



2025 JUDICIARY POLICY & PROCEDURES

1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 This document outlines Judicial Procedures and Penalties for any match played under the auspices of NRL SA.
- 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 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 SA 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 SA, immediately following the match of any charge made under 2.
- 2.5 NRL SA must receive 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.
- 2.6 For matches where there is an official match video, being a pre-sanctioned video recording service approved by NRL SA, the video may be reviewed by the NRL SA Match Review Committee, consisting of the NRL SA Operations Manager and at least one other person nominated by NRL SA. Should the NRL SA 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 SA shall confirm the charge as per Notification of Charge and Response process (see 3).
- 2.7 On rare occasions due to the seriousness of the incident, NRL SA at their sole discretion following proper investigation of evidence available may refer any charge without grading directly to the NRLSA Judiciary Panel, who shall be free to determine appropriate penalty (regardless of Match Penalties listed in 7) if the player is found guilty following a hearing.

3. Notification of Charge and Response

- 3.1 NRL SA will confirm in writing the charged player's club of the details of the offence and the corresponding penalty (as calculated under 8 Penalties), no later than 12:00pm on the second working day after the match (ordinarily a Tuesday).



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- 3.2 The charged player's club must enter a written plea of either guilty or not guilty to NRL SA by 12:00PM on the next day that it has been advised of the charge (ordinarily a Wednesday).
- 3.3 If the club advises NRL SA that the player accepts guilt and the penalty as notified, NRL SA will take appropriate action to enforce and document any penalty.
- 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 SA will convene the NRL SA Judiciary Panel where practical prior to the next scheduled match (ordinarily a Thursday).
- 4.2 Subject to the evidence presented at a hearing, the NRL SA 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 Intentional to 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 SA 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.
- 5. Appeal**
- 5.1 A club/association may lodge an appeal against penalties determined by the Judiciary by advising NRL SA 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 SA shall convene a tribunal consisting of NRL SA 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.



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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
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.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE	MATCH PENALTY TO BE SERVED (<i>Early Plea in Brackets</i>)								
	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	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4)	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5)
Striking	2 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3) *	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (4) *	4 (3)	5 (4)	6 (5) *
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)

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



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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 SA policies, including but not limited to, the NRL Code of Conduct and the NRL SA Tough Love Policy.**