



2026 RLCC FINALS INFORMATION

AGENDA

- **Finals Eligibility**
- **Team Lists, Team Sheets and Sign On**
- **Bench and Team Officials**
- **Ground Management and Match Day Control**
- **Time Off and Extra Time**
- **Sin Bin and Send Off**
- **Disciplinary Rules**
- **Grand Final Requirements**
- **Quick Compliance Checklist**

FINALS ELIGIBILITY

- **Minimum Qualification = 4 games**
- **If majority of matches in higher division, cannot play down***
 - **NSWRL Major Competitions are included**
- **If majority are in lower division, can play up.**
- **If matches are equal across divisions, player is eligible for both.**
- **Requests for dispensation must be entered before 5pm Wednesday next week.**

FINALS ELIGIBILITY

- If majority of matches in higher division, cannot play down*
- a player qualified in the higher grade may also play in the lower grade when the club has **directly descending grades** in finals on the same weekend.
 - Example 1 – Gosford Townies qualify in First Grade and Reserve Grade. Once Townies pick their strongest possible 17 for First Grade, all other players are also eligible for selection in Reserve Grade.
 - Example 2 – Lake Munmorah Maulers qualify in First Grade and Open Age. Players that are eligible for First Grade and Reserve Grade but not selected in strongest 17 are not eligible to play in Open Age team.

FINALS ELIGIBILITY

- **Clubs are responsible for ensuring every finals player is qualified.**
- **An unregistered/unqualified player in a finals match results in a forfeit and disqualification from the finals, with possible further breaches.**
- **NSWRL will remove ineligible players from Squad Management to minimise breaches. If you believe a player was removed incorrectly, raise it with NSWRL immediately via brokenbayregion@nswrl.com.au.**

TEAM SHEETS

- **Initial Team Lists must be submitted by Tuesday as per regular season**
 - **Changes can be made up until kick off**
- **Use the International Single Team Sheet when printing for Match Day.**
- **Present the team sheet, players and staff to the Ground Manager for sign-on before half-time of the game prior to your fixture.**
 - **Have MySideline Manager Digital ID cards ready for review.**
 - **Present players in number order.**
 - **All players must present in approved jersey, shorts and socks.**
 - **No specialty jerseys are permitted unless prior approval has been granted.**
- **Final series matches must be electronically scored by the higher-placed team using MySideline Manager.**

BENCHES

- **Maximum of 6 reserve players;**
 - **Maximum of 4 for First Grade and Reserve Grade**
 - **Only players participating in the match may sit on the bench i.e. no suspended or injured players.**
- **Maximum 6 team staff:**
 - **2x Coaches (Head Coach and Assistant)**
 - **1x First Responder (Mandatory Requirement)**
 - **2x LeagueSafes**
 - **1x Team Manager (included in count even if sitting at Officials Table).**
- **A Bench Ground Manager is not included in Team Staff limit.**

BENCH AREA

- **Each venue will have a dedicated bench area:**
- **The designated bench area will be:**
 - **Extend no more than one (1) metre beyond either end of the team bench.**
 - **Be located no closer than one (1) metre from the field of play.**
 - **Be no greater than four (4) metres in depth.**
 - **Be of equal dimensions for both teams.**
- **Provide sufficient seating to accommodate the maximum number of persons permitted on the team bench.**
- **All persons must remain within the designated bench area at all times, except when participating in warm-up activities or performing the duties of their role.**
- **All persons must return to the designated bench area as soon as practicable when they are no longer required on the field of play.**

SPORTS TRAINERS

- **First Responder**

- Primary role is to attend to injuries
- Are not to run water during general play
- May run water at a break of play i.e. after a try or during a stoppage signalled by the referee.

- **LeagueSafe**

- Primary roles are:

- Deliver messages
- Assist with interchanges
- Administer water
- Provide kicking tee (no additional tee runners permitted).

