



## THE ROLE

The Ground Manager fulfills an important function to ensure that the game day experience is safe, efficient and enjoyable for all players, volunteers, Match Officials, team officials and spectators.

Ground Managers are provided by the Host Club with the authority to warn and/or eject participants if misbehaving (as per the NRL's Code of Conduct).

They are also responsible for the smooth running of the event, including the on-time running of matches, appropriate gear (table/footballs, clock, etc) and personnel (table officials/Team Trainers/sideline set up and personnel/Referees and Touch Judges).

Where possible, Ground Managers should ensure the safety of Match Officials and promote sportsman-like behavior of coaches, team officials, players and spectators toward Match Officials.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Each Host Club must assign a Ground Manager to **each field** in operation at their venue. This is a MANDATORY requirement as part of the hosting rights for Clubs within NRL Victoria.
- Each assigned Ground Manager wear an identifying Ground Manager vest at all times (this should be an orange fluoro vest/jacket with the words "GROUND MANAGER" clearly identified on the garment) along with an NRL VIC identification lanyard
- A person is only permitted to be assigned as Ground Manager under the following conditions:
  - They are of a minimum age of 18 Years; and
  - Have completed the NRL Ground Manager Online Course; and
  - Have a current and valid Working with Children Check; and
  - Have a LeagueSafe, League First Aid and/or Sports Trainer accreditation; and
  - Are registered as a volunteer on MySideline.

## KNOWLEDGE

The Ground Manager must be aware of, and understand, the following:

- NRL Victoria Competition Rules and Regulations – particularly those applicable to, or enforceable by, the Ground Manager
- NRL Victoria Code of Conduct that is applicable to, or enforceable by, the Ground Manager
- NRL Victoria Tough Love Policy that is applicable to, or enforceable by, the Ground Manager
- Correct ground set up
- Duty of Care checklist
- Who is permitted inside the Playing Area & Playing Field
- COVID-safe protocols, where applicable, and where enforceable within the Playing Area.

ROLE	AMOUNT
Coaches	Maximum of two (2) per team permitted
Manager	Maximum of one (1) per team permitted
League First Aid/ Sports Trainers	Maximum of two (2) per team permitted
LeagueSafe Trainer	Maximum of one (1) per team; except if a team does not have 2 accredited League First Aid or Sports Trainers they are permitted two (2) LeagueSafe Trainers (i.e. one (1) League First Aid/Sports Trainer)
Official Table Personnel	Maximum of one (1) per team permitted

# NRL VICTORIA - GROUND MANAGER CHECKLIST



<b>GROUND MANAGEMENT</b>
Ensure Duty of Care Checklist is completed (does not have to be completed by Ground Manager)
Ground is safe to use, and associated equipment is safe for use before play commences – inspect goal-post pads, ground markings, field coverage, cricket pitch or other “hazards”
Prevent play if at any stage the Ground Manager is of the <u>reasonable</u> belief that it is unsafe to do so
Ensure Playing Area is roped or fenced off completely and ensure that only approved persons are in the Playing Area
Be aware of appropriate NRL Victoria Rules and Regulations
Ensure all match equipment is in place before commencement of match:
- match officials' table & chairs
- hooter/siren & timer
- team benches
- first aid stretcher
- goal post pads, etc.
- Ice is available/visiting teams are aware of location
Ensure timely and proper transition of field set up between mini (6 – 9 Years) to mod (10 – 12 Years) to international matches (13 Years and above)
If required, the Ground Manager is required to direct the ambulance onto the field
<b>MATCH &amp; BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT</b>
Enforce Code of Conduct for team coaches, managers, trainers, water runners (LeagueSafe) and spectators
Assist match officials in managing the match, particularly if the match is competitive and emotions are evident
Assist match officials in implementation of NRL Vic's Tough Love Policy
<b>GENERAL MANAGEMENT</b>
Be visual at all times during matches - walk around and make your presence felt, picking up on any irregularities
Be alert and aware of all activity inside the spectator fence or rope
Deal with any conflict in a calm, controlled and fair manner
Use common sense

