



AUSTRALIAN RUGBY LEAGUE
National Sports Trainers
Scheme



ON - FIELD POLICY

1. All official personnel over the age of (14) years, who enter the field of play must possess an ARL Leaguesafe Certificate of Attendance or an **Accredited ARL Sports Trainer** Statement of Attainment and an ARL ID Number.
2. No person other than the abovementioned personnel, or those with ARL acceptance, shall administer first aid or offer advice to an injured / ill player. Personnel with other qualifications must be ratified by the National Safety Education Manager and equate with the **ARL Sports Trainer Scheme**, to receive a Statement of Attainment and an ARL ID Number.
3. All injuries / illnesses and assessments must be recorded in the ARL Injury Report Booklet.
4. Each player shall complete the ARL Medical Advice Card before training or playing. This will be the responsibility of the designated **Accredited ARL Sports Trainer** to ensure all cards are completed and kept up to date. This process must be supported by Club Officials. All Privacy Laws must be adhered to.
5. The **Accredited ARL Sports Trainer** shall at all times, whilst a game is in progress, be in a position to respond quickly should an injury / illness occur.
6. The Accredited **ARL Sports Trainer** shall have the final say on whether a player should continue in the game and when to resume playing in the game. If a doctor is in attendance at the game venue, he / she shall make this decision. Serious injuries requiring a Medical Clearance prior to training / playing must be presented to the ARL Club **Sports Trainer**.
7. An **Accredited ARL Sports Trainer** shall be attached to each Junior International and Senior team. It is preferred that at least (2) two be available.
- 7(a) For Junior fixtures at Mini/Mod games (1) one Accredited **ARL Sports Trainer** per FIELD will be acceptable.
8. **If the above personnel are not in attendance, the game/s shall not commence under any circumstances until such persons are available.**

ON – FIELD IDENTIFICATION

1. GENERAL

Each team may engage and use a maximum of three (3) On Field Personnel during a game; **this must include at minimum a Level 1 ARL Accredited Sports Trainer as part of the 3 on field personnel.**

In all cases when Accredited ARL Leaguesafe **or Sports Trainers** enter the field of play to attend an injured / ill player, administer water, or deliver messages, they must immediately leave the field once their assigned task has been completed and return to the player's bench.

At all times Accredited ARL Leaguesafe **or Sports Trainers** must enter and leave the field of play as quickly as possible (i.e. running). Lingering on the field of play will not be tolerated by match referees. **The only exception will be if a Level 1 and or a / Level 2 Sports Trainer is monitoring player welfare while his/her team is in possession of the ball. Once possession is lost the Sports Trainer must leave the field of play as quickly as possible.**

Great care and diligence must be exhibited when assessing an injured / ill player and removing an injured / ill player from the field of play. Liaison with the match referee in a respectful manner will be of great assistance in such cases. **THE ARL ACCREDITED SPORTS TRAINER ARE THE ONLY ON FIELD PERSONNEL THAT ARE TO ASSIST AND MANAGE AN INJURED OR ILL PLAYER.**

ALL ON-FIELD PERSONNEL MUST BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE FOLLOWING COLOURED SHIRTS:

1. ACCREDITED ARL LEAGUESAFE – YELLOW SHIRT / VEST

(Minimum qualification to enter the field of play). **NOTE:** The word ARL LEAGUESAFE MUST BE PRINTED ON THE BACK OF THE SHIRT / VEST.

(a) ACCESS TO THE FIELD OF PLAY

Unlimited access as per the following conditions:

- when his / her team is in possession **to conduct interchange and to administer water only.**
- when a try has been scored.
- during a time out called by the referee for an injury.
- during technical stoppages in play (EXCEPT SCRUMS). On-field personnel are not allowed on the field of play after the referee has ordered a scrum until the ball has emerged and a team is in possession
- must enter and leave the field of play from an on-side position.

(b) DUTIES

- to administer water
- to assist in the interchange process
- to convey messages. **NOTE:** Messages must **NOT** be given to the team whilst play is in progress.

ON FIELD COACHING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED BY MATCH OFFICIALS.

