



**RUGBY LEAGUE
ACCREDITED PLAYER AGENT SCHEME
RULES**



RUGBY LEAGUE ACCREDITED PLAYER AGENT SCHEME

INDEX

1.	Objects	2
2.	Independence of the Accreditation Committee	2
3.	Amendments	3
4.	Definitions.....	3
5.	Accreditation Committee	7
6.	Appointments	7
7.	Chairman.....	7
8.	Powers and Duties of the Accreditation Committee	8
9.	Secretary.....	8
10.	Independence of the Secretary	9
11.	Register of Accredited Agents.....	9
12.	Code of Ethics	9
13.	Individuals may be Accredited as Accredited Agents.....	10
14.	Application for Accreditation	10
15.	Accreditation Committee to Consider Application	10
16.	Accreditation Criteria	11
17.	Prohibitions Against Accreditation.....	11
18.	Effecting Accreditation.....	12
19.	Duration of Accreditation	12
20.	Notice of Refusal of Application	13
21.	Repeat Accreditation	13
22.	Automatic Removal	13
23.	Obligations of Accredited Agents	14
24.	Continuing Education	14
25.	Records	15
26.	Inspection of Records where a Player has made a Complaint.....	15
27.	Accreditation Committee to Investigate Complaints.....	15
28.	Accreditation Committee to Consider and Determine Complaints	16
29.	Review by the NRL Appeals Committee	17
30.	Expenditure of Fee Revenue.....	17
31.	Notices	17
32.	Time	18
33.	Process Not to be Invalidated for Technical Reasons or Want of Form.....	18
34.	Jurisdiction	18



RUGBY LEAGUE ACCREDITED PLAYER AGENT SCHEME

Part 1 – Preliminary

1. Objects

(1) The objects of these Rules are to:

- a. Provide a scheme for recognition of appropriately qualified persons as Player Agents
- b. Monitor and review professional standards and performance of accredited Player Agents
- c. Protect the welfare and interests of players who participate, or may participate in the NRL competition or other rugby league competitions by accrediting Player Agents under this scheme.
- d. Provide the just and timely dispatch of complaints made against Rugby League Accredited Agents and Rugby League Accredited Employed Player Agents

(2) To remove any doubt, this scheme is voluntary and nothing in these Rules is intended to have the effect of preventing a Player from managing or representing his own affairs. Nothing in these Rules or the administration thereof shall operate in any respect to interfere with, either directly or indirectly, the fiduciary duties owed to a Player by his Accredited Player Agent.

2. Independence of the Accreditation Committee

In the discharge of any of the functions and responsibilities with which the Accreditation Committee ('the Committee') is charged and the exercise of any of the powers and authorities which are conferred on the Accreditation Committee, the Accreditation Committee shall at all times act independently, impartially and fairly without fear or favour, affection or ill-will.

3. Amendments

- (1) The provisions of these Rules may be amended by the Committee provided that no such amendment shall be made unless that amendment has been approved by a majority of the Committee's members and, further, provided that any such amendment shall be notified to each Rugby League Accredited Player Agent and the organisations referred to in clause 6 (1) at least 28 days prior to the implementation of the change in accordance with sub-Rule (2) and Rule 32.
- (2) For the purposes of sub-Rule (1), a notice amending the provisions of these Rules shall:
 - a. Be in writing;
 - b. Refer to this Rule;
 - c. Specify the date upon which the Committee resolved to make the amendment;
 - d. Set out the precise terms of the amendment; and
 - e. Be signed by the Chairman of the Accreditation Committee.

4. Definitions

- (1) In these Rules and the Appendix and Forms to these Rules, unless the context otherwise indicates or requires, the following terms shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them, that is to say:

'Accreditation Committee' – means the committee constituted as such by Rule 5;

'Accredited Agent' or 'Rugby League Accredited Player Agent' – means a person who is currently accredited pursuant to these Rules as an agent of Players but does not include an Rugby League Accredited Employed Player Agent;

'Accredited Employed Agent' or 'Rugby League Accredited Employed Player Agent' – means a person who is currently accredited pursuant to these Rules as an agent of Players but who is employed by another Accredited Agent;

'agent' – includes an agent, manager or representative of a Player;

