RUGBY LEAGUE BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

RULES & REGULATIONS

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A GENERAL

RULE 1

OVERVIEW

1.1 The Rules as a Governing Document

The RLBC Rules and Regulations is a governing document and form a hierarchy pursuant to Bylaw 1.3. In any situation where there is a conflict between this document, the Constitution and Bylaws shall take precedence.

1.2 Procedure for Changes to the Rules

The RLBC Board reserves the right to add, change, or modify the Rules pursuant Bylaw 6.4.

1.3 Incorporation of Rules During the Season

Where the Board adds, changes, or modifies a Rule, it shall communicate the modification to the Club at the Board's earliest convenience and, at the end of the season, incorporate the Change into these Rules, unless the Board specifically advises otherwise.

1.4 Effective Date of Rules

Despite the application of Rule 1.3, any additions, changes, or modifications to a Rule shall not take effect for at least 1 week from the date notice is delivered pursuant to Rule 1.3.

RULE 2

SCOPE OF RULES

2.1 Scope of the Rules

The Rules apply to all participating Clubs in RLBC competitions, to the officials, players, teams, and members of those Clubs and to all other committees or associations involved in the running of RLBC competitions.

2.2 Deemed Knowledge of Rules and Bylaws

Clubs and Club officials are responsible for ensuring that the Bylaws and Rules are disseminated, understood, and adhered to by each Club, their officials, their players and members. All participants in the RLBC are deemed to have knowledge of the Bylaws and Rules.

2.3 Application of the Rules

The application of the Rules shall be made in a fair manner to conduct the RLBC competitions in the best interest of the game and in the spirit of the game.

RULE 3

DEFINITIONS

3.1 Incorporation of Definitions

In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires, the Definitions in Bylaw 1.1 are incorporated into these Rules.

3.2 Additional Definitions

The additional definitions relevant to the Rules are:

a. **"Competitions Manager"** is the RLBC Director of Rugby, or their delegate;

b. **"Judiciary Panel"**: is a committee struck by the Board and must include the Head of Officiating, 1 RLBC Board Member and 1 RLBC official not involved in the incident or 2nd RLBC Board member

c. **"Junior Player"**: a player that will or has reached their thirteenth (13th) birthday by September 1st in the year of the competition but has not reached their seventeenth (17th) birthday by September 1st in the year of the competition;

d. **"Masters Player"**: a player that will or has reached their thirty-fifth (35th) birthday by January 1st in the year of the competition;

e. **"Mini Player"**: a player that will not reach their thirteenth (13th) birthday by September 1st in the year of the competition;

f. **"Senior Player"**: a player that will or has reached their eighteenth (18th) birthday by September 1st in the year of the competition; and

g. **"Teams"**: are comprised of players that form the component parts of Clubs and are operated under the auspices of their respective Clubs.

B ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION

RULE 4

INCORPORATION AND AFFILIATION OF CLUBS

4.1 Club Requirement to Incorporate as Society

Clubs competing in any RLBC Competition must be incorporated as a non-profit society with the correct Government authorities for the playing year and must produce a copy or proof of such current incorporation to the RLBC President before commencing playing season.

A. All clubs failing to comply with 4.1 will incur a one (1) competition point deduction at the discretion of the board if the documents are not supplied prior to the Friday 5pm prior to the RLBC 9s.

4.2 Provision of Documents

At any time during the season, Clubs may be requested and, if requested, shall provide the following documents to the RLBC:

a. the Club's Bylaws;

b. the Club's Certificate of Incorporation;

c. minutes of the Club's Annual General Meetings;

d. the latest correctly completed financial report or auditor's report, should one exist;

e. the statements of the Club's bank account for a timer period determined by the Board;

f. any documentation requested that relates to the Clubs existence as a Society or the Society's funding.

4.3 Limitations on Member Clubs Regarding Expenses

The RLBC does not support two (2) members of the same family signing Club cheque together or exercising electronic withdrawal authority. It is recommended that Clubs arrange cheque signing authority or electronic withdrawal authority so as to preclude this from happening.

4.4 Affiliation Agreements

Clubs competing in any RLBC Competition must complete RLBC Club Affiliation agreements on the form prescribed by the RLBC and submitted in the format and timeframe as specified by the RLBC.

RULE 5

COMPETITION AGE AND GENDER GROUPS

5.1 Competition Grades

Competitions shall be classified in accordance with the decision of the RLBC from time to time and may include, but are not limited to, as Mini Grade, Junior Grade, Senior Grade, Masters Grade, Wheelchair Grade, Tag Grade and Physical DisabilityGrade.

5.2 Events by Age

Competitions shall be conducted in four (4) age classifications: Mini, Junior, Senior, and Master Grades with players in each Grade comprising Mini Players, Junior Players, Senior Players, and Masters Players.

5.3 Events by Gender

Males may not participate on a female team for any competition. However, at the discretion of the Clubs, males and females may practice together.

5.4 Mini-Grade Exception

Despite Rule 5.3, Mini Players are permitted and encouraged to play in a mixed gender environment.

5.5 Gender Bias

The RLBC shall conduct its activities in a manner free of gender bias and shall adopt rules to enhance efforts of the RLBC to comply with applicable gender-equity laws.

RULE 6

LIMITATIONS ON MINI GRADE COMPETITIONS

6.1 Non-Competitive Mini Rugby League

Mini Players shall be played as non-competitive, tag rugby league. Scores may be kept in matches but the results shall not be recorded nor shall standings be tabulated. Any and all activities shall be based on non-competitive participation.

