



## 2025 CLUB ON FIELD UNIFORM DESIGN AND COLOUR POLICY

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### 1. Policy Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to maintain standards within NRL VIC competitions regarding the uniforms worn on field by participating clubs and Victorian Rugby League Referees' Association (VRLRA), including the use of only approved and licensed suppliers, the regulation of colours to avoid clashes, and the manner in which changes in design by clubs are managed. For the purpose of this policy, "Clubs" will refer to clubs and the VRLRA.

Note: This policy relates only to the design and colour of on field playing uniforms (shirts, shorts and socks) and not other on field apparel and equipment which may be subject to the Laws of the Game or other policies such as, but not limited to, the NRL On-Field Policy, and also does not apply to any off field club apparel and merchandise. NOTE that use or modification of other proprietary logos, such as the NRL logo, is strictly forbidden on both on and off field apparel, without prior written consent.

### 2. Breaches of Policy, Penalties and Costs

- 2.1 Clubs are not permitted to wear or use On Field Uniforms that have not had their design and colours approved by NRL VIC as per rules and processes defined within this policy.
- 2.2 Breach of this policy may be subject to penalty which may include fines, loss of points by team, loss of points by club, suspension of team and/or suspension of club.
- 2.3 Clubs should not commence production or commit to production of any On Field Uniforms until written approval has been provided of the design and colours of these Uniforms by NRL VIC as per rules and processes defined within this policy. Any costs resulting from not conforming to the requirements of this policy or any costs to make changes to conform to the requirements of this policy are solely the club's responsibility and the club shall have no claim on NRL VIC.

### 3. NRL VIC Logo or designated Competition Logo and Use Only by Approved and Licensed Suppliers

- 3.1 All On Field Jerseys and On Field Shorts must bear the NRL VIC Logo (or designated Competition Logo) as designated and advised by NRL VIC.
- 3.2 The size of the NRL VIC Logo (or designated Competition Logo) shall not be of smaller size than the club logo.



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- 3.3 The placement of the NRL VIC Logo (or designated Competition Logo) must be on right hand breast of jersey.
- 3.4 Any club, manufacturer or sponsor logo should not be placed within reasonable vicinity of the NRL VIC Logo (or designated Competition Logo). Opposite breast, sternum or across midriff are acceptable.
- 3.5 Only NRL VIC approved and licensed suppliers are permitted to use the NRL VIC Logo (and/or designated Competition Logo) for club On Field Jerseys and club On Field Shorts. The VRLRA are exempt from this requirement.
- 3.6 No club shall be permitted to place an order for On Field Jerseys, Shorts or Socks with a supplier who does not have an NRL VIC License. The VRLRA are exempt from this requirement.

### 4. On Field Uniform Design

#### Main Design

- 4.1 A club must maintain its Main Jersey design for the entirety of one whole season before it may submit to NRL VIC to change it.
- 4.2 Changes to design elements (e.g. panels, piping, contrasting colour of sleeves or collars, or colour of numbers, etc.) or sponsor logos are considered changes to the design and are subject to 4.1.
- 4.3 Main Shorts and Socks are not subject to any conditions other than that the entire team must be uniform (i.e. wearing the same) when participating.

#### Alternate Designs

- 4.4 A club is permitted to have an Alternate Jersey to its Main Jersey subject to the design being of different colour or significantly contrasting colour (i.e. one light, one dark).

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- 4.5 An Alternate Jersey may be changed at any time subject to approval of the NRL VIC before production.
- 4.6 A club is permitted to have more than one Alternate Jersey subject to each design being of different colour or significantly contrasting colour.

### 5. Inclusive Uniform Design Requirements

- 5.1 Clubs are required to ensure inclusive elements of their jersey designs for all participants. These include (but are not limited to);
- Uniform cut and shape (clubs to provide gender specific sizing and cuts)
  - Colour shade (avoiding lighter shades for female players, in particular ensuring shorts are of a darker shade)

### 5.2 Match Officials – Uniform Specifics

*The below is adapted from [Victoria University's study in to inclusive uniforms for match officials](#).*