'Annual Fee' – means the fee payable by each Rugby League Accredited Player Agent to the Committee for each year of his or her accreditation pursuant to Rule 23, being \$825.00 (inclusive of GST) each year or such other sum as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Accreditation Committee, save that in the case of Rugby League Accredited Employed Player Agents, the fee payable to the Committee for each year of his or her accreditation pursuant to Rule 23 shall be one half of the sum that is so payable by Accredited Agents;

‘Applicant’ – means a person who has applied for accreditation as a Rugby League Accredited Player Agent or a Rugby League Accredited Employed Player Agent pursuant to Part 3 of these Rules but whose application in that regard has not been determined by the Accreditation Committee;

‘Application’ – means an application for accreditation as an Accredited Agent or a Rugby League Accredited Employed Player Agent in accordance with the terms of Form 1 to these Rules;

‘Application Fee’ – means the fee payable by an Applicant to the Committee pursuant to Rule 14, being \$550.00 (inclusive of GST) or such other sum as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Accreditation Committee, save that in the case of Rugby League Accredited Employed Player Agents, the fee payable to the Rugby League pursuant to Rule 14 shall be one half of the sum that is so payable by Rugby League Accredited Player Agents;

‘ASSRLC’ – means Australian Secondary Schools Rugby League Council Incorporated;

‘Business Day’ – means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in the State of New South Wales, and where a time limit is set in these Rules when performance is due on a day that is not a Business Day, the time for performance is the next Business Day;

‘Chairman’ – means the person appointed to chair the Accreditation Committee pursuant to Rule 5;

‘Chief Executive Officer’ – means the chief executive officer of the NRL;

‘Club’ – means a Club permitted by the NRL to field a Team in the NRL Competition;

‘Code of Ethics’ – means the Code of Ethics for Rugby League Accredited Player Agents and Rugby League Accredited Employed Player Agents set forth in the Appendix to these Rules;

‘currently’ – means, with reference to the accreditation of an Rugby League Accredited Player Agent and Rugby League Accredited Employed Player Agents, accreditation that has not expired or been suspended or cancelled pursuant to these Rules;

‘Game’ - means the game of rugby league football;

‘Independent Business Person’ – means an independent business person who is not a member of the PME

‘Individual Related By Employment’ – means:

The individual is employed by or employs the Applicant or the Rugby League Accredited Player Agent;

The individual on the one hand and the Applicant or the Rugby League Accredited Player Agent on the other hand are executive officers of the same corporation;

The Individual on the one hand and the Applicant or the Rugby League Accredited Player Agent on the other hand are members of the same partnership;

The Individual on the one hand or the Applicant or the Rugby League Accredited Player Agent on the other hand is an employee of a corporation where the other is either an employee of the corporation; or an executive officer of the corporation;

The Individual on the one hand or the Applicant or the Rugby League Accredited Player Agent on the other hand is an employee of a partnership where the other is either an employee of the partnership; or a member of the partnership;

‘individual’ – means a person and does not include a corporation;

‘legally qualified person’ – means a barrister or solicitor of the Supreme Court of any State or Territory of Australia;

‘NRL’ - means National Rugby League Limited (ACN 082 088 962);

‘NRL Appeals Committee’ - means the body constituted as such by the NRL Appeals Committee Procedural Rules;

‘NRL Appeals Committee Procedural Rules’ – means Schedule Five to the NRL Rules;

‘NRL Competition’ - means the national rugby league competition organised, arranged and administered by the NRL;

‘NRL Playing Contract’ - means a contract between an NRL Club on the one hand and a Player on the other hand in accordance with the terms of Form 1 to the *NRL Playing Contract and Remuneration Rules* or in such other terms as the Chief Executive Officer may approve;

‘NRL Playing Contract and Remuneration Rules’ – means Schedule Six to the *NRL Rules*;

‘NRL Rules’ - means the rules adopted from time to time by the NRL governing the NRL Competition;

‘NRL Website’ – means the website maintained by the NRL on the World Wide Web at the following internet address: www.nrl.com.au;

‘Player’ - means a player of the Game;

‘Playing Agreement’ – means any contract, agreement or arrangement (other than an NRL Playing Contract) pursuant to which a Player agrees to play the Game in a competition other than the NRL Competition;