6.2 Exception for Grading of Graduating Mini Players

For players who will reach their thirteenth (13th) birthday the following year, competitions, events, or galas may include competitive games for the purposes of grading Teams or members for the following season.

6.3 Internal Club Activities

Every Club is entitled and encouraged to operate events involving its own members for different Grades and genders as the Club considers appropriate, and the Club is not required to obtain sanctioning from the RLBC as long as:

a. each participant is registered;

b. insurance has appropriately been put in place;

c. no prizemoney or cash vouchers shall be offered where participants are under the age of 18;

d. the Clubs confirm that the RLBC, or other Clubs, are not entitled to share in the benefits nor shall they inherit any liabilities; and

e. should the Club wish for a team to enter competitive matches, appropriate notice has been provided to the RLBC pursuant to Rule 12.9.

6.4 External Club Activities

Any Club who wishes to host a Carnival, Gala, Tournament, or Competition involving participants that are not members of their Club is encouraged to do so but must advise, in writing, to the Board and complete the appropriate forms.

The form must include:

a. the Grades that will participate in the event;

b. the dates and times;

c. any variations on the Rules that will be implemented; and

d. any information or advertising distributed to promote the event.

6.5 Age Restrictions

Unless otherwise approved by the Board or the Rules otherwise provide, players shall play in their correct age category.

6.6 Exceptions to Age Restrictions

A player may participate in a higher or lower age limited competition which is not more than two years higher or lower than their correct age category once:

a. written consent from the player's parent(s) or guardian(s) has been provided to the Club and the Board in a form and manner determined by the Club and Board;

b. their participation has been approved by both their Club, in a manner and form each Club determines, and the Board.; and

c. if considered appropriate, medical documentation or other material considered appropriate by the Club or Board has been included with consent or provided on request of the Club or Board.

RULE 7

REGISTRATION

7.1 Player Obligation to Register

All players engaged in any RLBC competitions and/or representative teams must be registered and fully paid members with a registered RLBC Club each season.

7.2 Clubs Duty to Confirm Registration

Clubs must ensure all registrations online via a nominated Player Registration System are complete and take full responsibility for the correct registration of their players.

7.3 Duplicate Registration

Where the RLBC receives an application for a registration of a player from more than one Club, that player shall be deemed to be registered with the Club that they first registered with determined by the date in which the registration form or online registration was completed or pursuant to the appropriate Club based on their Bylaws, at the discretion of the Board. As result of a player registering with more than one Club, he/she may be suspended from playing the next two (2) matches in the RLBC premiership season from the date of registration with the latter Club, subject to the determination of the Judiciary Panel.

7.4 Fees

The RLBC Board shall determine a fee or levy for all registrations.

7.5 Penalty for Registration Violations

The RLBC has the right to deduct competition points from any Team who allows an unregistered player, and/or non-financial player and/or a player who is playing under another teammates name to take to field of play.

7.6 Registration Disputes

Any disputes over player's registrations shall be directed to the Competitions Manager.

7.7 Continuity of Registration

A player registered under these Rules shall be recorded on the register of that Club for the season in which he/she so registers and shall remain on such register in subsequent seasons until transferred or removed as a member pursuant to that Club's bylaws and procedures.

RULE 8

TRANSFERS AND CLEARANCES

8.1 Transfers of Mini and Junior Players

For Mini and Junior Players, a Club may register any new players at any time.

8.2 Player's from Folded or Non-Operational Clubs

A player from a Club that has folded, withdrawn, or is temporarily not operating in a RLBC competition may be granted a permit to play for another Club (subject to no other suitable Team from their Club still playing) The RLBC shall have sole discretion on providing a permit on a player by player basis.

8.3 Graduation to Senior Team

A player who transfers from the Junior Grade to a Senior Grade Team within the same Club is not subject to transfer or clearance. If a junior player plays up a grade they need to pay the difference in fees, if applicable.

8.4 Transfer Restriction

A player shall not be transferred to another Club if they are in arears to their Club and/or are in possession of goods that have not been returned to the Club or the RLBC, as the case may be. Any such player information is to be lodged with the RLBC. The Board retains discretion to consider suspension or pursue recovery for any expenses of material belonging to the RLBC or, at the request of a Club, on their behalf.

8.5 In Season Transfers

All requests for in season registration transfers are at the discretion of the RLBC board. If the RLBC approves a transfer the player will remain at the new club for the remainder of the season.

All requests must be submitted to the league by 9pm Thursday prior to the weekend's game to take effect that weekend

C COMPETITION

RULE 9

GAME PLAYING CONDITIONS

9.1 Operational Guidelines

All Clubs and their Teams shall adhere to the following game playing conditions:

Grade	Game Duration	Time Off	Ball Size	Field Size	Players Min	Players Max	Interchange	Comp. Points	Referees (Minimum)
Senior	2 x 35 min. (10 min. half)	Y	5	100 x 68	9	13	Unlimited	Y	Ref. & TJs
Reserve	2 x 30 min. (10 min. half)	N	5	100 x 68	9	13	Unlimited	Y	Ref.
Master	2 x 30 min. (10 min. half)	N	5	100 x 68	9	13	Unlimited	Y	Ref.
Junior	2 x 30 min. (10 min. half)	N	5	100 x 68	9	13	Unlimited	Y	Ref.
Mini	3 x 10 min.(5 min. breaks)	N	4/3	68 x 30	6	9	Unlimited	N	Ref.

