



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

26 June 2025

PARTIES

Akarana Zone of NZRL Incorporated, is an incorporated society tasked with administering, promoting, fostering, and developing rugby league in the central Auckland, Waitakere, Rodney, and North Shore regions.

Counties Manukau Zone of NZRL Incorporated (CMRL), is an incorporated society tasked with administering, promoting, fostering, and developing rugby league in the Pakuranga – Howick, Mangere, Otahuhu, Otara, Papatoetoe, Manukau, Manurewa, Papakura, and Franklin inclusive of Tuakau regions.

Auckland Rugby League Incorporated (ARL), is an incorporated society tasked with administering, promoting, fostering, and developing rugby league in the Auckland region.

PURPOSE OF MOU

The Parties are entering into this MoU to record the terms and conditions on which they will work together to develop Auckland based players and volunteers. The parties agree to the terms and conditions on which zone representative teams and the district development teams participating in NZRL national tournaments and competitions will be selected.

Mrs. Evelyn Brooker, Mr. Kasey King and Mr. Viggo Rasmussen will act as the point of contact for Akarana, CMRL and ARL respectively. These contacts will oversee any submission of squad lists from their Zone or District, provide communication between entities pertaining to the MoU and submission of any disputes.

The following stipulations will be applied and adhered to for the 2025 National Tournaments and Competitions.

PLAYER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS & NZRL SELECTION PROCESS POLICY

The 'NZRL Selection Process Policy' and the 'Player Registration Requirements' are outlined in the 'New Zealand Rugby League 2025 Competitions & Tournament, Master Rules, Regulations & Policies' document. These rulings will be implemented and adhered to by participating teams. Any bespoke rulings, regulations or policies pertaining to the inclusion for any NZRL competition and/or tournament will be shared with all participating teams.

In addition to the rules, regulations and policies referenced to above, the following stipulations are to be adhered to:

- In the event of a player not wanting to represent their respective Zone, NZRL Policy "The refusal of playing for their respective Zone" will be enforced, and the player will not be eligible to play in the relevant National Tournament or Competition.
- If a challenge or appeal is requested by the District or Zone on behalf of the player, the NZRL will conduct a hearing in line with their current policy. The District or Zone must coordinate any evidence to support the challenge or appeal. The challenge or appeal must be directed from the District or Zone included in this MoU only; Kasey King (CMRL), Evelyn Brooker (Akarana) and Viggo Rasmussen (ARL).
 - o The NZRL will be responsible for the communication of this decision towards any affected player that is deemed ineligible to participate in any NZRL Zone Tournament or Competition.
 - o In the event of any communication for Akarana, Counties Manukau and the ARL, David McMeeken from the NZRL will be the point of contact to discuss any issues or disputes that may arise regarding the stipulations contained in this document. Any issues or disputes must be directed from the District or Zone included in this MoU only; Kasey King (CMRL), Evelyn Brooker (Akarana) and Viggo Rasmussen (ARL).
- Akarana, CMRL and ARL agree to work together in good faith and develop an equitable representative team selection process and to ensure appointed team officials comply with the agreement. The agreed selection sequence has been designed to recognise and develop club players in the first instance, therefore each selection tier must be exhausted before adopting the second tier. 'Exhausted' is defined that all options and solutions have been explored and eliminated.
 1. Registered club player in the ARL club competition in the 2025 season.
 2. Registered school player in the ARL / Auckland College Sport competition in the 2025 season.
 - Shaun Johnson Shield, Dean Bell Cup and Georgia Hale Cup are representative programmes, players cannot be solely picked through participation in these competitions. The players will need to be selected from the criteria options listed above (1. Club or 2. School).
 - Where players may have a presence in both competitions (Club and School), but in different Zones, the Zone where the players are playing their club League will qualify first. For

example, a player who plays for Howick (Club in CMRL) and attends and plays for St. Paul's College (School in Akarana), the player is eligible for Counties Manukau in the first instance.