‘Player Property’ - means the name, photograph, likeness, reputation and identity of a Player, it being acknowledged that player agents may use player property for the direct promotion of their agency (such as use of a player image on their website or letterhead) where the Player has provided appropriate authorisation to the agent ;

‘PME’ – means the organisation of Rugby League Player Agents known as the Player Managers Executive;

‘President’ – means the person appointed by the provisions of the NRL Appeals Committee Procedural Rules to the office of President of the NRL Appeals Committee;

‘Register’ - means the Register of Rugby League Accredited Player Agents and Rugby League Accredited Employed Player Agents kept and maintained by the Secretary pursuant to Rule 11;

‘Related Competitions’ - means Games conducted by, or with the authority or approval of, the NRL other than the NRL Competition;

‘Rugby League Player and Agent Contract’ – means a contract in accordance with the terms of Form 3 to these Rules or a contract which includes the fundamental terms required by the Committee or such other form of agreement as may, upon application by the Accredited Agent to the Accreditation Committee, be approved by the Accreditation Committee for use by the Accredited Agent as a player and agent agreement;

‘Rugby League Professionals Association’ – means the association of past and present Players, recognised as such by the Chief Executive Officer;

‘Secretary’ – means the person appointed as secretary of the Accreditation Committee pursuant to Rule 9;

‘secures’ – means, in the context of NRL Playing Contracts, Playing Agreements and Non-Playing Agreements, obtains a fully executed and binding NRL Playing Contract or Playing Agreement or Non-Playing Agreement to which a Player is a party;

‘Team’ - means a team of Players competing in the NRL Competition for an NRL Club;

‘Year’ – means a calendar year.

Part 2 – Constitution

5. Accreditation Committee

- (1) The Accreditation Committee shall be constituted by seven members in accordance with sub-Rule (2).
- (2) Subject to the other provisions of this Part, the members of the Accreditation Committee shall be:
 - i. One person nominated by the NRL Chief Executive Officer;
 - ii. One person nominated by the Rugby League Professionals Association;
 - iii. One person nominated by the ASSRLC;
 - iv. One person nominated by the PME;
 - v. One legally qualified person elected by the persons nominated pursuant to (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv); and
 - vi. A second person nominated by the PME;
 - vii. One Accredited Agent elected by the persons nominated pursuant to (i), (ii) and (iii).

6. Appointments

- (1) As soon as practicable after the commencement of this scheme, the Secretary shall call upon:
 - i. The NRL Chief Executive Officer;
 - ii. The Rugby League Professionals Association;
 - iii. The ASSRLC; and
 - iv. The PMEto each make their nominations for appointment to the Accreditation Committee within five Business Days.
- (2) The appointing organisation has the right to retract a nomination and nominate a new person in their stead to the committee at any time.
- (3) As soon as practicable after each of the initial appointments referred to in sub-Rule (1) have been made, the persons so appointed shall, elect a legally qualified person to serve as a member of the Accreditation Committee.
- (4) If, for any reason the person appointed pursuant to sub-Rule (1) is temporarily unable to serve as a member of the Accreditation Committee, the NRL Chief Executive Officer, after consulting with the Rugby League Professionals Association, the ASSRLC and the PME, shall appoint a person to serve in his stead.

7. Chairman

The legally qualified person elected and appointed pursuant to sub-Rule 6(3) to serve as a member of the Accreditation Committee shall also act as Chairman of the Accreditation Committee.

