



# 2018 TOUGH LOVE IN LEAGUE POLICY

The Tough Love in League (TLIL) Policy applies to all age groups from Under 13s to Open Age (Junior League) competitions. A zero-tolerance approach to abuse and violence will be implemented across all NSWRL Junior League Competitions.

## On Field Striking / Punching

1. Any player who throws a punch or “strikes” another during a match will be automatically sent from the field. If that player is subsequently found guilty at a Judiciary hearing, (in the absence of mitigating circumstances), the MINIMUM penalty will be a one-week suspension.
  - 1.1 The Player(s) deemed to be the Aggressor in throwing a punch / punches will have their Judiciary charge graded as (at minimum) Medium (400 points).
  - 1.2 Any player found guilty of breaching rule 1 for the second time in a season will incur an automatic MINIMUM 12-month suspension from the game.

## Team Replacement Players

Over the past few seasons there has been an alarming increase in the number of team replacement players who illegally take to the field (leaving the team bench etc), when a melee begins, or when a perceived unfair decision or occurrence has taken place. As a deterrent to this type of behaviour, a zero-tolerance approach will be taken. The following penalties will apply for both the player(s) and team(s) concerned:

2. Participants who enter the field of play illegally will automatically be sent from the field.
  - 2.1 Players found guilty of infringing Rule 2 will be suspended for a minimum of six weeks.
  - 2.2 The offending player’s team will be penalised two competition points for each player that breaches rule 2. For example, if three players are found guilty of entering the field of play illegally, their team will be penalised six competition points.
  - 2.3 The offending player’s team will be disqualified from the competition should the breach occur in any Finals Series Matches, or Finals Series Qualification Matches



## Spectator Field Intrusion

3. Any spectator who enters the playing area or field of play with intent, or without the permission of the Ground Manager, will automatically be banned from attending Junior League matches for a minimum period of 12 months. Should a spectator contravene any such penalty, the League reserves the right to suspend any siblings of the parent or family involved from playing in NSWRL- related competitions. A bond / fine may be attributed to the spectator to allow them to resume attending matches after the expiry of the suspension imposed.
  - 3.1 **Failure to Identify** - Should a Club fail to identify a person(s) who has breached rule 3, the League reserves the right to suspend the team the spectator was supporting, until such time as the person is identified.
  - 3.2 Teams and Clubs will be liable for the behaviour of their spectators. If a breach of rule 3 has been identified, the team concerned will be penalised two competition points, and the match concerned will be deemed as a forfeit to the opposition team.

## Abandoned Games

4. In the event of a match being abandoned due to foul play the match will be deemed as completed. The team that instigated the foul play will be deemed to have forfeited the match. In the event that both teams are equally responsible for the match being abandoned, neither team will be eligible to be awarded any points for participating in the match. The match will not be replayed. Both teams will be required to attend a Code of Conduct Hearing.

## Referee / Match Official Abuse

5. Any player or official found guilty of touching a referee or official in an aggressive or inappropriate manner will be disqualified from the game for a minimum period of 12 months.

## Team and Club Judiciary and Conduct Demerit Point System

As part of the revamped NSWRL Tough Love in League Policy, a demerit point system has been designed to allow Leagues and Clubs to identify problem Teams within their structures. This system will be enforced across NSWRL Conference Competitions in 2018 with a view for refinement and expansion into the future. It is hoped through Club awareness and education, standards of respect, discipline and behaviour are raised throughout the game.



## Demerit Points

Demerit Points will be calculated based on Judiciary, Code of Conduct and Competition Rule breaches. Only offences where a charge has been proven will attract demerit points.

The table below outlines how demerit points are calculated:

<i>Proven Breach</i>	<i>Applicable Demerit Points</i>
Low Judiciary Charge	1 POINT
Medium Judiciary Charge	2 POINTS
High Judiciary Charge	3 POINTS
Serious Judiciary Charge	4 POINTS
Code of Conduct Warning	1 POINT
Code of Conduct Low Charge	2 POINTS
Code of Conduct Medium Charge	3 POINTS
Code of Conduct High Charge	4 POINTS
Competition Rule Breach	1 POINT

## Team Penalties Index

Once a team accrues either a number of proven offences, or the specified number of demerit points, then the following penalties may apply:

<i>Level</i>	<i>Offences or Points</i>	<i>Penalty</i>
1	3 Proven Offences or 8 Demerit Points	A Warning letter will be sent to the Club and Team concerned. The team and club will need to provide details of how the issue is being addressed.
2	5 Proven Offences or 12 Demerit Points	The Team concerned will be docked three competition points. Clubs will be required to video every game this team participates in thereafter. Failure to comply will result in disqualification from the competition.
3	7 Proven Offences or 16 Demerit Points	The Team concerned will be docked six competition points. Club will need to show cause as to why the team concerned should stay in the competition.



## Club Penalties

As an introductory measure, the NSWRL will monitor the amount of indiscretions committed within a single club structure. We will apply the demerit points system across a whole Club, and use a scaling formula to track the performance of Clubs over an entire season, keeping in mind the number of teams within a particular Club.

Where a Club is identified with a large number demerit points across a number of teams, the League will seek to meet with the executive of that Club, with the aim of introducing strategies and education programs to raise standards of behaviour.

We plan to introduce a Club Penalty Index similar to the Team Penalties Index in 2019 that will take into account all breaches across all teams within a Club.