- Akarana and CMRL agree not to trial or select players who are not from their respective catchment. For example, a player who plays for Howick (Club in CMRL) and/or Southern Cross (School in CMRL) are not eligible to trial or be selected for any Akarana team.
- In the event of injury or unavailability, players who must withdraw from any of the discussed squads can only be replaced from the pool of players who were not initially selected by Akarana, CMRL or ARL, e.g. CMRL cannot select a player that has been drafted into the Auckland to replace a player they have lost to injury or unavailability.
- All parties (Akarana, CMRL and the ARL) agree that they will not elect or play any player/s in a National Tournament that has been selected to represent another team and refuse to represent the mentioned Zones or ARL:
- Two (2) weeks prior to each submission date for any competition or tournament, Akarana and CMRL must coordinate and provide the ARL with a list of players who have declined zone selection. Any player who formally declines their zone selection will be deemed ineligible to represent ARL for the respective competition. Weekly updates must be provided by Akarana and CMRL to ARL, outlining any changes to the list of declined players, up until final team naming.
- A communication log or transcript must be maintained by Akarana, CMRL, and ARL, documenting any contact (e.g., text, email, phone call) with players or parents where a selection decline is confirmed. This log will serve as evidence of opt-out and support any related eligibility decisions.
- Proceeding the naming of squads; all parties are not permitted to have more than the stipulated number of players in their squad. Akarana, CMRL and the ARL agree to set submission dates listed below for their respective squads:

NATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT; GIRLS 16S & 18S, BOYS 16S AND 18S

- All teams will select 22 players per squad for the National Girls and Boys Youth Tournaments. Players must be registered and assigned to their respective on Sporty by the stipulated date. All players selected must be intended to play at the tournament, no reserve players.
- Akarana and CMRL will submit a squad list eight (8) weeks before the relevant National Tournament by the dates and times set below.
 - Boys National Youth Tournament; 12pm, Monday 28 July 2025
 - Girls National Youth Tournament; 12pm, Wednesday 30 July 2025
- ARL can select players from the pool of players not initially chosen by Akarana or Counties Manukau. ARL will select their squad/s seven (7) weeks before the relevant National Tournament by the dates and times set below:
 - Boys National Youth Tournament; 12pm, Monday 4 August 2025
 - Girls National Youth Tournament; 12pm, Wednesday 6 August 2025

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS; MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP

- 25 players permitted to be selected for the National Men's and Women's Premiership Competitions. Players must be registered and assigned to their respective on Sporty by the stipulated date. All players selected must be intended to play at the tournament, no reserve players.
- Akarana and CMRL will submit a squad list four (4) weeks before the relevant National Competition by the date and time set below.
 - 12pm, Friday 8 August 2025
- The ARL will submit a squad list three (3) weeks prior to the relevant National Competition by the date and time set below:
 - 12pm, Friday 15 August 2025

BRINGING THE GAME INTO DISREPUTE

If a team forfeits a scheduled match without providing adequate notice or a valid reason to the Tournament or Competition Organiser, such conduct shall be considered a serious breach and deemed as bringing the game into disrepute. The following sanctions shall apply:

1. Financial Penalty – A fine of \$3,000 shall be imposed: \$1,500 payable to NZRL, and \$1,500 payable to the non-offending opposition team as compensation for associated costs and disruption.
2. Accountability of Team Officials – Where evidence indicates that team officials (e.g., coach, manager, or other team representatives) knowingly permitted, endorsed, or failed to prevent the scheduled game from being forfeited. Bringing the Game into Disrepute. Forfeiting a match without valid explanation or reasonable notice is deemed conduct detrimental to the spirit and integrity of the game and may result in additional sanctions under NZRL's Code of Conduct or judicial framework.

All parties acknowledge that this updated version replaces any prior MoU agreed upon previously, and therefore agree to all stipulations contained within to govern the selection policy for all National Tournaments and Competitions. This MoU shall be reviewed annually in consultation with all included Parties and the NZRL. The contents of the MoU remain subject to change, particularly in response to changes in the structure, direction, or strategic priorities of National representative football.

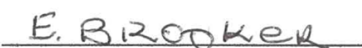
Signed



David McMeeken
National Football Operations Manager
New Zealand Rugby League



Viggo Rasmussen
General Manager Football
Auckland Rugby League



Evelyn Brooker
General Manager
Akarana Zone



Kasey King
General Manager
Counties Manukau Zone