- **Must remain in allocated bench area when not performing their duties.**

- Cannot loiter on field, walk the sidelines or position themselves behind dead ball area

- **Failure to abide by the rules may see individuals removed from the match**

BALL PERSONS

- Teams are encouraged to provide ball persons to assist at each match.
- Minimum age is 12

GROUND MANAGEMENT

- **RLCC Ground Managers oversee all final series games and have the final say in match-day operational matters.**
- **Clubs are required to provide a Ground Manager to oversee their participating team's supporters.**
- **RLCC Ground Managers may request removal of spectators who breach the Code of Conduct, Tough Love in League Policy or venue requirements.**
- **RLCC Ground Managers and Match Officials may abandon matches for safety, behaviour, medical or other serious reasons.**
- **Work with Ground Managers and follow directions rather than attempting to resolve operational issues yourself.**
- **No club officials or spectators are permitted inside the roped/fenced playing area.**

ALCOHOL & BAR

- **Alcohol is not permitted to be brought into the grounds.**
- **Alcohol may only be purchased through the allocated club's bar.**
- **Only Carlton products are to be sold.**
- **RLCC will provide clubs with details once bar allocations are confirmed.**
- **Do not bring your own alcohol into the venue.**

TIME OFF

- **First Grade:**
 - time off is allowed for all circumstances during regular competition matches at the referee's discretion.
- **All other grades:**
 - time off applies at any time **for injury only**, as indicated by the referee.
 - During the final five minutes of all Finals matches, time off for all circumstances is allowed at the referee's discretion.
- **If 30 continuous minutes of play are lost due to injury or another reason, the match is terminated and replayed at a venue/time determined by the RLCC.**

EXTRA TIME

- If scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time, the match will proceed into **golden point extra time** in the form of two periods (straight turnaround).
- The first period of extra time will be **ten (10) minutes** in length.
- The second period of extra time **will be indefinite** until such time as a result can be declared.

BEHAVIOUR & CODE OF CONDUCT

- **Tough Love in League**

- Relevant breaches where points would traditionally be deducted can instead result in teams being removed from the Finals Series.

- **Melee Policy**

- Breaches can also result in teams being removed from the Finals Series
- Targeted Escalation clause – addresses where one team is deemed aggressor
- **If you're not involved, don't get involved**

- **Judiciary, Code of Conduct and Incident Reporting**

- All operate as per normal, i.e. no discretion for Finals Series – a 1 match ban is a 1 match ban, whether it is a regular season match or a Grand Final.

BEHAVIOUR & CODE OF CONDUCT

- **Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their coaching staff, players, officials, supporters and **spectators**.**
 - **Please ensure adequate Ground Management for your supporters so they do not see your team removed from Finals due to their misconduct.**
- **Only the participating teams and their authorised team staff are permitted to enter the field of play during any Finals Series fixture**
 - **Any club whose members or supporters breach this rule will be subject to a fine of not less than \$1,000.**

SIN BINS AND SEND OFFS

▪ Sin Bin

- Player must retreat to a designated area by RLCC Ground Manager.
- Ideally, this will be a changeroom however if not safe/practical to do so, can be a designated area behind the officials table
- Must not interact with Team Bench whilst sin binned.
- Must return to the field from an on-side position

▪ Send Off

- Player must exit the field and retreat directly to changeroom escorted by RLCC Ground Manager.
- Player must remove jersey
- Player must not re-enter playing field, including Grand Final Day and Team Presentations

GRAND FINAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Team Lists to be submitted for Grand Final Day Program by 10am Monday preceding Grand Final**
 - Please also email to brokenbayregion@nswrl.com.au and admin@rlcc.org.au
- **All teams will be required to attend a Team Photo ahead of their match**
 - Designated times will be communicated by RLCC ahead of match day.
- **Reminder: Do not bring your own alcohol into the venue.**
 - Alcohol may be purchased through the allocated club's bar.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Check eligibility early — and raise any concerns immediately.**
- **Get team lists, team sheets, identification and sign-on requirements right.**
- **Know who is permitted on your bench and what each role can do.**
- **Arrive in the correct approved uniform.**
- **Follow Ground Manager and Match Official directions.**
- **Understand finals-specific time-off and golden-point rules.**
- **Finals remain subject to Match Review, Judiciary, Code of Conduct, Tough Love in League and Melee requirements.**
- **Arrange any alcohol purchases with club allocated to bar ahead of each match.**