



FIRST RESPONDER ROLE & ON-FIELD MEDICAL POLICY

(NRL On-Field Policy Enforcement)

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure the consistent and correct application of the NRL Community Rugby League On-Field Policy within the Parramatta Junior Rugby League (PJRL), with specific reference to:

- The role, conduct and responsibilities of First Responders
- The management of injuries and suspected concussion
- The authority of Ground Managers and PJRL Officials
- Clear operational boundaries regarding field access, water delivery and messaging
- The protection of player welfare as the paramount priority

This Policy applies to all Affiliated Clubs, First Responders, Sports Trainers, Coaches, Team Officials, Ground Managers and PJRL Officials.

2. FIRST RESPONDER – ROLE AND ACCREDITATION

2.1 Role Definition

In accordance with the NRL On-Field Policy, the role of the First Responder during a match is to:

- Administer first aid and/or
- Offer medical advice to an injured or ill player.

All injuries and illnesses assessed by a First Responder must be recorded in accordance with NRL injury reporting guidelines.

2.2 Minimum Age and Accreditation

First Responders must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Hold current and relevant NRL accreditation

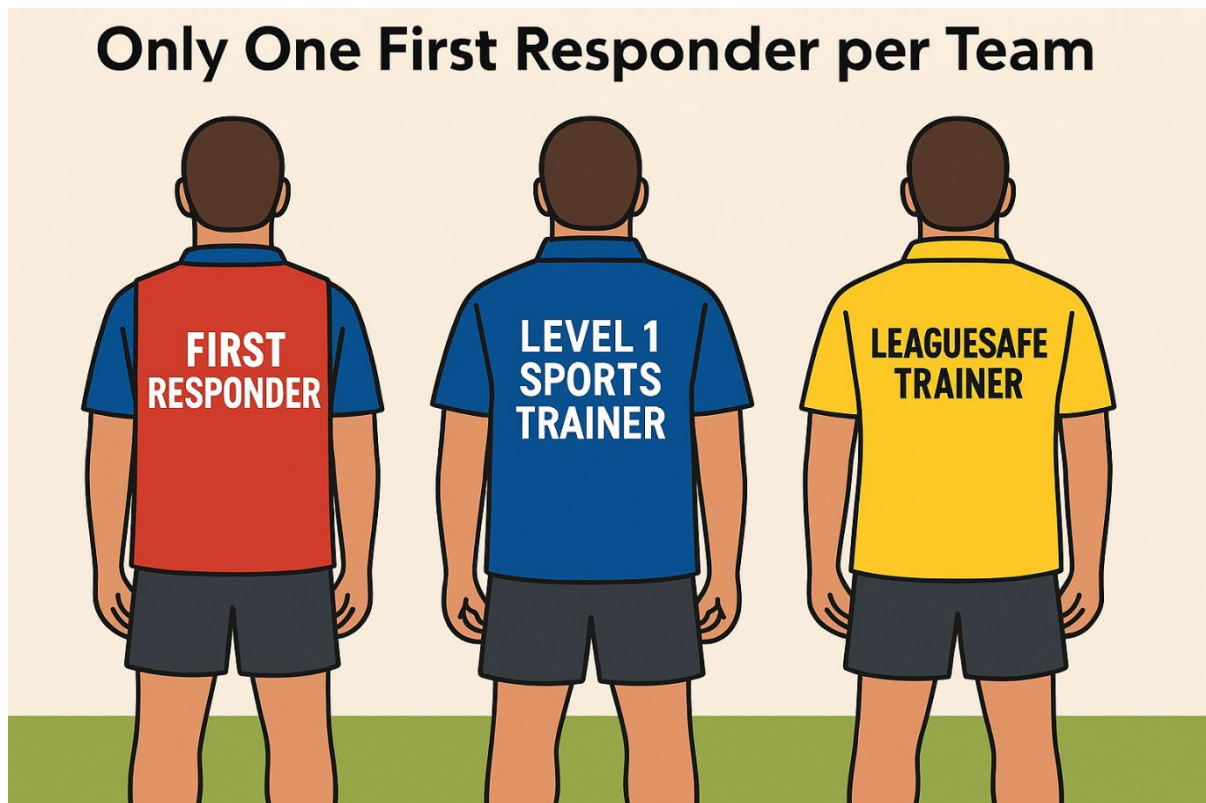
Minimum accreditation requirements:

