



POSITIVE ENVIROMENT PROGRAM

Empowering volunteers by providing a framework to tackle behavioural issues



What is this program?

A fully aligned state-wide program that empowers volunteers to proactively tackle behaviour issues and create a positive environment at Community Rugby League games

A zero-tolerance, evidence-based program to support volunteers and help prevent issues.

Suppling key resources and utilising the National Code of Conduct to address repeated poor behaviour via a demerit sys

A program that consistently reminds everyone the role they can play to create a positive environment at our matches through consistent messaging, ambassadors, awareness campaigns and education programs.

A program that rewards teams and clubs for creating a positive environment at Community Rugby League

A program that allows competition points to be deducted for consistent poor behaviour from players, officials or the team's spectators

Why do we need it ?

We need this program to prevent poor behaviour and violence before it escalates and continue to allow our game to be promoted as a safe, positive and inclusive sport.

Anyone attending matches needs to be aware that if they behave poorly the team on the field may have their game abandoned, lose competition points or be removed from the competition.

We need this program to support our volunteers by providing valuable resources they can utilise to tackle behaviour issues and create a positive environment at their clubs.

We need this program to provide a consistent and structured approach to managing behaviours in the community rugby league environment.

Inconsistent and uncoordinated approaches to the punishments handed out by leagues, through judiciary and disciplinary panels causes confusion and frustration. Inadequate sentencing does not deter or change future behaviour.

In a similar program with awareness campaigns the total number of offences charged by the judiciary dropped 41.7 per cent; and among those, the number of charges for offensive language towards a match official, dropped by 42.4 percent..

Did you know that the National Code of Conduct is in play at all matches?

Code of Conduct Summary of Offences

NOTE – Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents/carers of players, coaches, officials and spectators.

No person(s) attending a match, function, or Club related event or activity shall:

- A** Use offensive or obscene language to any participant.
- B** Enter the Field of Play or the Playing Area during the course of a match without the prior approval of the Ground Manager appointed by the home Club and/or League.
- C** Excessively dispute the decision of a Referee or Touch Judge either during or after a match.
- D** Assault, or act with aggression, to any person/s.
- E** Behave in a way contrary to the Code of Conduct and/or the spirit of the game.
- F** Behave in a way which disturbs the enjoyment of a match, function, activity or event by any person/s, or brings discredit to any Club, League or the game.
- G** Act in such a way as to exhibit racial intolerance, by language or other conduct, to any person/s.
- H** Refuse to accept the reasonable direction of the Ground Manager, official of the team/ Club which that person is supporting, or official of the home Club and/or League.
- I** No person/s may make comment or take actions that bring discredit to any person, Club or league through any social media outlet.

Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents/carers of players, coaches, officials and Club supporters.

Breaches of the Rugby League Code of Conduct may result in penalties, including but not limited to:

- > Suspension of a match and/or
- > Termination of a match (including potential forfeiture of competition points) and/or
- > Monetary fines and/or
- > Suspension of a participant on a temporary or permanent basis and/or
- > Suspension of a Club, League or Association on a temporary or permanent basis

These penalties are in addition to any penalty which may be imposed by the relevant governing League bodies.

How does the program work?

Enforcement of the existing National Code of Conduct

Updates to the existing rules to tie into the existing National policy.

Tougher penalties for anti-social behaviours

Standard penalty schedule to ensure consistency across the state.

Awareness campaigns

Topical campaigns to provide awareness and keep the subject front of mind.

Demerit Points for repeat offences

Additional points allocated to repeat offenders to hold them accountable for their actions.

Merit Points to recognise good

behaviour modelling

Rewards for clubs that demonstrate and promote positive behaviours.



Cognito form reporting portal

Reporting functionality ensures this behaviour can be easily called out by leagues, clubs and referees.



Field signage with Q-code links

Visual reminder for participants, spectators, clubs and teams, with links to relevant topics or campaigns.



Triple-P study engagement

Tap into existing university study aimed at positively educating parents.



Participant, Parent, volunteer engagement

Ability for individuals to buy-in and show their intention to support the campaigns.



Ambassador messaging on social media

High profile players and administrators to reinforce our messaging.

PEP - CODE OF CONDUCT BREACHES

Where any of the below marked (*) offences occur, the match review committee must send these straight to judiciary or disciplinary tribunal. Also, a cognito form must be completed for each proven breach by the ground manager.

The table below provides the recommended minimum penalty to be applied for each offence.

	Charge	On-field action	Recommended Minimum Penalty	2nd offence	Team / club penalty
1	Striking (to make deliberate, forceful contact with someone) Aggressor (attacks another first by striking)	Send off	Grade 1 Striking Grade 3 Striking	12 months	**NORMAL MATCH REVIEW AND JUDICIAL PROCESS APPLIES**
2*	Interchange players entering the field of play during an incident or melee	Send off	6 weeks		Loss of competition points that is equal to a win (2 or 3) and the match may be classed as a forfeit
3*	Player or official leaving the playing area during an incident or melee	Send off	6 weeks		Loss of competition points that is equal to a win (2 or 3) and the match may be classed as a forfeit
4*	Spectator field intrusion		12 months		The match will be classed as a forfeit by the offending team
5*	Abandoned games				Two or more players from the same team are deemed to be inciting and / or involved in an on-field fight, the match to be abandoned and that team will be deemed to have forfeited the match. If both teams are deemed responsible, no competition or for / against points will be awarded for the match
6*	Referee / match official abuse - Touching	Send off	12 months		Loss of competition points that is equal to a win (2 or 3)
7*	Referee / match official abuse - Offensive language	Send off	3 weeks		
8*	Referee / match official abuse - Offensive language from spectator / team official		4 weeks	12 months	
9*	Suspended persons				Fine \$1000 and team ineligible to play finals League may deregister dependants or family members of that person
10*	Suspended players		12 months		If a suspended player takes the field whilst serving a suspension a further 12 months will be added after the current suspension ends

Any breach of Rules 2, 3, 5 or 6 that are identified and proven in finals series matches will result in the offender's team being disqualified from the competition

Demerit points table

Proven Breach	Demerit Points	Guide
Low judiciary charge	1	Abusive
Medium judiciary charge	2	Threatening
High judiciary charge	3	Physical
Disciplinary low charge	1	Abusive
Disciplinary medium charge	2	Threatening
Disciplinary high charge	3	Physical
Competition Rule breach	1	Any

Demerit points are accumulated during each season and additional sanctions will apply as per the table below once these milestones are reached.

Level	Offences or Points	Penalty
1	2 proven offences or 5 demerit points	A warning letter will be sent to the club and team concerned. The team and club will need to provide details of how the issue is being addressed
2	4 proven offences or 8 demerit points	The team concerned will be docked three competition points. Clubs will be required to video every game this team participates in thereafter. Failure to comply will result in disqualification from the competition
3	6 proven offences or 12 demerit points	The team concerned will be docked six competition points. The club will need to show cause as to why the team concerned should stay in the competition