



NRL SA Judiciary Procedures & Penalties

1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 This document outlines Judicial Procedures and Penalties for any match played under the auspices of NRL South Australia.
- 1.2 The procedures outlined in this document do not limit action processed through other NRL SA policies, including but not limited to, the NRL SA Code of Conduct, NRL SA Tough Love Policy and the NRL SA's Operations Manual.

2. Lodgment of Charge - Referee

- 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 record the charge (regardless of match being video recorded) within the official Match Report book (match sheet) stating the following:
 - a) Offence as listed on the Charge Description List (see 7); and
 - b) Time of the incident
- 2.4 The referee of the match must submit a detailed incident report, including grading, to the NRL SA Club & Competitions Coordinator, by 12pm the first working day after the game (ordinarily a Monday), of any charge as per the details completed on the Match Report book.
- 2.5 On rare occasions due to the seriousness of the incident, the NRL SA Club & Competitions Coordinator, at their sole discretion following proper investigation of evidence available may refer any charge without grading directly to the NRL SA Judiciary Panel, who shall be free to determine appropriate penalty (regardless of demerit points listed in 8) if the player is found guilty following a hearing.

3.0 Match Review Committee Referrals

- 3.1 A referee, touch judge or relevant club executive committee member (MUST be from club involved in the alleged incident) may request the Match Review Committee to review footage of an alleged incident.
- 3.2 The referring party must submit a detailed incident report of the alleged incident to the NRL SA Club & Competitions Coordinator, by 6pm the first business day after the game (ordinarily a Tuesday), of any charge as per the details completed on the Match Report book.
- 3.3 Where a referral is received and accepted, the NRL SA Club & Competitions Coordinator will convene a Match Review Committee, consisting of himself and at least one other person nominated by the league.

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- 3.4 The Match Review Committee, on convening, will review available video footage of the incident and apply relevant Offence as listed on the Charge Description List (see 7) and grading.
- 3.5 The Match Review Committee may also charge any player who is not the subject of an Incident Report, if alleged to be guilty of an offence. In this case, the NRL SA Club & Competitions Coordinator will advise the charged player's club and the normal process will be followed.
- 4. Notification of Charge and Response**
- 4.1 The NRL SA Club & Competitions Coordinator will confirm in writing the charged player's club of the details of the offence as well as the total number of demerit points that the player may incur and the corresponding penalty (as calculated under 8 Penalties), no later than 12.00pm on the second business day after the game (ordinarily a Tuesday).
- 4.2 The charged player's club must enter a written plea of either guilty or not guilty to the NRL SA Club & Competitions Coordinator by 12.00pm on the business day after receiving the notice of charge (ordinarily a Wednesday).
- 4.3 If the club advises the NRL SA Club & Competitions Coordinator that the player accepts guilt and the penalty as notified, the NRL SA Club & Competitions Coordinator will take appropriate action to enforce any penalty and any carry-over demerit points are documented.
- 5. Judiciary**
- 5.1 If the player does not accept guilt and the calculated penalty, or accepts guilt but not the grading of severity, the NRL SA General Manager will convene the NRL SA Judiciary Panel which will meet by no later than the fourth working day after the game, (ordinarily a Thursday)
- 5.2 Subject to the evidence presented at a hearing, the NRL SA Judiciary Panel has the power to downgrade 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 NRL SA Judiciary Panel (except for charges made under 2.5).
- 5.3 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.
- 6. Appeal**
- 6.1 A club/association may lodge an appeal against penalties determined by the Judiciary by advising the NRL SA Club & Competitions Coordinator 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.



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- 6.2 If an appeal is approved, the NRL SA Club & Competitions Coordinator shall convene a tribunal consisting of an independent Chairman and up to two other officials nominated by the league, one of whom may be a lawyer.
- 6.3 Any proposed penalty will be set aside until the appeal has been heard.



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7. Charge Description List

Short Description	Description of Misconduct
Tripping	A player is guilty of misconduct if he trips another player
Kicking	A player is guilty of misconduct if he kicks another player
Striking	A player is guilty of misconduct if he strikes another player
Intentional High Tackle	A player is guilty of misconduct if, when effecting or attempting to effect a tackle, he makes 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, he makes 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, he makes contact with the head or neck of an opponent carelessly
Dropping Knees	A player is guilty of misconduct if he drops his knees into an opponent who is on the ground
Dangerous Throw	A player is guilty of misconduct if he uses any dangerous throw when effecting a tackle
Law Breaking	A player is guilty of misconduct if he deliberately breaks the laws of the game
Offensive Language	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
Obstructing	A player is guilty of misconduct if he deliberately obstructs an opponent who is not in possession
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
Dangerous Contact	A player is guilty of misconduct if he carelessly, recklessly or intentionally makes dangerous contact with another person or engages in dangerous conduct
Shoulder Charge	A player is guilty of misconduct if he is 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 (tucked into the side)



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8. Offences Table and Demerit Points

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE	DEMERIT POINTS		
	GRADE 1: LEAST SEVERE	GRADE 2: SEVERE	GRADE 3: MOST SEVERE
Tripping	75	175	275
Kicking	200	300	400
Striking	200	300	400
Intentional High Tackle	550	650	750
Reckless High Tackle	300	350	400
Careless High Tackle	75	125	175
Dropping Knees	200	300	400
Dangerous Throw	125	325	525
Law Breaking	75	100	125
Offensive Language	75	100	125
Disputing Decision	75	125	175
Re-entering Play	75	125	175
Contrary Conduct	125	225	325
Obstructing	75	125	175
Detrimental Conduct	125	225	325
Dangerous Contact	100	250	400
Shoulder Charge	200	350	500



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9. Penalties

9.1 A one-match suspension will result for each 100 demerit points received by a player. This will be applied to all levels of competition until the set penalty has expired relative to the competition the penalty was received.

e.g A player receiving a one-match suspension in First Grade will not be able to play in any other division (Senior 9's, Representative etc) until the one match has been served in First Grade.

9.2 Following any suspension, any points remaining will 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 will result in the player receiving a two-match suspension, with the remaining 75 points staying on the player's record for 12 calendar months after the date of the last day suspension is enforced as carry-over points.

9.3 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.

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

9.5 A player with prior similar offences in the past two seasons will receive a 25% loading of the base demerit point penalty.

9.6 EXAMPLE DEMERIT POINT PENALTY APPLICATION

Example 1

Offence Demerit Points (base penalty):	350
No prior offence in past 2 years (less 25% of base):	-88
Guilty plea (less 25% of base):	-88
No Prior similar offence in past 2 years (plus 25% of base):	+0
Total Demerit Points:	174

Example 2

Offence Demerit Points (base penalty):	350
Prior offence in past 2 years (no deduction):	-0
Guilty plea (less 25% of base):	-88
No Prior similar offence in past 2 years (plus 25% of base):	+0
Total Demerit Points:	262

Example 3

Offence Demerit Points (base penalty):	350
No prior offence in past 2 years (less 25% of base):	-88
Not Guilty plea & found Guilty at Judiciary:	-0
No Prior similar offence in past 2 years (plus 25% of base)	+0
Total Demerit Points:	262



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Example 4

Offence Demerit Points (base penalty):	350
Prior offence in past 2 years (no deduction):	-0
Not Guilty plea & found Guilty at Judiciary:	-0
Prior similar offence in past 2 years (plus 25% of base):	+87
Total Demerit Points:	437

- 9.7 **NOTE: Penalties determined under these procedures do not override or limit penalties that may be determined under other NRL SA policies, including but not limited to, the NRL SA Code of Conduct, NRL SA Tough Love Policy and the NRL SA's Operations Manual**