NRL WESTERN AUSTRALIA 2024 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 Western Australia.

1.2 The procedures outlined in this document do not limit action processed through other NRL WA policies, including but not limited to, the NRL WA Code of Conduct.

2. Lodgment of Charge

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 submit the charge (regardless of match being video recorded) as per prescribed communication method to NRL WA stating the following:

a) Offence as listed on the Charge Description List (see 6); and
b) Grade of the offence as to its severity, as follows:

Grade 1 – Least Severe
Grade 2 – Severe
Grade 3 – Most Severe

2.4 The referee of the match must advise the authorised person of NRL WA, immediately following the match of any charge made under 2.

2.5 NRL WA must receive in writing by no later than 10am on the first working day after the game (ordinarily a Monday) of any charges under these procedures.

2.6 For matches where there is an official match video, being a pre-sanctioned video recording service approved by NRL WA, the video may be reviewed by the NRL WA Match Review Committee, consisting of the NRL WA Operations Manager and at least one other person nominated by NRL WA. Should the NRL WA Match Review Committee determine a player be charged with an offence on the Charge Description List (see 6), severity of the offence shall also be determined, NRL WA shall confirm the charge as per Notification of Charge process (see 3).

2.7 On rare occasions due to the seriousness of the incident, NRL WA at their sole discretion following proper investigation of evidence available may refer any charge without grading

directly to the NRL WA Judiciary Panel, who shall be free to determine appropriate penalty (regardless of demerit points listed in 7) if the player is found guilty following a hearing.

2.8 NRL WA Referees are accountable for charge sheets. If charges are not brought to the leagues attention by 10am on the first working day after the game (ordinarily a Monday), then charges may not be laid.

3. Notification of Charge and Response

3.1 NRL WA will confirm in writing the charged player's club of the details of the offence as well as the total number of suspended matches that the player has incurred and the corresponding penalty (as calculated under 8 Penalties), usually no later than 1.00pm on the first working day after the game (ordinarily a Monday), on the week of the next competition game.

3.2 **The charged player's club must enter a written plea of either guilty or not guilty to NRL WA by 7.00pm on the next day that it has been advised of the charge (ordinarily a Tuesday).**

3.3 If the club advises NRL WA that the player accepts guilt and the penalty as notified, NRL WA will take appropriate action to enforce any penalty.

3.4 If the 7pm deadline is missed by the player/club, the judiciary will assume the player is pleading guilty, but the player will NOT receive the lesser charge for the early guilty plea.

3.5 It is not the leagues responsibility to provide footage of said incident to the accused player/club, but will endeavor to provide all information to parties as soon as possible.

4. Judiciary

4.1 If the player does not accept guilt and the calculated penalty, or accepts guilt but not the grading of severity, NRL WA will convene the NRL WA Judiciary Panel which will meet by no later than the fourth working day after the game, normally Wednesday.

4.2 Subject to the evidence presented at a hearing, the NRL WA Judiciary Panel has the power to:

a) downgrade the grade/severity of any charge; and/or
b) in the case of a High Tackle charge downgrade from Intentional to Reckless, or Careless, or from Reckless to Careless; or
c) where applicable/appropriate change a charge to Dangerous Contact or Contrary Conduct.

4.3 The grade/severity of charge cannot be upgraded by the NRL WA Judiciary Panel (except for charges made under 2.7).

4.4 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.

4.5 Junior player judiciary charges cannot receive an early guilty plea. They must front the Judiciary for all game related charges, including tough love in league.

5. Appeal

5.1 A club/association may lodge an appeal against penalties determined by the Judiciary by advising NRL WA 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.

5.2 If an appeal is approved, NRL WA shall convene a tribunal consisting of NRL WA General Manager and up to two other officials nominated by the league, one of whom may be a lawyer.

