stating the alleged offence, relevant facts, and proposed sanction range.

8.4 Sanction Principles

Sanctions may include warning, reprimand, fine where permitted by competition policy, suspension for a stated number of matches, bond, education requirement, or deregistration from the tournament. In determining sanction, the judiciary may consider the severity of conduct, force used, risk of injury, actual injury, intent, provocation, prior record, acceptance of responsibility, and whether the conduct formed part of repeated foul play.

8.5 Repeat Offenders

A repeat offender shall be liable to increased sanction. Prior offences in the same tournament shall be treated as aggravating factors. A player or official who repeatedly offends may receive longer suspensions and, in serious cases, exclusion from the competition.



8.6 Hearings

Judiciary hearings should be held as soon as reasonably practicable after charges are issued. The charged participant must be given an opportunity to respond, provide evidence, call relevant witnesses where appropriate, and be accompanied by a representative in accordance with competition procedures.

8.7 Provisional Suspension

Where the alleged misconduct is serious, involves player safety, abuse of officials, or threatens the integrity of the competition, the competition administrator may impose a provisional suspension pending hearing.

8.8 Appeals

A participant may appeal a judiciary decision only on limited grounds such as denial of procedural fairness, significant new evidence, or manifestly excessive sanction. Any appeal must be lodged within 5 days from the day of the offence and accompanied by the required documents.

9. Team Guidelines and Administration

9.1 Team Responsibilities

Each team must appoint a head coach or team manager as the primary administrative contact for the tournament. Teams are responsible for timely communication, player registration compliance, match-day documentation, punctual attendance, and adherence to venue and competition directions.

9.2 Signed Forms and Declarations

On every match day, each team must provide: the signed official team sheet, player eligibility declaration, medical and injury status declaration where required, and acknowledgement that the team accepts the authority of the match officials and judiciary process. Unsigned forms may result in the team being declared ineligible to play until the deficiency is corrected.

9.3 Identification and Accreditation

When requested - Players and team officials must produce identification or accreditation when requested by the competition administrator. Teams must cooperate fully with any eligibility audit.



9.4 Post-Match Obligations

Teams must confirm the accuracy of match records when requested, submit any complaints or incident reports within the required timeframe, and ensure that any cited players or officials attend judiciary proceedings as directed.

9.5 Respect and Conduct

All teams must promote a safe, respectful, and disciplined environment. Any conduct that discredits the tournament, the venue, match officials, opponents, or the governing body may attract sanctions.

9.6 Team\Player Insurance

Team/Player Insurance, Waivers, and Liability Responsibility. Each club is responsible for arranging and maintaining appropriate insurance for its own players, coaches, team officials, volunteers, and support personnel for the duration of the competition, including but not limited to personal accident, injury, medical, travel, and public liability cover where applicable.

Clubs must ensure that all players and team personnel understand the inherent risks of rugby league, including physical contact, injury, illness, property loss, and participation at their own risk.

Each club should obtain signed player waivers, medical declarations, emergency contact details, and acknowledgement forms before any player or team official participates in training, warm-ups, matches, or competition activities. By entering the competition and submitting a team sheet, each club confirms that its listed players and officials are eligible, medically fit to participate, properly informed of the risks, and covered by any insurance or waiver arrangements required by the club.

To the maximum extent permitted by law, the Philippine National Rugby League, its officers, competition administrators, match officials, volunteers, venue representatives, and appointed personnel shall not be liable for any injury, loss, damage, claim, cost, or expense arising from a player's, official's, clubs, or supporter's participation in, attendance at, or connection with the competition, except where liability cannot legally be excluded.



APPENDIX

Appendix A. Match-Day Team Sheet Minimum Requirements

Each official team sheet should contain, at minimum, the team's name, round number, match number, date, kick-off time, opponent, venue, jersey numbers, player full names, player registration identifiers if used, captain designation, interchange designations if used, coach or manager name and signature, captain signature, and time of submission.

The maximum number of players listed must not exceed twenty-two.

Appendix B. Match-Day Checklist

- Submit signed team sheet and declarations by the deadline.
- Confirm all listed players are eligible, registered, and medically fit.
- Ensure all players wear legal equipment.
- Attend pre-match briefing if required.
- Respect match official directions at all times.
- Report incidents through the proper post-match process.

Appendix C. Recommended Competition Notices

The competition administrator may issue notices on draw amendments, kick-off changes, wet-weather contingencies, judiciary procedures, accreditation, venue access, and match official appointments. Such notices form part of the operational administration of this manual.

