



1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 This document outlines Judicial Procedures and Penalties for any match played under the auspices of NRL Victoria.
- 1.2 The procedures outlined in this document do not limit action processed through other NRL VIC policies, including but not limited to, the NRL VIC Code of Conduct.

2. Lodgment of Charge

- 2.1 The referee and/or touch judge may charge a player with an offence as listed on the Charge Description List (see 6).
- 2.2 A charge may be laid whether the player was dismissed by the referee from the field or not. Should a player be dismissed from the field by the referee a charge must be completed as per the procedures outlined.
- 2.3 To complete a charge the referee or touch judge must submit the charge (regardless of match being video recorded) as per prescribed communication method to NRL VIC stating the following:
 - a) Offence as listed on the Charge Description List (see 6); and
 - b) Grade of the offence as to its severity, as follows:
 - Grade 1 – Least Severe
 - Grade 2 – Severe
 - Grade 3 – Most Severe
- 2.4 The referee of the match must advise the authorised person of NRL VIC, immediately following the match of any charge made under 2.
- 2.5 NRL VIC must receive in writing by no later than 12.00 noon on the first working day after the game (ordinarily a Monday) of any charges under these procedures.
- 2.6 For matches where there is an official match video, being a pre-sanctioned video recording service approved by NRL VIC, the video may be reviewed by the NRL VIC Match Review Committee, consisting of the NRL VIC Operations Manager and at least one other person nominated by NRL VIC. Should the NRL VIC Match Review Committee determine a player be charged with an offence on the Charge Description List (see 6), severity of the offence shall also be determined, NRL VIC shall confirm the charge as per Notification of Charge and Response process (see 3).
- 2.7 On rare occasions due to the seriousness of the incident, NRL VIC at their sole discretion following proper investigation of evidence available may refer any charge without grading directly to the NRL VIC Judiciary Panel, who shall be free to determine appropriate penalty (regardless of Match Penalties listed in 7) if the player is found guilty following a hearing.

3. Notification of Charge and Response

- 3.1 NRL VIC will confirm in writing the charged player's club of the details of the offence and the corresponding penalty (as calculated under 8 Penalties), no later than 5.00pm on the first working day after the match (ordinarily a Monday).

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- 3.2 The charged player's club must enter a written plea of guilty, not guilty or no contest to NRL VIC by 5.00pm on the next day that it has been advised of the charge (ordinarily a Tuesday).
- 3.3 If the club advises NRL VIC that the player accepts guilt and the penalty as notified, or has confirmed no contest, NRL VIC will take appropriate action to enforce and document any penalty.

4. Judiciary

- 4.1 If the player does not accept guilt and the calculated penalty, or accepts guilt but not the grading of severity, NRL VIC will convene the NRL VIC Judiciary Panel where practical prior to the next scheduled match (ordinarily a Thursday).
- 4.2 Subject to the evidence presented at a hearing, the NRL VIC Judiciary Panel has the power to:
- a) downgrade the grade/severity of any charge; and/or
 - b) in the case of a High Tackle charge downgrade from Intentional to Reckless, or Intentional to Careless, or from Reckless to Careless; or
 - c) where applicable/appropriate change a charge to Dangerous Contact or Contrary Conduct.
- 4.3 The grade/severity of charge cannot be upgraded by the NRL VIC Judiciary Panel (except for charges made under 2.7).
- 4.4 A player may take legal representation into a judiciary hearing. However, the Judiciary Panel may suspend such a hearing until it retains legal representation on its own behalf.

5. Appeal

- 5.1 A club/association may lodge an appeal against penalties determined by the Judiciary by advising NRL VIC no later than 24 hours after the Judiciary Hearing. An Appeal may **only** be lodged on the basis of new evidence not previously presented (e.g. new video evidence). A non-refundable fee of \$100 must accompany any request for appeal.
- 5.2 If an appeal is approved, NRL VIC shall convene a tribunal consisting of NRL VIC General Manager and up to two other officials nominated by the league, one of whom may be a lawyer.
- 5.3 Any proposed penalty will be set aside until the appeal has been heard.

6. Charge Description List

Short Description	Description of Misconduct
Tripping	A player is guilty of misconduct if they trip another player
Kicking	A player is guilty of misconduct if they kick another player
Striking	A player is guilty of misconduct if they strike another player
Intentional High Tackle	A player is guilty of misconduct if, when effecting or attempting to effect a tackle, they make contact with the head or neck of an opponent intentionally
Reckless High Tackle	A player is guilty of misconduct if, when effecting or attempting to effect a tackle, they make contact with the head or neck of an opponent recklessly
Careless High Tackle	A player is guilty of misconduct if, when effecting or attempting to effect a tackle, they make contact with the head or neck of an opponent carelessly
Dropping Knees	A player is guilty of misconduct if they drop their knees into an opponent who is on the ground
Dangerous Throw	A player is guilty of misconduct if they use any dangerous throw when effecting a tackle
Contrary Conduct	A player is guilty of misconduct if they behave in a way contrary to the true spirit of the game.
Detrimental Conduct	A player is guilty of misconduct if they behave in a manner which is detrimental to the interests, welfare or image of the league or rugby league football
Dangerous Contact – Head/Neck	A player guilty of misconduct if they carelessly, recklessly or intentionally makes dangerous contact with the head or neck of an opposing player.
Dangerous Contact - Other	A player guilty of misconduct if they carelessly, recklessly or intentionally make dangerous contact with an opposing player (but which does not involve contact with the opposing player’s head or neck).
Shoulder Charge	A player is guilty of misconduct if a defender, without attempting to tackle, grab or hold the ball-carrier (or any opposing player) using the arms or hands, makes direct physical contact with the shoulder or the upper arm.