8. Powers and Duties of the Accreditation Committee

- (1) The Accreditation Committee is charged with the following functions and responsibilities:
 - a. To consider applications for accreditation pursuant to Part 3;
 - b. To assess applications for accreditation pursuant to Part 3;
 - c. To approve or reject applications for accreditation pursuant to Part 3;
 - d. To investigate, or cause to be investigated, any written complaint concerning an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent;
 - e. To monitor the performance of all Accredited Agents and Accredited Employed Agents;
 - f. To make decisions regarding the continuing accreditation, suspension of accreditation or cancellation of accreditation of any Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent;
 - g. To consider what continuing education, seminars or other courses of education ought, in the interests of achieving the objects set forth in Rule 1 recommend be undertaken by Accredited Agents and Accredited Employed Agents and to make decisions accordingly;
 - h. To approve amendments to these Rules pursuant to Rule 3; and
 - i. To make decisions, and give all necessary directions, as to the expenditure of the income received by the Committee on account of Application Fees and Annual Fees pursuant to Rule 30
- (2) Subject only to the provisions of these Rules, the discharge by the Accreditation Committee of any of the functions and responsibilities with which the Accreditation Committee is charged or the exercise of any of the powers and authorities that are conferred on the Accreditation Committee shall not be capable of review other than in accordance with Rule 29 and, in any event, shall be final and conclusive.
- (3) Where in these Rules, the Accreditation Committee is charged with the task of making a decision, determination, direction or recommendation, a decision, determination, direction or recommendation arrived at by a majority of its members at a meeting of the Accreditation Committee shall be taken to be a decision, determination, direction or recommendation of the Accreditation Committee.
- (4) To remove any doubt, it is neither the function nor the responsibility of the Accreditation Committee to prescribe the commission rates that may be charged by Accredited Agents to Players, or to otherwise determine the remuneration that may be earned by Accredited Agents in the discharge of their obligations to Players.

9. Secretary

- (1) As soon as practicable after the commencement of these Rules, the Accreditation Committee shall appoint a person to act as Secretary to the Accreditation Committee.
- (2) The person appointed to act as Secretary shall not be a member of the Accreditation Committee.

- (3) The Secretary is charged to perform all relevant secretarial functions as delegated to him by the committee

10. Independence of the Secretary

In the discharge of any of the functions and responsibilities with which the Secretary is charged and in the exercise of any of the powers and authorities which are conferred, the Secretary shall at all times act independently, impartially and fairly without fear or favour, affection or ill-will and maintain confidentiality.

11. Register of Accredited Agents

- (1) The Secretary must keep and maintain a Register, to be known as the Register of Accredited Agents, listing individuals who are currently accredited as Accredited Agents and Accredited Employed Agents.
- (2) The Register is to show in respect of each Accredited Agent and each Accredited Employed Agent who is currently accredited:
 - a. His full name;
 - b. Any business name of the Accredited Player Agent;
 - c. The identity and place of business of the Accredited Employed Agent's employer;
 - d. The address of the principal place of business for the Accredited Agent;
 - e. A telephone number for contacting the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent;
 - f. Whether the Accredited Agent holds professional indemnity insurance;
 - g. The date on which he was accredited;
 - h. Particulars of any caution given to him;
 - i. Particulars of any suspension of his accreditation; and
 - j. Particulars of any cancellation of his accreditation including identifying whether the cancellation arose from the voluntary withdrawal from the scheme by the agent or an action by the Accreditation Committee.
- (3) Upon written notice to the Secretary by a person with an interest that, in the opinion of the Secretary, is a genuine interest in the contents of the Register, the Secretary shall make the Register available, in a suitable form and at reasonable times, for inspection by that person.
- (4) The Secretary shall publish on the NRL Website, and keep updated on a regular basis, a list of the Accredited Agents who are currently accredited, showing with respect to each such Accredited Agent, the information referred to in sub-Rules (2)(a) to (f) inclusive.

12. Code of Ethics

- (1) A Code of Ethics for Accredited Agents and Accredited Employed Agents is prescribed as set forth in the Appendix to these Rules.
- (2) Every Accredited Agent and Accredited Employed Agent shall at all times comply with each of the provisions of the Code of Ethics.

Part 3 - Accreditation

13. Individuals may be Accredited as Accredited Agents

Only individuals may be accredited as Accredited Agents or Accredited Employed Agents.

14. Application for Accreditation

- (1) An individual may apply to the Secretary to be accredited as an Accredited Agent or as an Accredited Employed Agent.
- (2) An application for accreditation pursuant to this Rule must be in the approved form, being in accordance with the terms of Form 1 to these Rules, and contain such information relevant to the Application as is required by that Form.
- (3) An Application must be:
 - a. Signed by the Applicant and witnessed;
 - b. Accompanied by two passport sized colour photographs of the Applicant;
 - c. Accompanied by payment to the Committee of the Application Fee; and
 - d. Forwarded to the Secretary.
- (4) The Accreditation Committee shall not consider an Application unless the Applicant has fulfilled the requirements of this Rule.

