



Player Transfer Policy – Junior League Football – 2019 Season

PURPOSE

To ensure the continued success and sustainability of the Game played under its auspices at the Junior League Football level, the NSWRL Junior League Association (JLA) and its constituent members and affiliates wish to ensure that teams fielded by Clubs in Junior League Football are as strong, well matched and viable as possible. For the purpose of achieving these objectives, the NSWRL JLA has adopted this Policy to regulate the system of Players, eligible to play Junior League Football, moving between Clubs within Junior League Football.

The intention of the NSWRL JLA in adopting this Policy is to:

1. Maintain a level of stability in the membership of Clubs and teams.
2. Prevent Clubs from obtaining an unfair proportion of the best and most talented Players.
3. Provide Clubs with incentives to develop Players, their teams and the Game.

This Policy governs Transfers separately to the provisions of the National Registration Policy and the National Clearances Policy. Where any inconsistency exists between either the National Registration Policy or the National Clearances Policy on the first part, and this Policy on the second part, the latter shall prevail, and the former shall to the extent of the inconsistency not apply.

Where a Transfer is set to be allowed outside of the guidelines set out below and the team which the player is going to will be participating in an Inter-District or Conference Competition, the Transfer should be referred on to the relevant NSWRL Club and Competition Coordinator for consultation with relevant stakeholders BEFORE approval.

For the purposes of this policy, players will be considered to be transferring into another team within their 'natural' age group. Any subsequent application to 'play up' in an alternate age group will be considered in line with this policy.

This Policy does not apply to, or regulate the movement of:

1. Players transferring into a team participating in a competition aged U19 or above;
2. Players in relation to Junior League Football where that Player has not previously Registered to play Junior League Football for a Club in Competitions at any time;
3. Players who have previously registered to play Junior League Football for a Club, who wish to register to play the Game for a team or organisation which does not either participate in Competitions, or the Game as affiliated to the NSWRL.

DEFINITIONS

The following terms have the corresponding meanings where used in this Player Transfer Policy:

Affiliate has the same meaning as given to that term in the Constitution.

Clearance means the process by which a Player is cleared to move between Clubs or other rugby league teams pursuant to the National Clearances Policy.

Club means an organisation which enters teams to participate in Competitions.

Competitions means rugby league tournaments, competitions, matches and fixtures conducted by and between Districts with the approval of, and under the auspices of, the NSWRL.



Constitution means the constitution of NSWRL JLA, as amended from time to time.

Development Player means a player who has been selected in a District Development Squad at any time within the last 12 months.

District Junior League means an organisation which is a Member or Affiliate of the NSWRL which conducts rugby league competitions, premierships, tournaments and matches which are approved by the NSWRL.

Division 1 refers to the highest grade of competition available in any one age group within the District/Region concerned. This applies regardless of whether there are one or more Divisions/grades.

Existing Club means the most recent Club that a Player was within the last 24 months Registered to play the Game for in Junior League Football.

External District means any NSWRL District outside of the District within which a Junior League Club operates.

Game means the sport of rugby league.

Junior League Football means age-limited Competitions for players aged 18 years and under.

Member has the same meaning as given to that term in the Constitution.

National Clearances Policy means the *NRL National Clearances and Permits Policy v 2.3* as amended or replaced from time to time.

National Registration Policy means the *NRL National Registration Policy v2.3* as amended or replaced from time to time.

New Club means a Club which a Player wishes to Register to play Junior Grade Football for.

NSWRL JLA means New South Wales Rugby League Junior League Association Incorporated, **ABN 53 272 744 791**.

NSWRL District means each of the regional governing bodies of the NSWRL, they being the:

- a) Canterbury Bankstown District Junior Rugby League
- b) South Sydney District Junior Rugby League
- c) Sydney Roosters Junior Rugby League
- d) North Sydney District Junior Rugby League
- e) Manly-Warringah District Junior Rugby League
- f) Parramatta District Junior Rugby League
- g) Penrith District Junior rugby League
- h) Western Suburbs District Junior rugby League
- i) Balmain District Junior Rugby League
- j) St George District Junior Rugby League
- k) Cronulla-Sutherland District Junior Rugby League
- l) *Canberra District Junior Rugby League*

Player means a person who is Registered to play rugby league.

