

New Zealand Rugby League

Be a Sport (BAS) Initiative Overview

Background

New Zealand Rugby League's (NZRL) "More than just a game" kaupapa is to create more positive experiences on and off the field and in doing so our goal is to retain players and volunteers for longer.

One of the programmes that NZRL have launched is **Be a Sport** (BAS) and it will be side line at all NZRL national events. Be a Sport, Just Support' has proven itself as an effective programme, having been developed to promote positive side line behaviour and educate participants, parents and spectators on appropriate supporter behaviour.

BAS information and resources

How will BAS work?

Like all components of your teams campaign this year's you will need to plan and prepare for BAS.

As a participant in our national event, your team will be required to agree with and endorse the principles of BAS and carry out your teams BAS responsibilities.

These will include;

- Submit a signed BAS agreement - *attached*
- Identify **your** 2 BAS designated team champions
- Ensure your 2 BAS vests are visible throughout your games
- Ensure your supporters are aware of the smoke free and alcohol free side lines
- Ensure your supporters behave positively on the side line

It is the role of the **team managers** to inform the coaches, players and supporters how BAS works.

Each game

Two supporters (not the team manager or coach) are to be selected as the "**Be a Sport**" team champions and given the hi-visibility vest to wear for the duration of the team's game.

Both the referee and match manager understand NZRL's expectation that there are 4 team champions (2 per team) are on the sideline wearing their vests prior to the game commencing. Where these are not in place the event BAS manager will be called over to the game to investigate.

Each game....*continued*



The team champions are to position themselves with the supporters and not in the team box.

The team champion's role is to monitor their team's sideline conduct using the supporter's code of conduct wallet card - especially as it refers to alcohol-free and smoke free sidelines, use of positive language and supportive behaviour.

The BAS team champions are only responsible for their supporters, not the oppositions.

When signing the team card, the match manager will make note if the team has undertaken their "Be a Sport" duties.

Note - It is not necessary for the same two supporters to be the team champions for the duration of the tournament.

Dealing with side line issues

Where supporters of your team are misbehaving, (verbal or hostile behaviour, smoking, consuming alcohol etc), it will be the responsibility of your two team champions to approach the offender and ask for a change in behaviour. Team champions can refer to the "code of conduct" wallet cards and the sandwich board messaging as a reminder of what behaviour is appropriate.

Where the team champions are unable to influence a change in behaviour they are to refer the situation to either; the match manager or the event BAS manager – details of who this person is will be given at the managers meeting.

BAS Resources

BAS resources will be on hand to assist with messaging at the tournament.

- Two **BAS** vests per team
- Code of conduct - wallet cards. These can be distributed to spectators displaying unsportsmanlike behaviour.
- Sandwich Boards strategically placed around the fields for team champions to refer to.

All teams must consider who their 2 team champions are prior to arriving at nationals.

Team managers will be briefed further on Be a Sport at the managers meeting, Friday night, 1 June 2018, Cornwall Park, 7.00pm

What needs to happen now?

- 1. Read and understand your teams commitment to BAS**
- 2. Start educating your coach, players and supporters about BAS**
- 3. Identify who your BAS team champions will be (remember not the manager or coach)**
- 4. Complete the BAS agreement and return to NZRL**

If you have ANY questions please contact NZRL Be a Sport Manager, Kirsty Sharp, email - kirsty.sharp@nzrl.co.nz

NZRL are committed to creating more positive experiences on and off the field.