15. Accreditation Committee to Consider Application

- (1) The Accreditation Committee shall consider whether the Applicant ought be accredited as an Accredited Agent.
- (2) When considering whether an Applicant ought be accredited pursuant to these Rules, the Accreditation Committee shall have regard to:
 - a. The accreditation criteria specified in Rule 16;
 - b. The prohibitions against accreditation specified in Rule 17;
 - c. Whether the Applicant is a fit and proper person to act as an agent of Players; and
 - d. Whether the Applicant is a person of integrity.
- (3) For the purpose of considering whether an Applicant ought to be accredited pursuant to these Rules, the Accreditation Committee or their nominee may interview the Applicant.
- (4) If the Accreditation Committee, by a majority of its members is satisfied that the Applicant ought be accredited pursuant to these Rules, then the Accreditation Committee may decide to accredit the Applicant as an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent, subject to such terms and conditions as the Accreditation Committee, by a majority of its members considers necessary to achieve the objects set forth in Rule 1.
- (5) In any case where the Accreditation Committee, by a majority of its members is not satisfied that the Applicant ought to be accredited pursuant to these Rules, the Application shall be refused.

- (6) A decision of the Accreditation Committee whether to accredit an Applicant as an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent shall not be capable of review other than in accordance with Rule 29 and, in any event, shall be final and conclusive.

16. Accreditation Criteria

- (1) When considering whether an Applicant ought be accredited pursuant to these Rules, the Accreditation Committee shall have regard to the following:
 - a. The Applicant's education and formal qualifications;
 - b. The Applicant's prior experience as an agent of Players;
 - c. The reputation of the Applicant;
 - d. The capacity of the Applicant to carry out the obligations of an Accredited Agent;
 - e. The level of service which the Applicant provides or undertakes to provide to all Players whom the Applicant represents, or may represent, as agent;
 - f. The extent to which the Applicant either provides or undertakes to provide advice and assistance with respect to the non-playing career development of the Players whom the Applicant represents, or may represent, as agent;
 - g. Whether the Applicant has undertaken to pay the Annual Fee to the Committee for each year of his accreditation; and
 - h. Any other matter that, in the opinion of the Accreditation Committee should be taken into account in considering whether the Applicant ought be accredited pursuant to these Rules.

17. Prohibitions Against Accreditation

- (1) An Applicant must not be accredited as an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent if the Applicant has been refused accreditation as an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent in the 12 month period immediately before the Application is made.
- (2) Unless the Accreditation Committee, by a majority of their members considers otherwise, an Applicant must not be accredited as an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent if the Applicant was previously accredited as an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent and that accreditation was cancelled pursuant to Part 5 at any time in the five year period immediately before the Application is made.
- (3) An Applicant must not be accredited as an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent if the Accreditation Committee, by a majority of their members is satisfied that:
 - a. The Applicant has made a false or misleading statement of a material nature in the Application;
 - b. The Applicant is not a fit and proper person to act as an agent of Players;

- c. The Applicant is not a person of integrity;
 - d. An Individual Related by Employment is:
 - i. Not a person of integrity;
 - ii. A person who has been refused accreditation as an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent in the 12 month period immediately before the Application is made;
 - iii. A person who was previously an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent but whose accreditation as such was cancelled pursuant to Part 5 at any time in the 5 year period immediately before the Application is made; or
 - e. The Applicant is an undischarged bankrupt.
- (4) If the Applicant has been accredited as an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent at some time in the 12 month period immediately before the Application is made, the Applicant shall not be accredited as an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent if the Accreditation Committee, by a majority of their members is satisfied that the Applicant did not, while accredited, comply in all respects with these Rules; or the Code of Ethics.

18. Effecting Accreditation

- (1) Where the Accreditation Committee, by a majority of their members decides to accredit an Applicant as an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent, the Secretary shall forthwith accredit the Applicant by entering the Applicant's name and such other particulars as are required by Rule 19 on the Register, provided that the Applicant has first:
- a. Paid the Annual Fee to the Committee for the first year of his accreditation; and
 - b. In the case of an Accredited Employed Agent, supplied the Accreditation Committee with evidence of his employment by another Accredited Agent and has undertaken in writing to cease acting as an Accredited Employed Agent in the event that any such employment comes to an end.
- (2) As soon as practicable after entering an Applicant's name and other particulars on the Register, the Secretary shall:
- a. Provide, or cause to be provided, to the Applicant a Certificate of Accreditation as an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent; and
 - b. From time to time during the duration of the Applicant's accreditation, and in such a manner as the Secretary thinks fit, publish to the NRL Clubs and such other persons or entities as the Secretary thinks fit, the fact that the Applicant is an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent.