Policy means this Player Transfer Policy.

Registered means the process of a person registering to play rugby league pursuant to the National Registration Policy, and **Register** and **Registration** have corresponding meanings.



Registration Permission means permission granted by a Player's New Club's District Junior League, allowing the Transfer of a Player.

Representative Player means a Player who has played Representative Football at any time within the last 24 months.

Representative Quota means the number of Players who have played Representative Football at any time in the last 24 months, determined by each District Junior League by 30 November each year in respect of the next rugby league season, or five (5) Players if the District does not nominate a specific quota. For teams participating in NSWRL Conference Competitions the Representative Quota is five (5). In competitions where a district has limited number of teams in the selected competitions, this number may be increased in consultation with the NSWRL Conference Competitions Coordinator and other competition stakeholders.

Representative Football means the Elite Competitions conducted by the NSWRL, CRL or QRL in the 16 years and 18 years age groups, namely the Harold Matthews, S.G. Ball, Lisa Fiola and Tarsha Gale Competitions within the NSWRL and equivalent competitions in CRL or QRL.

Season means a rugby league season commencing in about March and ending in about September in a calendar year, for example the "2017 Season".

Senior Competitions means open-age Competitions or those competitions catering for players over 18 years which are not considered Junior League Football for the purposes of this Player Transfer Policy.

Transfer means the transfer of the Registration of a Player, who is eligible to play Junior League Football, from a Club to another Club.

Transfer Permission means permission granted by an Existing Club's District Junior League, allowing the Transfer of a Player.

PLAYER TRANSFERS

- 1) Any Player who has previously Registered to play Junior Grade Football for a Club at any time in the previous 24 months must, before the Player plays Junior Grade Football for any other Club:
 - a) Obtain a Clearance from the relevant Existing Club (if required); and
 - b) Obtain a Transfer Permission from the Existing Club's District Junior League; and
 - c) Obtain a Registration Permission from the New Club's District Junior League.
- 2) For the purposes of rules 1(a) and 1(b), where the Existing Club's District Junior League and the New Club's District Junior League is the same District Junior League, the requirement to obtain a Transfer Permission under rule 1(b) shall be deemed satisfied upon the grant of a Registration Permission.
- 3) Any decision by an Existing Club on any request by a Player for a Clearance must be made in accordance with the National Clearance Policy and any other applicable rules.
- 4) Subject to rules 6 and 7, a District Junior League may refuse to grant a Transfer Permission in any of the following circumstances:
 - a) If two (2) or more Transfer Permissions have already been granted by the District Junior League in respect of Players, who played in the same team for the same Club in the last Season of Junior League Football, to move to the same New Club for the next Season.



- b) If four (4) or more Transfer Permissions have already been granted by the District Junior League in respect of Players, who played for any Club within the District in the last Season of Junior League Football, to move to the same age group in the same New Club for the next Season.
 - c) If two (2) or more Transfer Permissions have already been granted by the District Junior League in respect of Players, who played for any Club within the District in the last Season of Junior League Football, to move to the same age group for the same New Club within another District Junior League for the next Season.
 - d) In competitive football age groups (9+), where the Player has been registered in a Division 1 team or a team in a higher age group within any NSWRL Competition (this includes competitions with only one Division) at any time within the previous season, and where the Club which the Player intends Registering to play for qualified for the *Division 1* Grand Final in that players current or correct age group in the previous season.
 - e) Where the Player has played Representative Football at any time within the last 24 months, and where the team which the Player intends Registering to play for with the New Club already contains the number of **Representative Players** which is equal to or greater than the District/Competition **Representative Quota** (see Definition, p3).
- 5) Subject to rules 6 and 7, a District Junior League may refuse to grant Registration Permission in any of the following circumstances:
- a) If two (2) or more Registration Permissions have already been granted by the District Junior League in respect of Players, who played within the same External District in the last Season of Junior League Football, to move to the same age group for the same New Club for the next Season.
 - b) If four (4) or more Registration Permissions have already been granted by the District Junior League in respect of Players, who played for any External District in the last Season of Junior League Football, to move to the same age group in the same New Club for the next Season.
 - c) In competitive football age groups (9+), where the Player has been registered in a Division 1 team or a team in a higher age group within any NSWRL Competition (this includes competitions with only one Division) at any time within the previous season, and where the Club which the Player intends Registering to play for qualified for the *Division 1* Grand Final in that players current or correct age group in the previous season.
 - d) Where the Player has played Representative Football at any time within the last 24 months, and where the team which the Player intends Registering to play for with the New Club already contains the number of **Representative Players** which is equal to or greater than the District/Competition **Representative Quota** (see Definition, p3).
- 6) Notwithstanding rules 4 and 5, a District Junior League **may** grant a Transfer Permission or a Registration Permission under this Policy in “**Exceptional Circumstances**”. For the purpose of this Policy, “**Exceptional Circumstances**” includes but is not limited to:
- a) If the Existing Club is disbanded, merges with any other Club, or ceases to exist.
 - b) If the Player is a child of, or otherwise under the guardianship of, a person who has relocated their usual place of residence:
 - i) in connection with that person’s employment; or
 - ii) for compassionate reasons; andwhere the Player lives with that parent or guardian, and where as a consequence of that relocation, the Player would have to travel an unreasonable distance to play “home” matches in Competitions for the Existing Club.
 - c) If the Player is in a situation where his/her parents, guardians or family unit has separated, and where custody arrangements are in place in relation to the Player meaning that would be unreasonable for the Player to play for, or train with, the Existing Club.