RULE 10

SCHEDULE

10.1 Scheduling of Events

RLBC competition matches shall be scheduled to be played on a Saturday or where specifically scheduled by the RLBC.

10.2 Scheduling of Matches for Days other than Saturday

Matches may be scheduled for other days subject to written request being made to the Competitions Manager. Approval may be considered subject to approval of both competing Clubs and availability of referees, otherwise original schedule shall remain.

10.3 Scheduling after Withdrawal from Competitions

Should a Team or Club withdraw from a competition for any reason the RLBC shall determine course of action for remaining season schedule and competition table. This shall be undertaken with collaboration of the remaining competing Teams within that competition.

RULE 11

MATCH CONDITIONS

11.1 Obligations to adhere to Match Conditions

Game Playing Conditions are tabled in 10.1 and are not to be modified except under permission of the RLBC Board.

11.2 Team Sheets

A Match Sheet shall be completed for all matches conducted under the auspices of the RLBC including gala day matches and exhibition matches across all age groups including mini and mod matches. Teams shall not be permitted to commence play without completion of a Match Sheet and inspection of equipment by the referees and no player shall be permitted to play if not registered and listed on the Match Sheet.

11.3 Duties of Clubs

Clubs shall ensure that the names and registration numbers of all players who are to participate in the game are entered on the Match Sheet at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the game. Clubs are responsible for allowing enough time to organize players and prepare Official Match Time Sheets, in addition to equipment inspections by the referees, in a manner that the players are ready for kick off at the scheduled time.

11.4 Maximum Number of Players

A maximum of only 20 players can be listed on the Match Sheet per Team, except in the Grand Finals round when only a maximum of 18 players can be listed on the Match Sheet per team.

11.5 Import Players

Subject to the discretion of the Board, all clubs will be limited to no more than six (6) import players on their game day roster.

And further, import player shall be defined as any person without, Citizenship, Permanent Residence, Canadian Heritage status pursuant to IRL or the appropriate international Rugby League association who has not played at least one season in Canada.

11.6 Commencement of Match

Whilst the match may not commence until the completion of the task in 11.2, the match clock shall be started at scheduled start time regardless of these tasks being completed, which shall be enforced by the referee.

11.7 Eligibility of Late Arriving Player

A player who arrives late for the game shall be permitted to participate in the game at any time provided that:

a. the player is registered to play;

b. the player's name and signatures appears on the Match Sheet prior to taking the field; and

c. the player enters the Playing Field through the normal interchange process regardless of interchanging with another player.

11.8 Forfeit for Use of Unregistered or Ineligible Player

Any Team fielding an unregistered or non-financial or ineligible player shall be considered to have forfeited the game. The procedures in Rule 13 shall govern.

11.9 Forfeit Resulting from Absence of Players

If the minimum number of 9 players on-field have not collectively initiated play after 10 minutes has expired on the game clock for a Team, the game shall be forfeited by that Team. The procedures in Rule 14 shall govern.

11.10 Use of Players Between Grades

Clubs with 2 or more Teams in any particular Age Group are NOT permitted to alternate players from one Team to the other during the season (i.e. these Teams are treated as separate Team as if from different Clubs for the purposes of competition). Prior to March 15th of each year, Clubs must submit each respective Team playing list to the RLBC and the grade for which that Team shall compete. Any new players must be allocated to a Team, registered, and insured before that player plays or trains.

RULE 12

CANCELLATIONS

12.1 Permissible Reasons to Cancel Games

Matches may only be cancelled without input with the Board due to the following reasons:

a. Ground conditions are determined to be unsafe (see 12.6)

b. Adverse weather (see 12.9)

12.2 Cancellation for Reasons other than Ground Conditions and Weather

Any game may be postponed for any other reason deemed appropriate by the RLBC President with the consent of at minimum 2 other Board Members. Cancellation must be communicated to all Clubs at the earliest opportunity.

12.3 Declaration of a Draw

Any game cancelled shall be declared a draw and affected Teams allocated competition points awarded for a draw and a match score of 0-0.

12.4 Request to Replay Cancelled Game

Any game cancelled may be postponed to be played at a later date subject to written request being made to the RLBC President no later than 5.00pm of the next business day after the originally scheduled game. Approval may be considered subject to approval of both competing Teams/Clubs and/or availability of referees or grounds.

12.5 Obligation to Time Postponed Game

Any postponed match must be completed and the result formally submitted to the RLBC President by 5.00pm of Tuesday immediately prior to the first week of scheduled playoffs.

12.6 Unsafe Grounds Particulars

For a match to be cancelled where ground conditions are determined to be unsafe under 12.1(a)., this shall only be on the basis that the ground is declared unsafe and not on the basis the ground is considered not suitable or ideal for play. A ground can be declared unsafe at any time and can only occur when:

a. the referee determines the ground to be unsafe; or

b. both affected Teams agree and declare the ground unsafe.

12.7 Refusal of One Team to Play

If only one Team declares the ground unsafe and refuses to play the Team refusing to play shall be determined as forfeiting the match and Rule 13 shall govern.

12.8 Payment of Referees for Cancelled Games

Referee fees shall be paid for matches cancelled where ground conditions are determined to be unsafe under 13.1 a. This shall be the responsibility of the RLBC.