- U6–U15s: League First Aid (Green Shirt), NRL Level 1 Sports Trainer (Blue Shirt) or NRL Level 2 Sports Trainer (Orange Shirt)
- U16s and above: NRL Level 1 Sports Trainer (Blue Shirt) or NRL Level 2 Sports Trainer (Orange Shirt)

3. IDENTIFICATION, NUMBERS AND ATTIRE

3.1 Number of Sports Trainers Per Team

- **Only one (1) Sports Trainer is permitted per team per match** to act as the designated on-field First Responder.
- Where a team has more than one accredited Sports Trainer present, the team must designate a **Primary Sports Trainer** for that match, and they will wear a Red Vest to identify them as the **First Responder** (the Ground Manager will supply the Red Vest)



3.2 Additional Accredited Trainers

- Additional trainers may not perform on-field First Responder duties unless replacing the designated Primary Sports Trainer, which must be advised to the Ground Manager and noted on the Team Sheet.

3.3 Shirt Identification

- Yellow Shirt – Non-designated accredited trainer
- Green Shirt – League First Aid
- Blue Shirt – Level 1 Sports Trainer
- Orange Shirt – Level 2 Sports Trainer



Correct accreditation attire must be worn at all times to ensure clarity of authority and responsibility.

4. FIELD ACCESS – STRICT LIMITATIONS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

4.1 When a First Responder May Enter the Field of Play

A First Responder may only enter the field of play:

1. To attend an injured or ill player
2. After a try has been scored
3. During a referee-called timeout

In all cases, attending to an injured player takes absolute precedence.

4.2 Water Carrying and Delivery

- The designated First Responder (Green, Blue or Orange) may carry water incidentally when entering the field to attend an injured player.
- Water delivery must be:
 - Limited to a maximum of two (2) bottles
 - Incidental only — not a primary purpose of field entry
 - Provided only to players encountered while proceeding directly to or from the injured player
- Trainers must not stop, loiter, coach or converse with players while carrying water.

4.3 Prohibited Activities

First Responders must not:

- Act as team runners
- Deliver coaching messages during play
- Run structured or repeated water

4.4 Teams with One (1) Sports Trainer (First Responder)

Where a team has only one (1) Sports Trainer present for a match, the following applies:

- The Sports Trainer's primary and overriding responsibility is the assessment and management of injured or ill players.
- Delivery of water or messages:
 - May only occur during permitted breaks in play (after a try or when the referee calls time off), and



- Must not delay, interfere with, or distract from the assessment or management of an injured player.
- Where the Sports Trainer is attending to an injured or ill player:
 - All other team functions, including water delivery and messaging, must wait until the next permitted break in play.
- The Sports Trainer must not leave an injured or ill player unattended in order to perform runner-type duties.

NOTE: Player welfare takes absolute precedence over all other match-day functions.

4.4 Enforcement

If a First Responder enters the field of play for any reason other than attending an injured or ill player, or for the other allowed instances when not attending to an injured or ill player, the Ground Manager will direct the First Responder to immediately return to their designated position.

Failure to comply may result in the matter being escalated to the PJRL.

5. MEDICAL AUTHORITY – PLAYER REMOVAL

5.1 Absolute Discretion

First Responders act in absolute discretion when determining:

- Whether a player should continue in a match
- When (or if) a player may resume playing

These decisions must not be influenced by coaches, parents, players, match circumstances or scorelines.

6. CONCUSSION – VISIBLE CLUES AND MANDATORY REMOVAL

6.1 Obligation to Act

League First Aid, Level 1 Sports Trainers and Level 2 Sports Trainers must immediately remove a player from the field if the player displays any visible clues – when to suspect concussion, including but not limited to:

- Loss of consciousness or non-responsive
- Lying on the ground and not moving, or slow to stand
- Unsteady on feet, balance problems or poor coordination
- Grabbing or clutching at the head
- Dazed, blank or vacant look
- Confusion or lack of awareness of plays or events

When in doubt, the player must be removed from the field.



