

National Clearance And Permits Policy.

TYPE OF POLICY	Participation
EFFECTIVE DATE	1 st December 2019
LAST REVISED	November 2019
NEXT REVIEW	November 2020
POLICY OWNER	Australian Rugby League Commission
POLICY CONTACT	NRL Participation & Game Development Operations Manager

A. REASON FOR POLICY

This policy provides direction for the orderly movement of players and match officials from one club/association to another club/association.

B. POLICY STATEMENT

The National Clearance & Permits Policy aims to achieve a consistent and efficient process for the movement of player and match official data from club and association and maintain a history of movement of players and match officials to clubs and associations.

C. SCOPE

The policy applies to all players and/or match officials moving from one Club/Association to another Club/Association.

National Clearance And Permits Policy.

D. DEFINITIONS

CLEARANCE	The mechanism of movement from one Club/Association to another Club/Association.
PERMIT	Permission, in certain circumstances, to play for another club, whilst registered with a primary club, on an interim basis.
REGISTER OF DEFAULTERS	List held by relevant state league administrations of players and match officials who have not met all obligations of the clearance process.
RLIF	Rugby League International Federation

E. POLICY HISTORY

PARTICIPATION POLICY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	VERSION	RELEASE DATE	AUTHOR
P003	2.4	5 th February 2019	National Participation Policy Committee
P003	3.0	1 st December 2019	National Participation Policy Committee

NATIONAL CLEARANCE AND PERMITS POLICY

1.0. PURPOSE

The purpose of the National Clearance and Permits Policy is to:

- i. Achieve consistency and efficiency in the movement of player and match official data.
- ii. Improve timeliness of player and match official movement from one Club/Association to another Club/Association.
- iii. Develop and maintain a digital history of the movement of players and match officials.

National Clearance And Permits Policy.

2.0. SCOPE

The policy is applicable when a player and/or match official moves from their current Club/Association to another Club/Association.

- a. A clearance is required at any time when a player and/or match official moves from one Club/Association to another Club/Association.
- b. A permit is required when a player is registered in one Club (primary club) and seeks permission to play in another Club on an interim basis.
 - i. where an agreement exists between two clubs and has been approved by the League/Governing Body;
 - ii. where a Club/teams are participating in a combined competition that crosses regular Rugby League boundaries with the approval from the State or Governing Body;
 - iii. where two Clubs within the same Association with insufficient players combine to form one team in a competition
- c. State Governing bodies rules may apply where permits are in place and should be taken into consideration

3.0. CLEARANCE AND PERMIT PERIOD

A Clearance can commence during the registration period of 1 November until 30 June for competitions that are conducted as a winter season competition.

A Permit can be initiated, in circumstances where a provision of 2.0.b. or 2.0.c has been met, at any time after the player has effected a registration with their primary club until the completion of the season.

Exemptions may apply for competitions that are conducted outside the winter Rugby League season or at the discretion of the State Body

4.0. PROCESSING OF A CLEARANCE & PERMIT

- a. A player/match official must consent to requesting a clearance prior to a Club/Association lodging a clearance request
- b. Clearances and Permits must be initiated by an authorised official from the gaining Club/Association or by the participant completing an online clearance request form
- c. Players must be fully cleared via the National Online Registration platform prior to participating in a trial and/or competition game with the gaining club.

National Clearance And Permits Policy.

d. A timeframe of ten (10) working days is allowed for a clearance to be either approved or denied within State League jurisdictions.

If unresolved after the ten (10) working day period has expired, the manager of the relevant governing body can be requested to intervene to complete the clearance

e. In the event the clearance is approved the gaining club of the player will receive an email confirming the approval of the clearance. This email will contain a link to the player's registration form. The player **MUST** complete the online registration form accepting all Terms and Conditions prior to being considered a registered player in season for the gaining club.

f. In the event of a clearance requested to be approved by a Club that is no longer active, the District, Division, Group or League responsible for the competition from which the player is leaving must complete the clearance process in place of the inactive Club.

5.0. DENIAL OF A CLEARANCE

A clearance may be denied for reasons as follows:

- i. Fees in default or owing (excluding Development Fees) to a:
 - Club;
 - League/District; or
 - State.
- ii. Fees on property owing to a:
 - Club;
 - League/District; or
 - State.
- ii. Pending tribunal or judiciary matters with a:
 - League/District or State.
- iv. Contractual agreements in dispute with a:
 - Club;
 - League/District; or
 - State.

When a clearance is to be denied due to a State or League transfer rule, the application of the rule is to be enforced at the level at which the rule applies, hence the clearance must be denied at the level of the organisation responsible for enforcing the rule.

Note in relation to fees owing: A Club/League/District/State may refuse a transfer or clearance if a player is financially encumbered to that Club/League /District/State or has not returned property owned by the club.

No player shall be listed on any Register of Defaulters unless the player is determined to be in breach of an agreement between the player and their relevant Club, District / Division or State League. For the avoidance of doubt, a person shall not be listed as a defaulter by the Club, District / Division or State League, for the non-payment of items / goods including registration, insurance, fines, apparel, membership, rental, rental bonds, airline tickets, relocation costs, car hire or other similar items / goods unless the relevant playing agreement specifically records that these items / goods are to be paid / repaid, and unless the player has been invoiced for the same by the entity claiming the debt.

In the circumstance that a clearance request is denied for one of the above reasons it should be sufficiently outlined in the Participants Profile within the notes section of the National Online Registration platform system.

6.0. INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCES

Requests for International clearances will be processed in the following manner:

- i. NZRL Clearances will be managed through the international clearance form
- ii. Clearances to and from any other country will be managed by the relevant State or RLIF personnel
- iii. Once written approval has been received, the player will be advised to register to the club as a new player and complete the online registration form accepting all Terms and Conditions prior to being considered as registered in the season
- iv. The club/association will attach the complete and signed copy of the clearance document to the player's record

7.0. DISPUTES

In the event of a dispute of a player clearing across State Leagues the dispute should be escalated to the NRL Head of Football – Participation, Pathways and Game Development or an appointed delegate.