

# NRL On Field Policy



## POLICY

- » All official personnel over the age of (14) years who enter the field of play, must possess a minimum of an NRL Leaguesafe Certificate of Completion or; an Accredited Sports Trainer Statement of Attainment and an NRL ID Number. The Competition Administration may require a minimum of Sports Trainer Level 1 or higher at their discretion.
- » No person other than an NRL Accredited Sports Trainer, or those with NRL acceptance, shall administer first aid or offer advice to an injured / ill player. Personnel with other qualifications must be ratified by the Sport Trainer Education Coordinator and equate with the NRL Sports Trainer Scheme, to receive a Statement of Attainment and an NRL ID Number.
- » All injuries / illnesses assessed by the qualified Sports Trainer must be recorded in the NRL Injury Report Booklet.
- » Each player shall complete the NRL Medical Advice Card before his / her first training or playing commitment. This will be the responsibility of the designated Accredited NRL Sports Trainer to ensure all cards are completed and kept up to date. This process must be supported by Club Officials. All Privacy Laws must be adhered to.
- » The Accredited NRL Sports Trainer shall, at all times (whilst a game is in progress) be in a position to respond quickly should an injury / illness occur.
- » The Accredited NRL Sports Trainer shall have the final say on whether a player should continue in the game and when to resume playing in the game. If a doctor is on duty at the game venue, he / she shall make this decision. Serious injuries requiring a Medical Clearance prior to training / playing must be presented to the Club's NRL Sports Trainer.
- » An Accredited NRL Sports Trainer (Level 1 or Level 2) shall be attached to each junior International and senior team. It is preferred that at least two (2) be available plus one (1) Leaguesafe Trainer per team.
- » 7(a) For Junior fixtures at Mini/Mod games, in addition to one (1) Leaguesafe Trainer per team, one (1) Accredited NRL Sports Trainer per FIELD is acceptable.
- » If an Accredited NRL Sports Trainer (Level 1 or Level 2) is not in attendance, the game(s) shall not commence under any circumstances until such person is available
- » Anyone entering the field of play must wear appropriate, enclosed footwear at all times



## ON-FIELD IDENTIFICATION

### GENERAL

Each team may engage and use a maximum of three (3) On-field personnel in the playing area during a game; a maximum of two (2) on the field of play during general play at any one time (unless otherwise sanctioned by the referee). The On-field personnel must include at minimum, at least one (1) Level 1 NRL Accredited Sports Trainer as part of the three on-field personnel in the playing area.

In all cases, when Accredited NRL Leaguesafe or Sports Trainers enter the field of play to attend an injured / ill player, administer water, or deliver messages, they must immediately leave the field once their assigned task has been completed and return to the players' bench.

At all times, NRL Accredited Leaguesafe or Sports Trainers must enter and leave the field of play as quickly as possible (i.e. running). Linger on the field of play will not be tolerated by Match Referees. The only exception will be if a Level 1 and / or Level 2 Sports Trainer is monitoring player welfare while his/her team is in possession of the ball. Once possession is lost, the Sports Trainer must leave the field of play as quickly as possible.

Great care and diligence must be exhibited when assessing an injured / ill player and removing an injured / ill player from the field of play. Liaison with the Match Referee in a respectful manner will be of great assistance in such cases. THE NRL ACCREDITED SPORTS TRAINERS ARE THE ONLY ON- FIELD PERSONNEL WHO ARE TO ASSIST AND MANAGE AN INJURED OR ILL PLAYER.

ALL ON-FIELD PERSONNEL MUST BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE FOLLOWING COLOURED SHIRTS:

#### 1. ACCREDITED NRL LEAGUESAFE - YELLOW SHIRT / VEST

*(Minimum qualification to enter the field of play)*

**NOTE:** The words **NRL LEAGUESAFE** must be printed on the back of the shirt / vest.

#### Access to the field

- » When his / her team is in possession to conduct interchange and to administer water only;
- » When a try has been scored;
- » During a "time out" called by the Referee for an injury;

# NRL On Field Policy



- » During technical stoppages in play (EXCEPT SCRUMS). On-field personnel are not allowed on the field of play after the Referee has ordered a scrum until the ball has emerged and a team is in possession;
- » Must enter and leave the field of play from an on-side position.

