



## 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.

**Be a Sport (BAS)** will be in place at all 2018 NZRL sanctioned events. BAS has already proven to be effective in promoting positive supporter behaviour which includes smoke and alcohol free side lines.

#### **BAS information and resources**

#### **How will BAS work?**

Like all components of your team's campaign you will need to plan and prepare for BAS. To gain more information about the BAS programme please view the videos on;

<http://nzrl.co.nz/community/be-a-good-sport-just-support/>

Please also share these videos with your whole team – coaches, trainers, players, supporters - the more individuals that understand the roles and responsibilities of Be a Sport the easier it will be to agree and comply with your teams BAS responsibilities.

These will include;

- Submitting a signed BAS agreement - *attached*
- Identifying your group of BAS designated team champions
- Ensuring your 2 BAS vests are visible throughout your games
- Ensuring your supporters are aware of the smoke free and alcohol free side lines
- Ensuring your supporters behave positively on the side line
- Ensuring your supporters understand they are an extension of your team and therefore represent your team off the field

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 wear the hi-visibility BAS vest 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, why not?

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 behaviour 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.

**Each game....continued**



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

When signing the team card, the match manager will also 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. Establish a group of supporters prior to the tournament who will undertake the Team Champion role.*

### **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,
- A NZRL staff member, or
- The event BAS manager – details of who this person is will be given at the managers meeting.

### **BAS Resources**

BAS resources that will be in use at the tournament.

- At the Team Managers meeting each team will be allocated;
  - ❖ Two **BAS** vests
  - ❖ 1 BAS guide sheet
  - ❖ A pack of Code of Conduct - wallet cards. These can be distributed to spectators displaying unsportsmanlike behaviour.
- At the venue;
  - ❖ Sandwich Boards will be strategically placed around the fields with the BAS key messages

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

Team managers will be briefed further on Be a Sport at the managers meeting, Sunday night, 30 September, approximately 7.30pm at Keswick Christian Camp - 5 Cooper Ave, Holdens Bay, Rotorua.

### **What needs to happen now?**

- 1. Read (overview, wallet cards & guide sheet) and understand your teams commitment to BAS**
- 2. Start educating your coach, players and supporters about BAS**
- 3. Identify a group of supporters that will be your BAS team champions (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](mailto:kirsty.sharp@nzrl.co.nz)**

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