Appendix E. Code of Conduct

E.1 General Standard

All participants must act honestly, respectfully, and in a manner that protects the safety, image, and integrity of rugby league. Abuse, intimidation, harassment, discriminatory language, violence, retaliation, deliberate cheating, and conduct that brings the tournament into disrepute are prohibited.



E.2 Players

- Players must respect match officials, opponents, teammates, spectators, and venue staff.
- Players must not engage in dissent, abuse, dangerous foul play, spitting, striking, or any threatening conduct.
- Players must follow directions regarding equipment, blood-bin procedures, concussion protocols, and interchange control.
- Players must immediately leave the field when sent to the sin bin or sent off and must not re-enter except as permitted by the Laws of the Game and competition rules.

E.3 Coaches and Team Staff

- Coaches and team staff must model respectful behaviour and must not dispute or undermine match officials in an abusive or aggressive manner.
- Only authorised personnel may operate from the technical or interchange area.
- Team staff must ensure all forms, eligibility checks, and welfare obligations are completed accurately and on time.

E.4 Match Officials

- Match officials must apply the laws and competition rules fairly, consistently, and without bias.
- Officials must submit accurate reports for any send-off, serious misconduct, or reportable incident.

E.5 Spectators and Supporters

- Spectators must not enter restricted areas, abuse participants, throw objects, or interfere with the conduct of the match.
- Teams may be sanctioned for the misconduct of their supporters where there is a sufficient connection to the team.

E.6 Breaches

Any breach of this Code of Conduct may result in a warning, removal from the venue, match-day suspension, referral to the judiciary, competition sanctions, or exclusion from the tournament depending on the seriousness of the conduct.



Appendix F. Judiciary Charge and Sanction Guide

This table provides indicative sanction ranges only. The judiciary retains discretion to increase or reduce sanctions based on aggravating and mitigating factors, repeat offending, injury outcome, intent, and the participant's record.

Offence	Low Range	Mid-Range	High Range
Abuse or dissent toward match official	Warning or 1 match	2 matches	3 or more matches
Repeated professional foul or repeated infringements	Warning or 1 match	1 to 2 matches	2 or more matches
Dangerous contact or reckless high tackle	1 match	2 to 3 matches	4 or more matches
Shoulder charge	1 match	2 to 3 matches	4 or more matches
Dangerous throw	1 to 2 matches	3 to 4 matches	5 or more matches
Striking or punching	2 matches	3 to 5 matches	6 or more matches
Spitting, biting, trampling, or similarly serious misconduct	4 matches	6 or more matches	Season removal or equivalent
Threatening conduct or intimidation	1 match	2 to 4 matches	5 or more matches
Discriminatory language or conduct	2 matches	4 or more matches	Season removal or equivalent
Team official misconduct	Warning or 1 match	2 matches	3 or more matches

Repeat offenders should ordinarily progress to at least the next higher sanction range, and serious repeat offending may justify exclusion from the tournament.

Appendix G. Disciplinary Points System

The disciplinary points system is intended to identify repeat offending across the tournament and assist the judiciary in applying consistent escalation. It supplements, but does not replace, match-day sanctions, suspensions, or any other penalty available under this manual.



G.1 Allocation of Disciplinary Points

Offence Category	Disciplinary Points
Abuse or dissent toward a match official	3 points
Repeated professional foul or repeated infringements	2 points
Dangerous contact or reckless high tackle	3 points
Shoulder charge	3 points
Dangerous throw	4 points
Striking or punching	5 points
Threatening conduct or intimidation	4 points
Discriminatory language or conduct	6 points
Spitting, biting, trampling, or similarly serious misconduct	6 points
Team official misconduct	3 points

G.2 Escalation Thresholds

Where a participant accumulates disciplinary points during the same tournament, the following additional consequences may apply unless the judiciary determines a more appropriate sanction:

- 3 to 4 points: formal warning and monitoring status.
- 5 to 6 points: additional 1-match suspension or equivalent sanction.
- 7 to 8 points: additional 2-match suspension or equivalent sanction.
- 9 or more points: referral for enhanced sanction, which may include a 3-match suspension, season suspension, or removal from the tournament in serious cases.

G.3 Reset and Carry-Over

Disciplinary points apply for the duration of the tournament and do not reset during the regular season or finals series unless the competition administrator issues a written exception before the tournament starts.