12.9 Adverse Weather Particulars

A match may be cancelled due to adverse weather under 12.1(b). by the referee. Adverse weather is determined as extreme weather that has potential to affect the health and wellbeing of participants (examples being extreme heat, lighting strike, etc.) or when conditions become unplayable where it is not possible to conduct an ordinary game of rugby league (eg. extreme gale force wind, excessive precipitation, or wildfires) such that it is impossible to play the ball or perform other basic elements of the game).

RULE 13

FORFEITS

13.1 Forfeit Implications

Should a Team forfeit for any reason the following shall apply:

a. competition points shall be awarded as per Rule 14.1 with the non-forfeiting Team being declared the winner;

b. a match score of 20-0 to the non-offending Team, or if a match has already commenced, the score of the match at the time the match is forfeited if point differential is greater than 20 points;

c. if a Team commences a match at the scheduled time and completes at least the first half of the match and then forfeits, the forfeiting Team shall not be subject to the loss of two competition points and the match score according to Rule 13.1(b) shall be applied; and

d. a fine of $200, subject to the discretion of the Board, shall be payable to the RLBC with 50% payable to non-offending Club for all forfeits involving the Senior Grades (Men's and Women's Competitions).

13.2 Postponements

A match that has been forfeited due to insufficient numbers or any other reason by either Team shall not be considered a cancelled match and cannot be postponed to be played at a later date.

13.3 Advising of a Forfeit

If a Club is aware that it is forfeiting a match prior to the weekend of play then the forfeiting Club must advise the Competitions Manager and the opposing Club. Communication of a forfeit 48 hours prior to the scheduled start time of the match involving the forfeiting Team shall absolve the Club from incurring a fine pursuant to Rule 13.1(d), subject to the discretion of the Board.

13.4 Multiple Forfeits

Any Team who forfeits on 3 separate occasions shall be immediately suspended from the competition and fined $100 for each remaining match it is scheduled to play until it can show, to the satisfaction of the RLBC President, just cause to be permitted to continue on the basis no further forfeits shall occur.

13.5 Completion of Team Sheet

The non-forfeiting Team may submit a completed Match Sheet to the league. This must be received by the league no later than 5.00pm on the first working day after the game (ordinarily a Monday).

RULE 14

COMPETITION POINTS & TABLE

14.1 Awarding of Points

Competition points shall be awarded as follows:

Win 2 points

Bye 2 points

Draw 1 point

Loss 0 points

Forfeit -2 points

14.2 Regular Season Overtime Procedure

Any matches in the regular season where scores are drawn at the completion of normal game time the following shall occur:

SENIOR GRADE

a. Teams shall have a 5 minute break and swap ends prior to the start of extra time;

b. Two periods of five minutes each of extra time shall be played with the first team to score a try declared the winner,

c. Should scores still be level after two periods of extra time, the game will end in a draw

JUNIOR AND MASTER'S GRADE

a. Teams shall have a 5 minute break and swap ends prior to the start of extra time;

b. Two periods of five minutes each of extra time shall be played with the first team to score a try declared the winner,

c. Should scores still be level after two periods of extra time, the game will end in a draw

14.3 Tie Breaking Formula For Table Position

Teams shall be ranked higher on the competition ladder based on most competition points. Should two Teams share the same number of competition points they shall be separated in the following order:

a. greater positive difference between match points scored for and scored against'

b. team with the least amount of forfeits;

c. higher winning percentage in all games played against all of the other tied Team(s);

d. higher match points scored for;

e. lower match points scored against; and

f. if Teams cannot be separated as per above then RLBC Board shall determine required action to be taken with factors to consider including disciplinary action and recent performance.

RULE 15

FINALS

15.1 Playoff Qualification

The four highest ranking Teams on the competition table at the end of the regular season shall qualify for Playoffs.

15.2 Playoff Format

The Playoff format shall be:

WEEK 1

Semi Final #1: Team ranked 2 v Team ranked 3

Semi Final #2 Team ranked 4 v Team ranked 1

WEEK 2

Grand Final: Winner of Semi Final #1 v Winner Semi Final #2

The winner of the Grand Final shall be declared competition winners.

15.3 Finals Game Conditions

Semi-Final matches shall be played under the conditions set out in these rules except, in the case of cancellation due to unsafe ground conditions or adverse weather, the procedure is as follows:

a. Teams and Board should take all reasonable steps to have the game replayed within 3 days of its scheduled start time;

b. if the game cannot be replayed, the highest seeded team from the regular season shall advance to the Grand final.

The Grand Final shall be played at a time and location to which the RLBC and teams shall agree. If an agreement cannot be made, the match will be scheduled to occur each subsequent week until circumstances permit completion of the Grand Final.

15.4 Playoff Overtime Procedure

Any matches in the Finals where scores are drawn at the completion of normal game time the following shall occur:

SENIOR GRADE

a. Teams shall have a 5 minute break and swap ends prior to the start of extra time;

b. Two periods of five minutes each of extra time shall be played with the first team to score a try declared the winner,

c. Should scores still be level after extra time, Teams shall swap ends with no break, and the next Team to score shall be declared the winner.

JUNIOR AND MASTER'S GRADE

a. Teams shall have 5 minute break and swap ends prior to the start of extra time;

b. The first Team to score in Extra Time shall be declared the winner;

c. Extra Time shall be played with Teams swapping ends for each period of 5 minutes with no break.