7. OVERSIGHT AND ESCALATION

7.1 Intervention by PJRL Officials

7.1.1 Level 2 Sports Trainer Authority

If a Ground Manager, PJRL Board Member or PJRL Advisory Committee Member holding a Level 2 Sports Trainer accreditation observes visible clues of suspected concussion and the player is not removed:

- They have the authority to overrule a First Responder with Level 1 Sports Trainer or League First Aid accreditation, and;
- They may immediately remove the player from the field

7.1.2 Level 1 Accreditation – Escalation Pathway

If the injured players' Team has a Level 2 Sports Trainer or a Ground Manager, PJRL Board Member or PJRL Advisory Committee Member that holds LeagueSafe, Level 1 Sports Trainer accreditation or no accreditation observes visible clues of suspected concussion and the player is not removed, they will:

1. Immediately engage with the First Responder regarding their assessment
2. If the player is still not removed:
 - Inform PJRL Junior League Operations
 - Arrange for VEO footage to be downloaded
 - Submit footage to the NSWRL State Medical Officer for independent review

The priority is immediate player safety. Confrontational debate on-field is to be avoided.

8. OUTCOME – NSWRL MEDICAL DETERMINATION

8.1 Trainer Sanctions

If the NSWRL State Medical Officer determines the player should have been removed:

- The Sports Trainer involved may be suspended from match-day duties
- Repeat offenders may be stood down and not permitted to be reaccredited for a PJRL-determined period

8.2 Return-to-Play Timeframes

- **Adults (19+):** Minimum 11 days
- **Children & Adolescents (≤18):** Minimum 19 days

Return to play is only permitted once:

- All symptoms have resolved, and



- The player has received medical clearance from a medical professional

These timeframes align with existing PJRL concussion guidance.

9. INJURY & CONCUSSION REPORTING

UPCOMING PJRL GUIDELINES

9.1 Mandatory Reporting Requirement

All injuries and suspected concussions assessed by a League First Aid, Level 1 Sports Trainer or Level 2 Sports Trainer must be reported in accordance with NRL injury reporting guidelines and the PJRL Injury & Concussion Reporting Process.

Reporting must occur during or immediately following the match, as outlined below.

9.2 How Reporting Will Work (by Age Group)

U6–U9

Due to minimum accreditation and system access requirements:

- League First Aid / Sports Trainers will enter injury and concussion information using the injured player's Team Manager's mobile phone

U10–U12

For these age groups:

- League First Aid / Sports Trainers will enter injury and concussion information using the Coach's mobile phone during or immediately following the match – this is due to the Team Manager needing to use their mobile phone to score.

U13 and Above

For these age groups:

- Clubs must provide MySideline access to:
 - League First Aid (up to U15), and
 - Sports Trainers for each team
 - Any 'floating Sports Trainers' (those that fill in for multiple Teams)
- This enables Trainers to enter injury and concussion information directly into MySideline
- Noting that injury and concussion information can also be reported via Team Managers' and Coaches' mobile phones

9.3 Why the Process Differs by Age Group

The injury and concussion reporting process varies by age group to:

- Ensure compliance with NRL minimum on-field safety and accreditation requirements



- Accommodate system access limitations at community level
- Maintain accurate, consistent and timely injury and concussion records across all PJRL competitions

9.4 Important – Team & User Access Responsibilities

Clubs are responsible for ensuring the appropriate access is provided to team officials within MySideline.

Specifically:

- Clubs must provide Team Managers and Coaches access via User Management in MySideline
- Access cannot be granted until:
 - Teams are created in the system, and
 - Staff are added to teams
- Teams will only be created once team nominations have been submitted to the League
- Once teams are live, clubs are responsible for assigning the correct access level to all team officials

If clubs are unsure how to provide access, they must contact Junior League Operations for assistance.

User Management instructions are available at:

<https://support.playrugbyleague.com/support/solutions/articles/51000424805-user-management>

10. COMPLIANCE

Failure to comply with this Policy may result in PJRL sanction, including but not limited to:

- Removal of accreditation
- Suspension from match-day duties
- Ineligibility for reaccreditation for a defined period
- Further disciplinary action as determined by the PJRL