Appendix H. Official Forms

H.1 Match-Day Team Sheet

Competition		PNRL Sheild		Round	
Date			Kick-Off Time		
Team Name			Opponent		

No.	Player Full Name	Position	No.	Player Full Name	Position
1			12		
2			13		
3			14		
4			15		
5			16		
6			17		
7			18		
8			19		
9			20		
10			21		
11			22		

Declaration: We certify that the listed players are eligible, registered, properly equipped, medically fit to play, and that this team sheet does not exceed twenty-two players.

Head Coach / Team Manager Name

Signature

Captain Name

Signature

Time Submitted

Received By

H.2 Team Manager Declaration Form

Team Name

Round



Manager Name

Contact Details

Date

Match

I declare on behalf of the team that:

- all named players are duly registered and eligible to participate;
- the match-day team sheet contains no more than twenty-two players;
- all players are medically fit to play unless otherwise disclosed to the competition administrator;
- all players and staff will comply with this Tournament Manual, the Code of Conduct, and the authority of match officials; and
- all required forms submitted are complete and accurate.

Date

Manager Signature

H.3 Incident Report Form

Date		Round	
Match		Venue	PhilSports Complex (ULTRA)
Reporting Person		Role	
Team		Contact Details	

Nature of Incident

Persons Involved

Time in Match / Circumstances

Immediate Action Taken

Signature

Date Submitted

H.4 Judiciary Referral Form

Reported Participant		Team	
Offence Alleged		Match / Round	
Reporting Official		Role	



Date of Incident		Venue	PhilSports Complex (ULTRA)
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Summary of Allegation and Facts

Law / Rule Reference

Evidence Attached

Recommended Interim Action (if any)

Competition Administrator / Reviewer Name

Signature

Date Issued

Hearing Date



Appendix I. Judiciary Hearing Procedure Flowchart

Step 1: Incident occurs. A player or team official is sent off, reported, cited, or otherwise identified for possible misconduct.

Step 2: Match report and evidence collection. The referee, other match officials, competition administrator, or match review panel gathers the official reports, available footage, and any immediate witness information.

Step 3: Preliminary review. The competition administrator or match review panel determines whether there is a case to answer and whether any provisional suspension is required for safety or integrity reasons.

Step 4: Notice of charge. If there is a case to answer, a formal notice of charge is issued to the participant and team stating the alleged offence, relevant facts, and the proposed sanction range or hearing requirement.

Step 5: Response by participant. The participant may admit the charge, contest the charge, provide a written response, and submit any supporting material within the time set by the competition administrator.

Step 6: Hearing listing. If required, the matter is listed for hearing, and the participant is notified of the date, time, format, and hearing procedure.

Step 7: Hearing. The judiciary hears the allegation, reviews the evidence, considers submissions from the participant and relevant officials, and determines whether the charge is proven.

Step 8: Decision and sanction. If the charge is proven, the judiciary imposes an appropriate sanction having regard to seriousness, player welfare, prior record, repeat offending, disciplinary points, and any mitigating or aggravating factors.

Step 9: Notification. The decision is communicated to the participant, team, and competition administrator, including any suspension dates and conditions.

Step 10: Appeal. If permitted, the participant may lodge an appeal within the prescribed time on the limited grounds set out in this manual.



Appendix J. Match Official Report Template

Date		Round	
Match No.		Venue	PhilSports Complex (ULTRA)
Teams		Kick-Off Time	
Referee		Touch Judges	1. 2.

1. Final Score

2. General Match Summary

3. Warnings, Sin Bins, and Send-Offs

4. Reportable Incidents

5. Repeated Team Infringements or Repeat Foul Play

6. Team Official Conduct

7. Spectator or Venue Incidents

8. Injury, Blood, or Safety Matters

9. Recommendations or Follow-Up Required

Official Name

Signature

Date Submitted

Received By



Appendix L. Approval and Signature Page

This Tournament Manual is approved for use in the Philippine National Rugby League tournament and takes effect on the date specified below.

Approved By	Reynaldo Nery
Position / Title	Chairman
Organisation	Philippine National Rugby League
Signature	
Date of Approval	26/06/2026
Effective Date	July 3, 2026
Version Number	1.0

Document Control Notes

This manual should be reviewed before each tournament season and reissued whenever there is a material change to competition rules, venue requirements, match-day procedures, or disciplinary processes.