7. NRL VICTORIA 2025 OFFENCE TABLE AND MATCH PENALTIES



SHORT DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE	MATCH PENALTY TO BE SERVED (<i>Early Plea in Brackets</i>)								
	GRADE 1: LEAST SEVERE			GRADE 2: SEVERE			GRADE 3: MOST SEVERE		
	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence
Tripping	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (2)	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4)
Kicking	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4)	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5)	5 (4)	6 (5)	7 (6)
Striking	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4) *	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5) *	5 (4)	6 (5)	7 (6) *
Intentional High Tackle	6 (5)	7 (6)	8 (7)	7 (6)	8 (7)	9 (8)	8 (7)	9 (8)	10 (9)
Reckless High Tackle	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5)	5 (4)	6 (5)	7 (6)	6 (5)	7 (6)	8 (7)
Careless High Tackle	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (2)	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4)
Dropping Knees	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4)	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5)
Dangerous Throw	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5)	6 (5)	7 (6)	8 (7)
Contrary Conduct	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3) *	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4) *	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5) *
Detrimental Conduct	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4)	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5)
Dangerous Contact – Head/Neck	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5)	6 (5)	7 (6)	8 (7)
Dangerous Contact - Other	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (2)	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4)
Shoulder Charge	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5)	6 (5)	7 (6)	8 (7)

*if the offence contravenes the Tough Love Policy, this penalty may reflect minimum which is a 12 months suspension.



8. Penalties

- 8.1 If a player accepts the early guilty plea they will receive the penalty as indicated in brackets in section 7.
- 8.2 If a player does not accept the early guilty plea and is found guilty at Judiciary Panel then they will receive the full penalty as indicated in section 7.
- 8.3 If a player enters a plea of no contest, then they will receive the full penalty as indicated in section 7.
- 8.4 **NOTE: Penalties determined under these procedures do not override or limit penalties that may be determined under other NRL VIC policies, including but not limited to, the NRL VIC Code of Conduct and the NRL VIC Tough Love Policy. Conditions of penalties are set out in NRL VIC Scope of Sanctions and Suspensions Policy.**
- 8.5 Unless they have been charged with a code of conduct offence, suspended players cannot participate in trial games between opposing teams but can still participate in selection trials (including intra club and representative selection trials).
- 8.5.1 If a suspended player is charged with an offence during a trial, then it will be added to their current suspension.
- 8.5.2 If a suspended player is charged with an offence during a trial, and the offence is related to that which he is already serving a suspension for, it will be graded as the players **2nd Offence** for the judiciary period, and added to the current suspension.
- 8.6 Suspensions are not transferrable; i.e. suspensions in the NRL VIC Club Competition Season cannot be substituted for School or Event or Representative matches or vice versa. Suspensions issued under these Judiciary Procedures will be treated separately for each format of competition except for 8.5. (Note that Code of Conduct charges managed under the separate Code of Conduct Procedures apply to all rugby league).
- 8.7 If the length of a suspension is 5 matches or greater, and that player has matches in another format of competition across Club, School or Event rugby league before their suspension has elapsed, they are still required to serve the full penalty in the competition in which the penalty was received and they will be required to serve the equivalent of 40% (rounded up) of their overall suspension in those other competition formats.
- For example;
- A player is found guilty and suspended for 5 matches in a club match
 - Player can only play in School/Event rugby league matches after serving 2 matches in School/Event rugby league matches (unless their full penalty in club football has been served) in addition to serving their full 5 match suspension in club football.
- 8.8 NRL VIC's Scope of Sanctions and Suspensions Policy will also be referred to in circumstances whereby it is required.



9. School Suspensions

- 9.1 School related offences as listed on the Charge Description List (see 6), will be charged and submitted by the NRL VIC Game Development team to the NRL VIC Operations Manager.
- 9.2 If a school or player contests a charge, the NRL VIC Operations Manager will form a judiciary panel, which shall be chaired by the NRL VIC Game Development Manager and two (2) other members chosen by NRL VIC.

10. NRL VIC Sanctioned Event Suspensions

- 10.1 Any player or official suspended during the NRL VIC Club Competition Season or School Competition by way of either Judiciary or Code of Conduct processes, which do not expire prior to the NRL VIC Sanctioned Event occurring, will need to seek special permission by submission to NRL Victoria no later than ten (10) days prior to play in any NRL VIC sanctioned event or competition and shall only be permitted to participate once a decision has been formalised and communicated in writing. This decision is final.
- 10.2 Any suspensions which are granted special permission will become active and remain in place upon completion of the NRL VIC Sanctioned Event unless otherwise advised.
- 10.3 In the event that a player is suspended in an interstate or overseas competition and wishes to participate in an NRL VIC Sanctioned Event, the onus is on the player to seek any special permissions to participate from the governing body who imposed the suspension; this is not NRL VIC's responsibility and if a player has not sought this, will not be permitted to play in the Sanctioned Event. NRL VIC will uphold and respect any interstate or overseas competition suspensions.
- 10.4 NRL VIC Sanctioned Events may have their own by-laws, in which instance will compliment this policy.

11. Representative Suspensions

- 11.1 In the event the player is seeking to be selected at representative level, 9.1, 9.2, 10.1 and 10.2 above will be reviewed and final determination made by NRL VIC High Performance Manager and NRL VIC General Manager.
- 11.2 In the event a player is suspended at representative level, NRL VIC will uphold and respect any determinations made and enforce 8.6 on all rugby league if required.