RULE 16

PLAYER QUALIFICATION FOR PLAYOFFS

16.1 Player Eligibility for the Playoffs

A player shall be eligible to participate in the Playoffs subject to the following conditions:

a. To be eligible to participate in the Playoffs, each player must have played at least 2 of his/her Club's last 5 competition matches, in the age group (and grade) they wish to qualify in or, for Junior Grade Players, 2 of his/her Club's last 5 competition matches in the Senior Grade;.

b. in the situation where a Club has been removed from the competition the players of that Club may register with another Club and shall be deemed to be eligible for the Playoff series provided they have played 3 games in the competition;

c. a player that plays 3 games in the Senior Grade shall not be permitted to play in Reserve or Master Grade Playoffs;

d. Where a player takes part in a representative match for the RLBC which necessitates, other than through injury, that the player cannot compete in a Senior Grade match(es)for the requisite period, that player shall be considered as having completed game(s) at his appropriate level while taking part in representative matches;.

e. Exceptions may be requested by delivering a written request to the Competition Manager no later than 5.00pm of the next business day after final regular season match. The principles of fairness and equity to all parties should govern the decision to make an exception.

RULE 17

DISQUALIFIED / SUSPENDED PLAYERS

17.1 Inability to Play on Representative Team

No player who has been disqualified/ suspended by the RLBC or any other Rugby League body for any reason shall be entitled to play in any RLBC game, or represent the RLBC, until such disqualification/ suspension has expired or been expunged by the RLBC or the Rugby League Body imposing the disqualification.

17.2 Suspension Guidelines

Unless explicitly stated within the sanction, conditions of Disqualification / Suspension are that:

a. suspensions shall be considered for games not weeks. For example, a suspension is not served during weekends where there is a general bye or the Team has a scheduled bye; and

b. a suspension shall serve across all competitions and shall expire at the completion of the scheduled matches of the Team that the particular player received the suspension for. For example: if player receives a 1 week suspension in the Junior Grade and his Club has a bye for the next week, the player cannot play for another Team (eg. Senior or Reserve Grade) until he/she serves the scheduled number of Junior Grade games.

c. Matches that are forfeited by a suspended player's Team do not count as part of the suspension. For clarification, where a suspended player's Team forfeits a game, the game shall not count as part of the suspension.

RULE 18

JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

18.1 Application

This Rule outlines Judicial Procedures and Penalties for any match played suspicions under the auspices of the RLBC for Competition related offences. For clarity, CRLA By-Law 2019-01 is not applicable to the assessment or enforcement of game related offences exclusively involving RLBC Clubs at a RLBC event or competition.

18.2 Game Related Offences

The Judiciary Procedures particularized in these Rules apply to game related offences and excludes those matters listed at Bylaw 2.9 for serious offences involving suspension and expulsion from the RLBC.

18.3 Application of CRLA Policy

The procedures outlined in this Rule do not limit action processed by other rugby federations, including the CRLA policies for matches played under the auspices of that federation or matches that do not exclusively involve RLBC Clubs .

18.4 Parties Permitted to Charge a Player

The referee and/or touch judge may charge a player with an offence as listed on the Charge Description List (Rule 18.18).

18.5 No Requirement for Dismissal

A charge may be laid whether the player was dismissed by the referee from the field or not.

18.6 Mandatory Charge for Dismissal

Should a player be dismissed from the field by the referee, a charge must be completed as per the procedures outlined.

18.7 Procedure for Complete a Charge

To complete a charge the referee or touch judge must record the charge (regardless of match being video recorded) on a Match Sheet stating the following:

a. Offence as listed on the Charge Description List (Rule 18.18); and

b. Grade of the offence as to its severity, as follows:

Grade 1 – Least Severe

Grade 2 – Severe

Grade 3 – Most Severe

To assist in the assessment of the severity of the offence, the following adjectives should be considered to describe the event in question:

Grade 1: unfortunate, inappropriate, distressing, clumsy, such as it is, sad

Grade 2: regrettable, dirty, bad, awful, alarming

Grade 3: deplorable, grievous, tragic, unspeakable, excruciating, calamitous, nasty, vicious.

18.8 Communication of Charge from Referee

The referee of the match must advise the Head of Officiating immediately following the match of any charge as per the details completed on the Match Report sheet

18.9 Communication of Charge to the Board

The Head of Officiating must notify the RLBC Board 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.

18.10 Use of Match Video

For matches where there is an official match video, being a pre-sanctioned video recording service approved by the RLBC, the video may be reviewed by a match review committee including the RLBC President and at least two other persons nominated by the RLBC. Should the RLBC Match Review Committee determine a player be charged with an offence on the Charge Description List (Rule 18.18), severity of the offence shall also be determined, and the RLBC President shall confirm the charge as per Notification of Charge process (see 18.12).

18.11 Serious Match Day Offences

On rare occasions due to the seriousness of the incident, the Board, at their sole discretion following proper investigation of evidence available may refer any charge without grading directly to the RLBC Judiciary Panel, who shall be free to determine appropriate penalty (regardless of demerit points listed in 18.19) if the player is found guilty following a hearing.

