



RECRUITMENT AGENT POLICY – JUNIOR ELITE PLAYERS



New Zealand Rugby League (NZRL) have put in place this Policy for all attending or involved in NZRL Junior Competitions or Tournaments (Events). ‘Junior’ refers to players under the age of 18 years. The term ‘Recruitment Agent’ refers to NRL Accredited Player Agents, NRL Recruitment Managers, Secondary School Recruitment Officers (Domestic or International) or any person acting on their behalf.

RECRUITMENT AGENT OBLIGATIONS

Any Recruitment Agent in attendance of an NZRL run or sanctioned Junior Event must register their involvement.

Recruitment Agent registration forms must be completed upon arrival at the event. Forms will be located in the Ops Centre (main office) at the match venue unless detailed otherwise by NZRL staff. The Ops Centre will be managed by NZRL staff or affiliates. Upon registration, Agents will be issued with the appropriate accreditation and Guidelines.

Recruitment Agent registration forms may be completed online and returned prior to the event. The form can be requested by emailing the contacts below. Note: Agents MUST still report to the Ops Centre immediately on arrival, to be issued their accreditation.

Any Agents who fails to comply with this process will be banned from the event (and possible future events). They will also be reported to the NZRL, NRL Agents Accreditation Manager and the NRL Football Department.

PROTOCOLS FOR RECRUITMENT AGENTS ATTENDING NZRL EVENTS

The following protocols MUST be adhered to by Recruitment Agents that wish to communicate with any players participating in NZRL junior competitions or tournaments:

1. No Recruitment Agent shall enter into, or directly or indirectly facilitate the entry into of a contractual arrangement with a player (or any person or entity on behalf of the player) before 1 January of the year in which that player turns 15 years of age.

For the purposes of this Guideline, a “contractual arrangement” includes an NRL Playing Contract, Playing Agreement or Third Party Agreement (each of which is defined in the NRL Rules) as well as any other form of agreement, whether oral or in writing, and howsoever recorded.

2. All Recruitment Agents must gain the appropriate NZRL Agent Accreditation upon arrival at any event. The issue of official NZRL Agent Accreditation is at the sole and absolute discretion of NZRL.

Make visible at all times the accreditation pass supplied by NZRL. The NZRL Wellbeing and Education Manager and/or other NZRL staff or affiliates will assist with registration and scrutinize the operations and behaviour of all Player Agents at events.



3. No Recruitment Agent is to approach any NZRL registered player under 18 years of age (in a Recruitment Agent capacity) unless officially representing that player. It is the responsibility of the Agent to inform NZRL staff of any existing contractual arrangements with any participating player. This information must be provided upon registering at the event or alternatively by emailing the contacts below prior to the event.
4. For players under 18 years of age: At the conclusion of the game and official team commitments, Agents are permitted to contact Team Managers where they have an interest in a particular player. At this meeting they can pass on their business card and/or contact details to the Team Manager who will in turn pass them on to the particular player or parent(s)/caregiver(s). No other contact is permitted until approved by the player's parent(s)/caregiver(s).
5. Player Agents are not to interact with players at times when it may impede on the players ability to perform in the game i.e. pre-game preparations, during halftime, general play or post-match coaching debrief.
6. If a Team Manager or Official believes the communications between the Player Agent and the player are in breach of Protocol 5, then they may terminate any such meeting and report their concerns to the NZRL Wellbeing and Education Manager and/or other NZRL staff and to the parents/caregiver(s) of the player.
7. Any Player Agent who fails to or refuses to follow these protocols will forfeit their entitlement to participate any further at that particular event and the incident will be passed on to the relevant authorities.

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