

Rules and Laws

What's the difference?

Regulations are rules made and enforced by an authority. No matter what activities or sports you choose to do, school you go to or where you live in the world, there are always regulations to follow. To stay as a member of that group or community and be able to enjoy the rights and freedoms you have by being a member, you have to follow the regulations set by that group. If not, there are penalties that you will have to face to either remain or return to having full rights.

How do we know whether the regulation we face is a rule or a law?

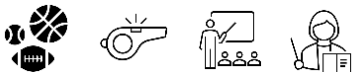
There are 3 things that you can look at to determine whether a regulation is a rule or a law:

- The Source – who made the regulation?
- The Jurisdiction – who does the regulation apply to?
- The Penalties – what happens when someone doesn't follow the regulation?

Rules

Are a set of regulations of how things should be done by members of a particular group or organisation. They belong to a specific group of people and apply only in certain circumstances.

Rules are agreed to and set by the members of an organisation, for example a school or sports club. The leaders of that organisation then monitor whether members are following them or not, and if not, why not.



Rules only apply to people in a particular group, for example, the rule to wear your uniform either to school or to play sport for a club. People who do not belong to the club are unaffected by the rules and do not need to know or follow them.



The penalties that apply to rules will be enforced by the leaders of that club, group or school, for example, the coach of a football team, the president of a netball club, or the principal of a school. Penalties may include exclusion from the organisation for a small period of time or extra responsibilities.



Laws

Are also regulations but are usually made by parliaments and used to organise the way in which members of a society behave and protect them from harm.

Laws are most often made by Federal and State parliaments and Local governments.



Laws apply to all people in a particular place or area, known as a jurisdiction. This means that all people in Australia, or all people in a State, Territory or local government area will need to follow the law while they are living in or visiting the area. Some examples include the law made by State and Territory Parliaments that children over 6 years old must attend school for an education.



The penalties for breaking laws are given by police, government organisations and/ or courts. Penalties can range from minor penalties, such as a small fine for parking in a space for too long, to severe, such as long prison sentences for seriously harming another person.



The purpose of laws is to keep the community safe, protect their rights, establish responsibilities, create peace, equality and fairness in our society and to make penalties for people who break them