18.12 Notification of Charge and Response

The RLBC President, Head of Officiating or their designate, must adhere to the following notification steps:

a. The RLBC Head of Officiating shall confirm in writing in a timely matter after notifying the board to the charged player's Club and individual:

   i. the details of the offence;

   ii. the total number of demerit points that the player has incurred; and

   iii. the corresponding penalty as calculated under 8 Penalties, if applicable.

b. The charged player's Club must enter a plea in writing or by email of either guilty or not guilty to the RLBC President or Head of Officiating within 24hrs that it has been advised of the charge.

18.13 Procedure on Receipt of Guilty Plea

If, pursuant to Bylaw 18.12(b), the Club advises the RLBC President that the player enters a guilty plea, the RLBC President shall enforce any penalty and ensure any carry-over demerit points are documented.

18.14 Procedure on Receipt of A Non-Guilty Plea

If, pursuant to Bylaw 18.12(b), the Club advises the RLBC President that the player enters a not guilty plea or accepts guilt but not the grading of severity, the President shall convene the RLBC Judiciary Panel which shall meet 24hrs or at soonest availability of the Judiciary panel once plea has been submitted

18.15 Discretion of the Judiciary Panel

Subject to the evidence presented at a hearing, the RLBC Judiciary Panel has the power to downgrade a the grade/severity of charge, or, in the case of a High Tackle charge, downgrade from Intentional to Reckless or Careless, or from Reckless to Careless. The grade/severity of charge cannot be upgraded by the RLBC Judiciary Panel (except for charges made under 18.10).

18.16 No Legal Representation

A player may not take legal representation into a judiciary hearing for Match Day Related offences.

18.17 Appeal

A Club may lodge an appeal against a penalty is determined by the Judiciary Panel by advising the RLBC President 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).

18.18 Striking of ad hoc Judiciary Committee

If an appeal is approved, the RLBC President shall convene a tribunal consisting of the Chairman RLBC Judiciary and up to two other officials nominated by the Board.

18.19 Charge Description List

Short Description	Description of Misconduct
Tripping, Kicking, Sticking	A player is guilty of misconduct if he trips another player, A player is guilty of misconduct if he kicks another player or makes a deliberate attempt to kick a player, A player is guilty of misconduct if he strikes another player or makes a deliberate attempt to strike a player
Intentional High Tackle	A player is guilty of misconduct if, when effecting or attempting to effect a tackle, the player makes contact with the head or neck of an opponent intentionally.
Careless High Tackle	A player is guilty of misconduct if, when effecting or attempting to effect a tackle, the player makes contact with the head or neck of an opponent carelessly or recklessly.
Dangerous Contact not to the Head Dropping Knees Dangerous Throw	A player guilty of misconduct if he carelessly, recklessly or intentionally makes dangerous contact with an opposing player (but which does not involve contact with the opposing player's head or neck). A player is guilty of misconduct if he drops his knees into an opponent who is on the ground or makes a deliberate attempt to drop his knees onto an opponent. A player is guilty of misconduct if he uses any dangerous throw when effecting a tackle.
Law Breaking Offensive Language	A player is guilty of misconduct if he deliberately breaks the laws of the game. A player is guilty of misconduct if he uses offensive or obscene language
Disputing Decision	A player is guilty of misconduct if he disputes a decision of the referee or touch judge
Re-entering Play	A player is guilty of misconduct if he re-enters the Field of Play without the permission of the referee or touch judge having previously temporarily retired from the game.
Contrary Conduct	A player is guilty of misconduct if he behaves in a way contrary to the true spirit of the game.
Detrimental Conduct	A player is guilty of misconduct if he behaves in a manner which is detrimental to the interests, welfare or image of the league or rugby league football.
Shoulder Charge	A player is guilty of misconduct if he carelessly, recklessly or intentionally makes forceful contact between any part of his body and the head or neck of an opposing player and/or causes or contributes to any forceful movement of, or impact to, the head or neck of an opposing player when effecting, or attempting to effect, a shoulder charge, that is, using the shoulder and/or upper arm tucked into the side without, at the same time, using the arms and/or hands to tackle or otherwise take hold of the opposing player.

18.20 Offences Table and Demerit Points

The following table particularizes demerit points for each of the offences listed in Rule 18.18. Once a Grade for the severity of the offence has been awarded, the points shall be allocated as listed as provided and only reduced by operation of Rule 18.21.

DEMERIT POINTS			
Description of Offence	Grade 1 Less Severe	Grade 2 Severe	Grade 3 Most Severe
Tripping, Kicking, Stricking	100	200	300
Intentional High Tackle	275	325	400
Careless High Tackle	75	150	225
Dangerous Contact – Other	75	250	400
Dropping Knees	100	200	300
Dangerous Throw	100	200	400
Law Breaking	75	100	125
Offensive Language	100	100	125
Disputing Decision 75 125	75	125	175
Re-entering player	200	300	400
Contrary Conduct	100	200	300
Detrimental Conduct	100	200	300
Shoulder Charge	200	300	400

18.21 Demerit System

Demerits that accrue from offences under Rule 18.20 shall be administered as follows:

a. A one-match suspension shall result for each 100 demerit points received by a player;

b. Following any suspension, any points remaining shall stay on the player's record for the following 12 calendar months, carrying-over and applying to any future penalties for offences under this procedure. For example, a penalty of 275 points shall result in the player receiving a two-match suspension, with the remaining 75 points staying on the player's record for 12 calendar months as carry-over points.;

c. If a player has played rugby league and in the past two or more years has not been convicted of an offence, the player is entitled to a 25% reduction of the base demerit point penalty;

d. A guilty plea by a player shall result in a 25% reduction of the base demerit point penalty.

e. The Judiciary Panel may impose a suspended sentence at its discretion. The period of the sentence that is suspended is subject to good behavior by the player

If the player is found guilty by the Judiciary of any subsequent offense committed during the period of the suspended sentence, the suspended sentence will be added to any sentence

imposed by the Judiciary Panel for the subsequent offense.

f. The following example of the demerit system are provided as a guide and do not limit the application or interpretation of this Rule.