# NRL VICTORIA - 2023 POLICIES, RULES & REGULATIONS RELATING TO GROUND MANAGERS

NRL VICTORIA COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS (Page 27)	NRL VICTORIA CODE OF CONDUCT
<p>27.3 The Ground Manager must be visible and identifiable wearing the vest that has been provided and have appropriate NRL Match Day Digital Card available for review as required.</p> <p>27.4 The Ground Manager must be aware of and fully understand the requirements of NRL VIC Rules and Regulations and any NRL VIC policies that are in effect on match day.</p> <p>27.5 The Ground Manager is responsible for ensuring that the grounds and associated equipment are safe for use, that the Playing Area and Playing Field are set up appropriately for play, and that the Duty of Care Checklist is completed before play can commence on any field. They are to ensure only appropriate personnel are within playing area.</p> <p>27.6 The Ground Manager has the authority to prevent play commencing or further play at any time if they are of the reasonable belief it is unsafe to do so.</p> <p>27.7 The Ground Manager has specific powers under the NRL VIC Code of Conduct for managing behaviour of any person at the match venue and must reasonably use these powers accordingly.</p> <p><b>Cancellation of Matches and Postponing Matches (13)</b></p> <p>13.6 For a match to be cancelled where ground conditions are determined to be unsafe under 13.1 b., <b>this shall only be on the basis that the ground is declared unsafe</b> and not on the basis the ground is not considered to be in most ideal condition for play. A ground can be declared unsafe at any time and can only occur when:</p> <p>a. The Official Ground Manager determines the ground to be unsafe (<i>note 11.4 - Matches shall only be scheduled to be played at venues under lights that have been approved by NRL VIC. Approval will only be provided subject to report provided by a supplier endorsed by local council that indicates that lighting meets minimum Australian Safety Standards for Rugby League competition play. Matches may not be played under lights if no approval is provided or council has deemed lights to be unsafe. NOTE: should it be clear and obvious that lighting is not operating at satisfactory level on match day then this maybe reason for Ground Manager to determine ground to be unsafe under 13.6.a.</i>).</p> <p>b. If both teams declare and agree the ground unsafe.</p> <p>13.7 If only one team declares the ground unsafe and refuses to play this team shall be determined as forfeiting the match.</p> <p>13.8 A referee does <u>not</u> have the authority to declare a ground unsafe and cancel a match</p>	<p>The Ground Manager has specific powers under the NRL Victoria Code of Conduct procedures on Match Day. These powers give the Ground Manager legitimate authority to manage the behaviour of people on Match Day including the power to direct someone to leave the playing area or venue.</p> <p><u>Code of Conduct offences:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use offensive or obscene language to any player, coach, referee, touch judge, official or spectator;</li> <li>• Enter the Field of Play during the course of the match without the prior approval of the Ground Manager appointed by the home club and/or league;</li> <li>• Excessive disputing of decision by a referee or touch judge either during or after a match;</li> <li>• Assault or act with aggression to any person/s;</li> <li>• Behave in a way significantly detrimental to the spirit of the game;</li> <li>• Act in such a way as to exhibit discriminatory behaviour by language or other conduct, to any other person/s;</li> </ul> <p>Refuse to accept the reasonable direction of the <b>Ground Manager</b> or official of the home club, and/or league, or official of the team/club which that person is supporting;</p>
	<p><b>NRL VICTORIA TOUGH LOVE POLICY</b></p> <p>Ground Managers need to be aware that may be required to assist the match officials should a Time Out be called by the referee due to a Melee or Fight.</p> <p><u>Time Out Procedures</u></p> <p>4.3 A <b>"TIME OUT"</b> system will be introduced whenever a severe "melee" occurs as follows:</p> <p>(a) The referee will signal a "TIME OUT" period and call for the <b>Ground Manager</b> to bring both coaches' onto the field.</p> <p>(b) Teams are to be taken to opposite ends of the field and spoken to by their respective coaches.</p> <p>(c) The referee will then dismiss from the field offending players under these regulations (3.2).</p> <p>(d) The ground manager and referees will decide when play will resume.</p> <p>If a match is abandoned after a time out period, the respective coaches from the offending teams will be charged under the NRL VIC Code of Conduct by the NRL VIC General Manager.</p>