(c) SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- If an Accredited **ARL Sports Trainer** is busy attending a player, the Leaguesafe on-field person may assist an injured / ill player **UNDER THE GUIDELINES OF LEAGUESAFE TRAINING** until a person of higher training arrives. The Leaguesafe person must report all incidents to the **Accredited ARL Sports Trainer**. If an **Accredited ARL Sports Trainer** is present and is not attending to an injured or ill player, Leaguesafe personnel are under no circumstances to assist / manage or provide advice to any player, this is the role of the Level 1 or 2 Sports Trainer / HEAD TRAINER.

2. ACCREDITED ARL SPORTS TRAINER – BLUE SHIRT / VEST

(Minimum qualification is **ARL Sports Trainer LEVEL 1**)

(a) ACCESS

Unlimited access to attend an injured / ill player and to administer water, but is not allowed or permitted to carry, convey or deliver messages.

(b) DUTIES

- To assist by observing and monitoring players **during play as well as those who have been removed from the field of play through injury / illness.**
- To assist an injured / ill player on and off the field of play at training and / or a game
- To assist an injured / ill player on the field in the absence of a Head Trainer or when more than one **Accredited ARL Sports Trainer** is needed

3. ACCREDITED ARL HEAD TRAINER – ORANGE SHIRT / VEST

(a) Qualification MUST be **ARL TRAINER – LEVEL 2**

(b) **The Head Trainer will be the most senior person within the ARL Sports Trainers TEAM and will supervise all on field personnel including Leaguesafe.**

(c) The Accredited ARL Head Trainer will make the final decision on a player's welfare in the absence of a medical professional.

(d) Coaches / administrators / players must comply with the decision of the ARL Head Trainer at all times.

(e) **All directions given to on field personnel by the Level 2 Sports Trainer / Head Trainer must be adhered to at all times.**

(f) UNLIMITED ACCESS TO MONITOR PLAYERS AND ADMINISTER WATER DURING PLAY AND TO ATTEND TO AN INJURED / ILL PLAYER

NOTES:

1. The most important issue is that no on-field personnel will be allowed on the field of play, at training and or a game, nor manage an injured / ill player, nor provide advice unless trained by the **ARL and possess an ARL ID number** at one of the above levels of accreditation. **Nurses of all levels, Ambulance Service Personnel MUST BE EQUATED INTO THE SCHEME if wishing to provide continued services to a club or team (RPL)**
2. In the event of a clash of coloured shirts with team jerseys, on-field personnel may wear another colour (ONLY if there is a significant clash) HOWEVER the coloured shirt must not equate to a level above what the person is Accredited for. Liaison with the match referee will determine the issue if there is a significant colour clash.
3. In the event of an altercation on and /or off the field of play, **Accredited ARL LEAGUESAFE / Sports Trainer / HEAD TRAINER** must not interfere in any way. They must move clear and totally distance themselves from the incident. The control of on / off field behaviour is the duty of the match referees. The only exception to the above would be when an injured / ill player needs shielding from possible further harm.
4. On-field personnel must not at any time enter the line of sight of a player when they are attempting a kick for goal, or do anything which may in any way interfere with or distract an opposition player whilst they are participating in the match or constitute some disadvantage to the opposing team.
5. **The Level 2 Sports Trainer / Head Trainer is the only person of the on field personnel that can approach a referee or touch officials in relation to player welfare related concerns, they cannot instruct an official on how to referee a game but only to express concerns related to player welfare. This is to be done in a respectful manner and only occur during technical stoppages of play.(i.e. try and half time.)**
6. **Level 1 and Level 2 Sports Trainers / HEAD Trainers who monitor players on the field of play are not to address any player unless it is related to an injury or illness, players who are being monitored on the field, the Sports Trainer will position themselves no less than 5 metres behind their team while they are in possession and must not interfere with the play under any circumstances. ON FIELD COACHING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED BY MATCH OFFICIALS.**
7. **If any on-field personnel abuse their roles or behave in a manner contrary to the ARL ON FIELD POLICY or TRAINING, or bring the game of Rugby League into disrepute and / or their team / club into disrepute, they may be subject to sanctions, up to and including removal from the ARL National database.**

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