Example 1	
Offence Demerit Points (base)	350
Absence of prior offence for two years (deduct 25% from base)	-88
Guity plea (deduct 25% from base)	-88
Total Demerit Points	**174**

Example 2	
Offence Demerit Points (base)	350
Prior offence in past two years (no deduction)	0
Guity plea (deduct 25% from base)	-88
Total Demerit Points	**262**

Example 3	
Offence Demerit Points (base)	350
Absence of prior offence for two years (deduct 25% from base)	-88
Not Guity plea and Found Guilty by Judiciary Committee	0
Total Demerit Points	**262**

Example 4	
Offence Demerit Points (base)	350
Prior offence in past two years (no deduction)	0
Not Guilty plea and found guilty by Judiciary	0
Total Demerit Points	**350**

D MATCH DAY AND VENUE REQUIREMENTS

RULE 19

PLAYER DISMISSAL AND SIN BIN

19.1 Departure of Dismissed Player

A dismissed player must leave the Playing Area and be escorted by a Team official to the change room or designated area. They may have no further involvement in that game or any

other game until the appropriate judicial process has been put into action.

19.2 Departure of Player to Sin-Bin

The player shall sit in the change room, or designated area, away from both Team benches. Whilst that player is in the Sin-Bin, the player shall not participate in any way in the game.

19.3 Discretion of Referee

The use of the Sin-Bin shall be at the discretion of the referee.

19.4 Timing of Sin-Bin Offences

The Sin-Bin time commences for the player when the referee re-starts play, either by blowing the whistle for a penalty or play recommencing. For clarity, time does not commence when the referee holds his hands up to signal the sin-bin or when the player reaches the official table.

19.5 Implications of Half Time on Timing of Sin Bin Offences

Time for Half-time break does not count towards Sin-Bin time and time shall continue into the second half.

19.6 Implications of "Time Off" on Timing of Sin Bin Offences

Sin-Bin time shall continue even if Time Off has been blown by the Referee.

RULE 20

UNIFORM

20.1 Club On Field Uniform Design and Color Policy

A Club on-field uniform must comply with and be approved under the RLBC Club on Field Uniform Design and Color Policy.

20.2 Uniform Requirements

Player's uniforms and equipment shall be in accordance with Section 4 of the International Laws book:

a. Each Team's players shall be in uniform (ie. all players wearing the same design and color jersey, shorts and socks.)

b. Each player jersey shall be easily identifiable with individual numbers.

c. No item of clothing or equipment is permitted which may be considered dangerous. Shorts with pockets shall NOT be permitted under any circumstances, and pockets cannot be taped or sewn, or shorts turned inside out.

20.3 Grace Period

Referees are required to advise Teams and note on the official match under their report if a Club has not complied with ensuring a Team has uniform jerseys, shorts and socks. Clubs shall be provided a grace period up to and including Round 4 to ensure all Teams are compliant.

RULE 21

MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS

21.1 Three Strike Rule

A formal warning for each breach of these Rules committed by a Team shall be delivered to the Team's Club. The third warning to a Club shall be considered a final warning. Following a final warning, further breaches shall be considered misconduct by the Club (not players) and may be subject to appropriate sanctioning, through operation of Bylaw 2.9.

RULE 22

EQUIPMENT

It is the operation of the Club hosting a scheduled event to ensure that at minimum the following equipment is present, ready for use, or displayed, as the case may be:

- Match Sheet;
- 3 Footballs;
- Goal Post Pads & Corner Posts;
- any documentation required to be displayed by municipal or regional governments; and.
- medical signage pursuant to Rule 23.3.

RULE 23

FIRST AID

23.1 Obligatory Medical Equipment

A stretcher shall be provided by the host venue and neck brace positioned in an area adjacent to the official table.

23.2 Presence of Qualified First Aid Attendant

It is compulsory for a Trainer with a minimum Level 1 qualification, or similarly qualified personnel as approved by RLBC, from each Team and equipped with an appropriate First Aid Kit to be in attendance at all games.

23.3 Required Signage

Signage to be displayed in Change rooms must contain:

- Nearest Hospital name, location, and phone number.
- Nearest Walk-In Clinic name, location and phone number.

23.4 Assistance with Ambulance Attendants

Club members are obligated to assist and facilitate ambulance attendance to the best of their ability and to assist with ensuring and directing ground entry to ambulance officials.

RULE 24

DRESSING ROOMS

24.1 Dressing Room

Teams and Referees shall be allocated dressing rooms on the day by the host venue when available.

24.2 Protection of Valuables

It is the individual player's responsibility to ensure that any valuables are not left in the dressing rooms. Any loss incurred is solely the individual's responsibility,

24.3 Shared Dressing Rooms

Teams in subsequent matches may be allowed into dressing rooms at the completion of the half-time interval at the discretion of the host venue officials.