19. Duration of Accreditation

Subject to Part 5, once accredited, an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent shall remain accredited for a period of five years, save that, in the case of an Accredited Employed Agent, his accreditation will be cancelled upon the coming to an end of his employment as an Accredited Employed Agent.

20. Notice of Refusal of Application

- (1) If the Accreditation Committee is not satisfied that an Applicant ought be accredited pursuant to these Rules, then the Application shall be refused and the Secretary shall give to the Applicant written notice of that fact.
- (2) To remove any doubt, nothing in these Rules requires the Accreditation Committee to provide reasons for a decision.

21. Repeat Accreditation

- (1) An application for repeat accreditation shall be made in writing by the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent and lodged with the Secretary no later than 20 Business Days prior to the date on which his accreditation as an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent would, but for any renewal, expire.
- (2) A further Application Fee payable to the NRL must accompany an application for repeat accreditation.
- (3) The Accreditation Committee shall not consider an application for repeat accreditation unless the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent has paid the Application Fee to the Committee and had previously paid the Annual Fees which were payable for each year of his accreditation as an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent.
- (4) When considering whether an application for repeat accreditation ought be approved, the Accreditation Committee shall have regard to the matters set forth in Rules 15 and 16 the prohibitions contained in Rule 17.
- (5) If the Accreditation Committee, by majority of its members is satisfied that the accreditation of an Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent ought be renewed, then the Accreditation Committee may decide that the accreditation of the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent be renewed.
- (6) In any case where the Accreditation Committee decides that the accreditation of an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent ought be renewed, the Accreditation Committee may, by a majority of their members and on such reasonable conditions as they think fit, grant the application for renewal, in which event and subject to Part 5, the accreditation of the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent shall be renewed for a further period of five years from and including the date on which his accreditation, but for that renewal, would have expired.

22. Automatic Removal

- (1) The Secretary shall remove from the Register the name and particulars of an Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent if:
 - a. The Accredited Player Agent or Accredited Employed Agent requests the Secretary, in writing, to do so;
 - b. The Accredited Player Agent or Accredited Employed Agent fails to pay to the Committee the Annual Fee when it falls due; or
 - c. The Accredited Player Agent or Accredited Employed Agent dies.

- d. The Accredited Employed Agent ceases to be employed as an Accredited Employed Agent; or
- (2) To remove doubt, in any case where the accreditation of an Accredited Agent or an Accredited Employed Agent is cancelled, the Secretary shall forthwith remove the name and particulars of that Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent from the Register.

Part 4 – General Provisions Applying to Accredited Agents

23. Obligations of Accredited Agents

Every Accredited Agent and Accredited Employed Agent shall:

- a. Pay the Annual Fee for each year of his accreditation;
- b. Comply in all respects with these Rules;
- c. Comply in all respects with the provisions of the Code of Ethics;
- d. Ensure that he enters into a Rugby League Player and Agent Contract, a Player and Agent Contract containing the fundamental terms required by the Committee or a Player and Agent Contract approved by the Committee, with every Player for whom he acts as agent prior to representing that Player as agent;
- e. Comply in all respects with the provisions of every Player and Agent Contract entered into by the Accredited Agent with a Player;
- f. Comply in all respects with the anti-tampering regime set forth in Part 5.2 of the *NRL Playing Contract and Remuneration Rules*;
- g. Not counsel, procure, aid or assist any Player for whom the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent acts as agent and who has entered into an NRL Playing Contract to contravene any of the provisions of the NRL Rules. (including all other Schedules and Guidelines to the NRL Rules) including:
- h. Comply in all respects with such rules, protocols, directions and requests as are made by any rugby league body with authority to administer or arrange junior, school and other competitions or matches, so far as those rules, protocols, directions or requests relate to the attendance or conduct of player agents at such competitions or matches.

It being recognized that these obligations are not intended to be retrospective.