- 7) Notwithstanding rules 4 and 5, in any circumstances where an Existing Club is not; will not be; or does not intend fielding a team in a Competition for a forthcoming Season which a Player is eligible to play in by reference to that Player's age and ability:
- The Existing Club must grant a Clearance;
 - A Transfer Permission must be granted by an Existing Club's District Junior League; and
 - A Registration Permission must be granted by a New Club's District Junior League (rules 4 and 5 will be taken into account when determining which new club(s) the player may join); in the event the Player wishes to Transfer to a New Club for that forthcoming Season.
- 8) The only right of appeal open to a Player, Club or District Junior League (together an "Appellant") in respect of any decision made under this Policy in relation to a Player is set out in this rule 8.

Where the Existing Club's District Junior League and the New Club's District Junior League is the same District Junior League

- An Appellant may appeal a decision (an "Appeal") to grant or refuse to grant a:
 - Clearance;
 - Transfer Permission; or
 - Registration Permission;(a "Transfer Decision") to the General Manager/Administrator of the District Junior League, by written notice addressed to the General Manager/Administrator setting out the grounds on which the Appeal is made and attaching all relevant documents and information relied on by the Appellant.
- Any Appeal made pursuant to rule 8(a) must be made within five (5) days of the Appellant receiving notification of the Transfer Decision which is appealed against.
- The only basis on which an Appellant may Appeal a Transfer Decision is:
 - If this Policy has been incorrectly applied by the Existing Club or the District Junior League in making a Transfer Decision;
 - If a Transfer Decision has been made on the basis of incorrect or incomplete information in relation to the Player concerned; or
 - If Exceptional Circumstances exist in relation to the Player, and those Exceptional Circumstances have not been properly taken into account in relation to the Transfer Decision the subject of the Appeal.
- The District Junior League General Manager/Administrator shall, after having considered the Appellant's Appeal, either:
 - Refuse the Appeal, in which case the original Transfer Decision stands; or
 - Grant Leave to Appeal, in which case the General Manager/Administrator shall organise for an Appeals Committee to adjudicate on the matter. This Appeals Committee will be made up of nominated representative(s) of the relevant District Junior League and in the example of where the player would be participating in a cross-district competition, the NSWRL or the other District(s) involved.
- The decision of the Appeals Committee in relation to any Appeal is final, and shall not be capable of review or be otherwise justiciable.

Where the Existing Club's Junior League District is different to the New Club's Junior League District

- In any case where an Appeal concerns a Transfer Decision involving different Junior League Districts:
 - The Appeal shall be made to, and determined by, the NSWRL Community Football Manager; but
 - In all other respects, rules 8(a) to 8(e) shall apply and govern the determination of the Appeal with the exception of rule 8(d) (ii) where the Appeals Committee makeup will be established by NSWRL to represent the relevant stakeholders.