24.4 Cleanliness of Dressing Rooms

Each Team shall be responsible for leaving their room tidy. Any costs, fees, or penalties incurred for cleaning or repair shall be the responsibility of the Club(s) using the Dressing Rooms.

RULE 25

MODIFICATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL RULES

25.1 No 40-20 Kicks

The international rule that permits a team that kicks from behind their side of the 40 meter line, hits the ground within the field of play, and traverses the sidelines past the opponent's 20 meter line to retain possession with a tap-kick restart from the point that ball leaves the field is not adopted in RLBC competitions. Rather, as with the traditional rule for when a ball leaves the field of play, the non-kicking team shall be awarded a scrum feed.

25.2 No Pushing in Scrums

Pushing, pulling, or rotating a scrum is not permitted. All scrums are to be depowered and will form with the following instructions: Form, Engage, Hold. On the feed of the ball into the scrum, only the Hookers may strike for the ball, the second rowers may rake the ball to the lock.

E RLBC POLICIES

RULE 26

RUGBY LEAGUE POLICIES

26.1 Zero Tolerance Policy for Abusive Behavior

At RLBC, we are committed to promoting a safe and respectful environment for all participants. We believe that abusive behavior has no place in our organization and will not be tolerated.

Definition of Abusive Behavior: Abusive behavior includes any verbal, physical, or emotional conduct that is offensive, threatening, intimidating, or harmful to another person, including but not limited to:

- Verbal abuse, including name-calling, insults, and derogatory comments
- Physical abuse, including pushing, hitting, or throwing objects
- Emotional abuse, including taunting, bullying, and harassing behavior
- Discriminatory behavior based on race, gender, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic

Zero Tolerance Policy: Any individual who engages in abusive behavior toward another person, be it player, coach, staff or referee, will be subject to immediate ejection from the game and may face additional consequences, including suspension or expulsion from future games or events. This policy applies to all coaches, spectators, and other non-players.

Referee Authority: In order to enforce this policy, referees will have the authority to eject coaches, spectators, and other non-players from the field if they engage in abusive behavior. If the individual refuses to leave the field, their team will forfeit the match.

Reporting Abusive Behavior: Any individual who witnesses or experiences abusive behavior is encouraged to report it immediately to the nearest official, coach, or league representative. Reports can also be made anonymously by emailing the board directly. All reports will be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly.

Enforcement: It is the responsibility of all coaches, officials, and league representatives to enforce this zero tolerance policy and take appropriate action against individuals who engage in abusive behavior. Failure to enforce this policy may result in disciplinary action against the responsible party.

Conclusion: We believe that rugby league can be played with intensity and passion without resorting to abusive behavior. By enforcing this zero tolerance policy and giving referees the authority to eject coaches, spectators, and other non-players from the field, we can create a safe and enjoyable environment for all participants and fans.

26.2 Application of Rules of Partner Organization Rules

All Registered Participants and the RLBC are bound by Policies, Rules and Regulations as set out by rugby league authorities to which the RLBC is affiliated to including, but not limited to, the CRLA. Despite the obligation to adhere to those obligations, the RLBC explicitly recognizes and adopts the following.

26.3 Rugby League Mental Health Charter

The RLBC, its Members and Clubs, shall commit to:

a. Educate every player, team official, match official, teammate and volunteer to look after their own mental fitness and the mental fitness of those around them;

b. Support tournament players to take their experiences home and develop mental fitness awareness within their own Rugby League communities;

c. Deliver mental fitness workshops to 8,000 young Rugby League players, and their parents;

d. Train grass roots coaches to continue delivering mental fitness workshops and leave a sustainable tournament legacy; and

e. Deliver a mental fitness campaign that reaches millions of people worldwide

26.4 CRLA Concussion Management & Return to Competition

The Registered Participants and the RLBC are bound to the CRLA Concussion Management & Return to Competition Bylaw 2019-03, as appended to these Rules, and, where applicable, its amendments or replacements.

26.5 CRLA Harassment Policy

The Registered Participants and the RLBC are bound to the CRLA Harassment Policy Bylaw 2019-02, as appended to these Rules, and, where applicable, its amendments or replacements.

26.6 CRLA Screening Policy

The Registered Participants and the RLBC are bound to the CRLA Screening Policy Bylaw 2019-10, as appended to these Rules, and, where applicable, its amendments or replacements.

26.7 CRLA Social Media Policy

The Registered Participants and the RLBC are bound to the CRLA Social Media Policy Bylaw 2019-11, as appended to these Rules, and, where applicable, its amendments or replacements.

26.8 Other Potentially Relevant Bylaws

a. CRLA Appreciation Policy Bylaw 2019-07: the Bylaw formally recognizes contribution to the CRLA.

The RLBC encourages its members to contribute their time and expertise to the growth of Rugby League but shall not attempt to influence or effect the CRLA's application of their Appreciation Bylaw.

b. CRLA Discipline Policy Bylaw 2019-01 and CRLA Dispute Resolution Policy Bylaw 2019-03: these Bylaws have directly been incorporated into the RLBC Bylaws and Rules. As such, their applicability for RLBC events is as particularized within the constituting documents of the RLBC. Without limiting any section of the RLBC 's Bylaws and Rules, the above referenced CRLA Bylaws are not to be used for competition related offences involving RLBC Teams during a RLBC sanctioned event or as an alternative for dispute resolution, unless expressly permitted by the RLBC.