24. Continuing Education

At least twice each Year, the Accreditation Committee shall:

- a. Consider what continuing education, seminars or other courses of education ought, in the interests of achieving the objects set forth in Rule 1, be undertaken by Accredited Agents and Accredited Employed Agents; and
- b. Make decisions regarding such matters.

- c. Every Accredited Agent and Accredited Employed Agent shall attend and complete to the standard reasonably required by the Accreditation Committee such continuing education, seminars or other courses of education as are required by the Accreditation Committee, and which relate to the discharge of their obligations as Accredited Agents or Accredited Employed Agents, and which are notified by the Secretary to Accredited Agents and Accredited Employed Agents from time to time.
- d. To remove any doubt, the standard required by the Accreditation Committee which each Accredited Agent and Accredited Employed Agent shall attain in the performance of continuing education, seminars or other courses of education may be tested by the Accreditation Committee, or their nominee, through an examination of the base of knowledge of each individual Accredited Agent and Accredited Employed Agent.

25. Records

Every Accredited Agent and Accredited Employed Agent shall keep full and accurate books of account, records, contracts, agreements, arrangements (including electronic records) relating to any Player whom he represents, which documents shall be kept at the principal place of business of the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent for a period of at least five years from the date on which each document, in each instance, was generated.

26. Inspection of Records where a Player has made a Complaint

At any time, where a Player has made a written complaint concerning his duly contracted Player Agent under Part 5 and has provided written consent to the Chairman, the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent, as the case may be, shall make available for inspection to the Chairman of the Committee, and provide full access to the Rugby League Player and Agent Contract, NRL Playing Contract and any other document directly related to the complaint, providing that the Chairman has first given to the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent ten Business Days' notice in writing of his intention to so inspect. To be clear, the Chairman will not have access to any Agent authored documents, notes or documents representing legal advice held by the Accredited Agent in relation to the Player. The Chairman must maintain the confidentiality of these documents and must not disclose their contents to any other entity or persons including members of the Accreditation Committee.

Part 5 – Supervision

27. Accreditation Committee to Investigate Complaints

- (1) In any case where the Accreditation Committee receives a complaint concerning the conduct of an Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent or where conduct of an Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent otherwise comes to the attention of the Accreditation Committee, then the Accreditation Committee or their nominee shall investigate that conduct.
- (2) Nothing in Sub-Rule (1) requires the Accreditation Committee or their nominee to investigate conduct of an Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent unless that conduct, if established, is of a nature likely to affect the continuing accreditation of the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent to whom it relates or the efficacy or administration of these Rules.

- (3) Where a complaint is made in respect of an Accredited Agent and the Committee decides to conduct an investigation, the agent will be contacted and given an opportunity to show cause.

28. Accreditation Committee to Consider and Determine Complaints

- (1) In any case where the Accreditation Committee, whether in the course of an investigation to which Rule 27 applies or otherwise, forms the opinion, by a majority of its members that:

- a. An Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent has made a false or misleading statement of a material nature in his Application;
- b. An Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent is not a fit and proper person to act as an agent of Players;
- c. An Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent is not a person of integrity;
- d. An Individual Related by Employment is:
 - i. Not a person of integrity;
 - ii. Not a fit and proper person to act as an agent of Players;
- e. An Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent is an undischarged bankrupt;
- f. An Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent has not complied with the *Code of Ethics*; or
- g. An Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent has not complied with these Rules;

and that they ought as a consequence act to either suspend or cancel the accreditation of the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent, then the Accreditation Committee shall, through the Secretary:

- I. Notify the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent in writing of that intention; and
- II. Request the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent to show cause in writing within ten Business Days why his accreditation should not be suspended or cancelled.

- (2) After the expiry of the period specified in Sub-Rule (1), the Accreditation Committee shall consider any written response from the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent and thereafter determine, by a majority of its members whether to:

- a. Take no further action;
- b. Caution him;
- c. Suspend his accreditation for such period as the Accreditation Committee, by a majority of its members think fit; or
- d. Cancel his accreditation.