5.3 Any proposed penalty will be set aside until the appeal has been heard.

6. Charge Description List

Short Description	Description of Misconduct
Tripping	A player is guilty of misconduct if they trip another player
Kicking	A player is guilty of misconduct if they kick another player
Striking	A player is guilty of misconduct if they strike another player. Striking is - - Forcible contact with opposing player which was unfair or excessive - Deliberate punch (open/closed fist, elbow or knee) - Deliberate or reckless "headbutt". Proof that on balance of probabilities action was either deliberate or reckless.
Intentional High Tackle	A player is guilty of misconduct if, when effecting or attempting to effect a tackle, they make 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, they make 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, they make contact with the head or neck of an opponent carelessly
Dropping Knees	A player is guilty of misconduct if they drop their knees into an opponent who is on the ground
Dangerous Throw	A player is guilty of misconduct if they use any dangerous throw when effecting a tackle
Contrary Conduct	A player is guilty of misconduct if they behave in a way contrary to the true spirit of the game.
Detrimental Conduct	A player is guilty of misconduct if they behave in a manner which is detrimental to the interests, welfare or image of the league or rugby league football
Dangerous Contact – Head/Neck	A player guilty of misconduct if they carelessly, recklessly or intentionally makes dangerous contact with the head or neck of an opposing player.
Dangerous Contact - Other	A player guilty of misconduct if they carelessly, recklessly or intentionally make dangerous contact with an opposing player (but which does not involve contact with the opposing player's head or neck).
Shoulder Charge	A player is guilty of misconduct if 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.
Coming From a Distance To Become Involved In A Fight	A player is guilty of misconduct if they come from a distance to become involved in a fight. The distance is relative, and will be determined on a case by case basis by the match review committee.

7. NRL WESTERN AUSTRALIA 2024 OFFENCE TABLE AND MATCH PENALTIES

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE	MATCH PENALTY TO BE SERVED (*Early Plea in Brackets*)								
	GRADE 1: LEAST SEVERE			GRADE 2: SEVERE			GRADE 3: MOST SEVERE		
	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence
Tripping	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (2)	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4)
Kicking	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4)	4 (3)	5 (4)	Judiciary	5 (4)	7 (6)	Judiciary
Striking	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4) *	4 (3)	5 (4)	Judiciary*	5 (4)	7 (6)	Judiciary*
Intentional High Tackle	6 (5)	7 (6)	8 (7)	7 (6)	8 (7)	9 (8)	8 (7)	9 (8)	10 (9)
Reckless High Tackle	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5)	5 (4)	6 (5)	7 (6)	6 (5)	7 (6)	8 (7)
Careless High Tackle	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (2)	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4)
Dropping Knees	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4)	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5)
Dangerous Throw	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5)	6 (5)	7 (6)	8 (7)
Contrary Conduct	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3) *	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4) *	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5) *
Detrimental Conduct	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4)	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5)
Dangerous Contact – Head/Neck	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5)	6 (5)	7 (6)	8 (7)
Dangerous Contact - Other	1 (0)	2 (1)	3 (2)	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4)
Shoulder Charge	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5)	6 (5)	7 (6)	8 (7)
Coming From a Distance To Become Involved In A Fight	4(3)	6(5)	8(7)	6(3)	8(5)	10(7)	Judiciary	Judiciary	Judiciary

*if the offence contravenes the Tough Love Policy, this penalty may reflect minimum which is a 12 months suspension.

8. Penalties

8.1 If a player accepts the early plea they will receive the penalty as indicated in brackets in section 7.

8.2 If a player does not accept the early plea and is found guilty at Judiciary Panel then they will receive the penalty as indicated in section 7.

8.3 **NOTE: Penalties determined under these procedures do not override or limit penalties that may be determined under other NRL WA policies, including but not limited to, the NRL WA Code of Conduct and the NRL WA Tough Love Policy.**

8.4 Suspended players can still participate in non-competition trials, unless they have been charged with a code of conduct offence.

8.4.1 If a suspended player is charged with an offence during a trial game, then it will be added to his current suspension.

8.4.2 If a suspended player is charged with an offence during a trial game, and the offence is related to that which he is already serving a suspension for, it will be graded as said players **2nd Offence** for the year, and added to the current suspension.

9. School Suspensions

9.1 School and Club suspensions relating to on field incidents will be separate. Being suspended in club rugby league will not rule you out of school rugby league and vice-versa, unless it is a code of conduct related charge, or deemed serious enough to warrant dual suspension by either the Judiciary or NRL WA Game Development Team

9.2 School related offences as listed on the Charge Description List (see 6), will be charged and submitted by the NRL WA Game Development team.

9.3 If a school or player would like to contest a charge, the Game Development team will be the judiciary with 3 members. Chaired by Gus Marshall, 2 other GDO's will serve as the judiciary team.

9. Harmony Cup & Carnival Suspensions

9.1 Players suspended during the season, which carry over the offseason, will need to seek special permission to play in carnivals via special hearings. Eg. Harmony Cup.

9.2 *Harmony Cup* - The hearing will consist of the Judiciary Chairman heading the meeting, with members of the Multicultural Committee determining the fate of a player and if they can participate in Harmony Cup.

9.3 *Other Carnivals* - The hearing will consist of the Judiciary Chairman heading the meeting, with members of the specific carnival committees or WA Judiciary determining the fate and if they can participate in these carnivals.