## Duties

- » To administer water;
- » To assist in the interchange process;
- » To convey messages;
- » **NOTE:** Messages must **NOT** be given to the team whilst play is in progress.
- » **ON-FIELD COACHING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED BY MATCH OFFICIALS.**

## Special conditions

- » If an Accredited NRL Sports Trainer is busy attending a player, the Leaguesafe on-field person may assist an injured / ill player **UNDER THE GUIDELINES OF LEAGUESAFE TRAINING** until a person of higher training arrives. The Leaguesafe person must report all incidents to the Accredited NRL Sports Trainer. If an Accredited NRL Sports Trainer is present and is not attending to an injured or ill player, Leaguesafe personnel are under no circumstances to assist / manage or provide advice to any player. This is the role of the Level 1 or Level 2 Sports Trainer / HEAD TRAINER.

## 2. ACCREDITED NRL SPORTS TRAINER– BLUE SHIRT / VEST

*Minimum qualification is NRL SPORTS TRAINER LEVEL 1*

### Access to the field

- » Unlimited access to attend an injured / ill player and to administer water

### Duties

- » To assist by observing and monitoring players during play as well as those who have been removed from the field of play through injury / illness;
- » To assist an injured / ill player on and off the field of play at training and / or a game.

# NRL On Field Policy



## 3. ACCREDITED NRL HEAD TRAINER – ORANGE SHIRT / VEST

*Minimum Qualification is NRL SPORTS TRAINER LEVEL 2*

### Access to the field

- » Unlimited access to monitor players & administer water during play and attend to an injured / ill player.

### Duties

- » The Head Trainer will be the most senior person within the NRL Sports Trainers' team and will supervise all on field personnel, including Leaguesafe.
- » The Accredited NRL Head Trainer will make the final decision on a player's welfare in the absence of a medical professional;
- » Coaches / Administrators / Players must comply with the decision of the NRL Head Trainer at all times;
- » All directions given to on field personnel by the Level 2 Sports Trainer / Head Trainer must be adhered to at all times;

## NOTES

- » The most important issue is that no on-field personnel will be allowed on the field of play, at training and or a game, nor manage an injured / ill player, nor provide advice unless trained by the NRL at one of the above levels of accreditation. Nurses of all levels, Ambulance Service Personnel and Doctors CAN BE ACCREDITED INTO THE SCHEME (dependent upon supplying evidence of suitable qualifications) if wishing to provide services to a club or team.
- » In the event of a clash of coloured shirts with team jerseys, on-field personnel may wear another colour (ONLY if there is a significant clash), HOWEVER, the coloured shirt must not equate to a level above what the persons accreditation level of the trainer. Liaison with the Match Referee will determine the issue if there is a significant colour clash.
- » In the event of an altercation on and/or off the field of play, Accredited NRL LEAGUESAFE / Sports Trainer / HEAD TRAINER must not interfere in any way. They must move clear and totally distance themselves from the incident. The control of on/off field behaviour is the duty of the Match Officials. The only exception to the above would be when an injured / ill player needs shielding from possible further harm.

# NRL On Field Policy



- » On-field personnel must not, at any time, enter the line of sight of a player when they are attempting a kick for goal, or do anything which may in any way interfere with, or distract, an opposition player whilst they are participating in the match, or constitute some disadvantage to the opposing team.
- » The Level 2 Sports Trainer / Head Trainer is the only person of the on-field personnel who may approach a Referee or Touch Judge in relation to player welfare-related concerns; they **cannot** instruct an official on how to referee a game but *only* express concerns directly related to player welfare. This is to be done in a respectful manner and only occur during technical stoppages of play. (for example, when a try has been scored or at half-time.) In the absence of a Level 2 Sports Trainer in attendance, the most experienced Level 1 Sports Trainer in attendance may approach a Match Official on a matter of player welfare however the same restrictions will apply.

**If any on-field personnel abuse their roles, or behave in a manner contrary to the NRL ON FIELD POLICY or NATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT, or bring the game of Rugby League into disrepute and/or their team/club into disrepute, they may be subject to sanctions and/or disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the NRL National Database.**

## Original policy written by:

John O'Halloran  
Consultant - NRL Sports Trainer Scheme  
December 2011

## Updated: March 2013

Inquiries: Geoff Todd - Sports Trainer Education Coordinator  
Tel/Fax: 02 43597252 Mobile: 0408 025 311  
Email: gtodd@nrl.com.au