- 5.2.1 As long as designs are approved and coordinated with existing match official uniform, match officials will be permitted to wear;
- **Upper body:** Match officials will be permitted to wear hats, lightweight jackets, long-sleeved shirts and other items depending on personal preference and weather conditions
  - **Lower body:** Will be permitted to wear shorts, pants, and/or tights/leggings depending on personal preference and weather conditions
  - Any additional layers for added warmth and/or additional coverage, and weatherproof lower and upper body garments

### 6. Design Approval

- 6.1 All applications for approval must be submitted in writing to NRL Victoria and when required accompanying designs provided in full colour.
- 6.2 No design shall be considered approved by NRL VIC without written confirmation AND until full colour designs have been sighted and approved by NRL VIC.
- 6.3 No design will be approved unless inclusive design principles in 5 are met.
- 6.4 Approval of any designs and colours will be given preference to clubs over other clubs based on the following in order:



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- 6.4.1 Incumbent design and colour of clubs.
- 6.4.2 Predominant colour (irrespective of design or design elements) is not that of another approved predominant colour used by another club. See 6.
- 6.4.3 Colours of On Field Uniform are as per club colours designated annually on form prescribed by NRL VIC.
- 6.4.4 Club traditional or historical colours or where significant heritage to design or clubs can be reasonably proven.
- 6.4.5 Registered application date of design and colour by clubs.
- Note:** *Priority will not be given to club sponsor requirements to ensure sponsorship based on guaranteeing particular design and/or colour of club On Field Jersey over any of the above. Clubs should not make any guarantee to any sponsor or potential sponsor without first obtaining approval of design under this policy and are not permitted to make claim against NRL VIC should any sponsorship not be realised as a result of non-approval.*
- 6.5 Submissions may be submitted to NRL VIC at any time (please note 6.4 and in particular 6.). However, approval must be received by NRL VIC no later than 31 March for design and colours to be used in that year's season. Any submission or approval finalised after this date may not be used until the following year's season.
- 6.6 It shall be the club's responsibility to ensure that sufficient and reasonable time is considered for approval process to be completed. No club shall make any claim on NRL VIC for any approval not provided or not provided in time for use in any season due to delays.
- 7. Jersey Clashes**
- 7.1 A Jersey Clash is defined where design of a Jersey is of a similar colour of another team.
- 7.2 The following are NOT considered to avoid a Jersey being determined to have a Jersey Clash with another team:



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- 7.2.1 Variance in colour shade (except significant contrast of light and dark)
- 7.2.2 Differing design elements (such patterns, panels, piping, contrasting sleeve colour, collar colour, number colour, sponsor logos, etc.)
- 7.2.3 Different colour and/or design of club Shorts and Socks.
- 7.3 NRL VIC shall have sole responsibility to determine a Jersey Clash in their opinion and shall be final arbiter of a Jersey Clash.
- 7.4 Clubs shall not be permitted to play another team within NRL VIC controlled matches where a Jersey Clash exists with the other team, subject to 8.
- 7.5 When two Clubs are scheduled to play each other the Home Team will be entitled to wear the playing Jersey of their choice.
- 7.6 Where there is a Jersey Clash the Away Team must wear a Jersey approved by NRL VIC that does not clash with the Home team, subject to 8.
- 7.7 Where a match is played at a "neutral" venue or is played during the Finals Series of any NRL VIC competition, NRL Victoria shall determine and advise the clubs in writing the playing Jersey the participating teams must wear.
- 7.8 Where two teams from same club play against each other the club must have one of the teams wear an Alternate Jersey, subject to 6.
- 8. Embargo**
- 8.1 There is an embargo for club Jerseys designs that are in use by NRL VIC clubs prior to the commencement of the 2012 NRL VIC (VRL) season. The Jerseys are permitted to be used by clubs until the club next elects to change Jersey design.
- 8.2 Where a club at the commencement of the 2012 NRL VIC (VRL) season has an Alternate Jersey and has a Jersey Clash with another club for their Main Design they shall be subject to the requirements of 6. Home clubs are encouraged to use, if available, an Alternate Jersey if visiting club does not have an Alternate Jersey.



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### **9. Appeal**

- 9.1 NRL VIC shall be final arbiters on any approval or complaints about approval. An appeal to the NRL VIC Appeal Panel is permitted subject to additional evidence being submitted in order for appeal to be granted. Particular note should be made to 6.6.