- (3) If the Accreditation Committee determines to either suspend or cancel the accreditation of an Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent, then:

- a. In the case of a cancellation, the accreditation of the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent shall forthwith be cancelled and the name and particulars of the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent shall be forthwith removed by the Secretary from the Register;
- b. In the case of a suspension, the accreditation of the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent shall forthwith be suspended and the fact of that suspension shall forthwith be recorded by the Secretary on the Register;

In all cases, the Secretary shall as soon as practicable:

- i. Notify the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent of the fact of the suspension or cancellation of his accreditation, as the case may be; and
- ii. Notify all Players whom, to the knowledge of the Secretary, the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent represents and all NRL Clubs that the accreditation of the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent has been suspended or cancelled, as the case may be.

29. Review by the NRL Appeals Committee

- (1) Where the Accreditation Committee has suspended the accreditation of an Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent; or the Accreditation Committee has cancelled the accreditation of an Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent; then the Accredited Agent or Accredited Employed Agent may request the NRL Appeals Committee to review that suspension or cancellation, as the case may be, in which event the NRL Appeals Committee shall so review but any such review shall be final and conclusive.
- (2) An Accredited \ Agent or \ Accredited Employed \ Agent requesting the NRL Appeals Committee to review a matter pursuant to this Rule must do so in accordance with the provisions of the *NRL Appeals Committee Procedural Rules*.

Part 6 – Miscellaneous Provisions

30. Expenditure of Fee Revenue

- (1) All income received by the Committee on account of Application Fees or Annual Fees shall be expended in such manner and for such purposes as the Accreditation Committee, by a majority of its numbers decide and direct;
- (2) To remove any doubt, nothing in sub-Rule (1) shall be taken to authorize the expenditure of any sum other than in a manner and for a purpose consistent with the objects set forth in Rule 1.

31. Notices

- (1) Where in these Rules a written notice is required to be given or a document is required to be forwarded, written notice shall be taken to have been given and a document shall be taken to have been forwarded if:

- a. It is delivered to the recipient in person; or
 - b. It is transmitted to the recipient by facsimile machine and confirmation is given by the recipient that the facsimile has been received.
- (2) In any case to which sub-Rule (1)(b) applies, where an attempt is made to transmit a written notice or document by facsimile, but that attempt is unsuccessful through no fault of the sender, the written notice shall be taken to have been given or the document shall be taken to have been forwarded if it is published on the NRL Website for the attention of the recipient.

32. Time

- (1) Upon application by a person affected by these Rules, the Chairman or the President, as the case may be, may enlarge the time for doing any act or taking any proceeding allowed or limited by these Rules upon such terms as the Chairman or the President deems fit.
- (2) An application pursuant to Sub-Rule (1) may be made and time may be enlarged although the application is not made until after the expiration of the time allowed or limited by these Rules.

33. Process Not to be Invalidated for Technical Reasons or Want of Form

No process under these Rules shall be invalidated merely by reason of any defect whether of substance or of form in any notice or report.

34. Jurisdiction

These Rules apply to all Applicants, Accredited Agents and Accredited Employed Agents.



Appendix to the Rugby League Accredited Player Agents Rules

CODE OF ETHICS FOR ACCREDITED PLAYER AGENTS

1. I will at all times act in accordance with the law and the legitimate best interests of any Player for whom I act as agent. I will deal with them honestly competently, diligently and fairly with a conscientious regard for their personal and professional welfare.
2. I will at all times use my best endeavours to maximise my Players' earning potential in the most effective manner by, if necessary, appropriate use of duly qualified professional advice including advice with respect to financial management, taxation and legal issues.
3. Any agreement I enter into with a Player shall be in writing and clearly disclose all fees and commissions payable to me by the Player or any other party. Any variation to such fees or commission rates must be agreed to by the Player in writing. I will not enter into any such agreement with a Player unless I am satisfied that any agreement between the Player and another agent has come to an end.
4. I will not allow my own financial or other interests or the interests of other persons to diminish my representation of any particular Player and in this regard I will not accept any secret commissions from any party relating to any transaction involving or affecting any Player whom I represent.
5. I will at all times when acting as agent for a Player, keep him fully informed of the nature of the work I am doing in performance of my obligations as his agent and, wherever possible, I shall keep the Player so informed in writing.
6. I shall at all times maintain a sound working knowledge of the *NRL Rules* and any Schedules and Guidelines to those Rules.
7. I shall at all times proceed with due regard for the need to preserve the confidentiality of any information disclosed to me by any Player for whom I act as agent and not disclose, or allow to be disclosed, confidential information about a Player for whom I act as agent without that Player's written consent.