



2023
**KARYN
MURPHY CUP**

COMPETITION HANDBOOK



playrugbyleague.com





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome	02
Introduction	03
Competition Structure	04
» Competition Entry	04
» Combined Schools	04
» Structure of Competition	05
» Year 11/12 State Finals Draw	06
» Regional Winners & Play-By Dates	07
» Forfeits	07
» Penalties & Disqualifications	07
» Protests & Challenges	07
Player Eligibility & School Requirements	08
» Player Eligibility	08
» Attendance	09
» Coaching Qualifications	09
» Team Staff Expectations	09
» Behaviour Expectations	09
Game Day Operations & Match Information	10
» Match Duration	10
» Match Venues	10
» Drawn Matches - Regional Phase	10
» Drawn Matches - Finals Series	10
» Interchange & Replacements	11
» Team Jerseys	11
» Referees & Touch Judges	11
» Kicking Tees	11
» Send Offs & Disciplinary Action	11
» Competition Appointed First Aid/Medical Personnel	12
» Filming/Video Footage	12
» Situations Not Covered by the Rules	12
Laws of the Game	13
» Rule Modifications	13
General Information	15
» Competition Travel	15
» Insurance	15
» Contact	15





WELCOME

Welcome

It has been great to see how far the growth of female rugby league has come in recent years. This competition has built a broad participation base that has seen significant growth in all levels of female Rugby League, and I hope this year will be the biggest and best yet!

Personally, I grew up watching and loving Rugby League, but never had the opportunity to play at school level as there wasn't a competition. I started playing in the Brisbane competition in 1998 and since that time I have been fortunate enough to represent and captain my state and country until I retired following Australia's first World Cup win in 2013. It is amazing that now we are fortunate enough to watch the NRLW, Jillaroos and Women's Origin on prime-time television.

I wish your school and students the very best in this competition and look forward to having you involved in future programs.

Karyn Murphy

Former Jillaroos & Queensland Representative Player

Current NRLW Gold Coast Titans Coach





INTRODUCTION

Female participation continues to be the fastest growing area of Rugby League.

The female pathway from school Rugby League, to club Rugby League and on to the representative level is stronger than ever, and continues to build.

The Karyn Murphy Cup, now in its 7th year, will offer females across Queensland the opportunity to participate in a local school competition. Students in Year 5/6 will participate in a local Karyn Murphy Challenge, students in Year 7/8 & 9/10 will participate in a local Karyn Murphy Cup Development Competition, and students in Year 11/12 will have the opportunity to participate in the state-wide Karyn Murphy Cup.



NATIONAL SCHOOLGIRL CUP

In 2023, the Schoolgirl Cup competition will return for its second year. The 13-a-side competition was introduced in 2022, due to the growth and successes of the Karyn Murphy Cup. The Schoolgirl Cup competition is targeted at schools who have established Rugby League programs, for the open age group.

As it was in 2022, school teams participating in the 2023 Schoolgirl Cup will be asked to submit a squad list prior to the commencement of the competition. These players will not be eligible to participate in the 2023 Karyn Murphy Cup, however, your school can enter a second (or third etc.) team into the Karyn Murphy Cup.

For more information <https://www.playrugbyleague.com/schools/qld-team-nominations/>





COMPETITION STRUCTURE



1. COMPETITION ENTRY

- 1.1 Participation in the Karyn Murphy Cup is on a school basis.
- 1.2 Entry in to the Karyn Murphy Cup and participation in the competition must be via the online nomination form. <https://www.playrugbyleague.com/schools/qld-team-nominations/>
- 1.3 If your school also has a team in the National Schoolgirl Cup, these players are ineligible to participate in the Karyn Murphy Cup. Please note, your school is still permitted to have a team in both competitions, as long as they are different players.
- 1.4 Schools are permitted to combine to enter a team in the Karyn Murphy Cup, however this must first be approved by the NRL.
- 1.5 All schools participating in the Karyn Murphy Cup must adhere to the rules and conditions outlined in this document.



2. COMBINED SCHOOLS

- 2.1 Where a school cannot provide a whole team, or where a team does not exist, schools may combine to form a composite team.
- 2.2 Combined schools must belong to the same school sporting region.
- 2.3 Schools seeking to nominate a combined team must submit a formal request, in writing and acknowledged by both principals, to the NRL, via their local NRL Game Development Officer.
- 2.4 Final approval on combined schools will rest with the QLD School Participation Coordinator.





COMPETITION STRUCTURE



3. STRUCTURE OF COMPETITION

3.1 Karyn Murphy Cup divisions include:

- Year 5/6 Girls
- Year 7/8 Girls
- Year 9/10 Girls
- Year 11/12 Girls

For age eligibility of each division, please see point 9 below.

3.2 The Year 5/6 division will be played as a Karyn Murphy Challenge, inside your school sporting region.

3.3 The Years 7/8 and 9/10 divisions will be played as development competitions, inside your school sporting region.

3.4 The Year 11/12 division will be played as a state-wide competition. See point 3 below for finals draw.

3.5 Your local NRL Game Development Officer will be responsible for conducting each region's Karyn Murphy Challenge/Cup. This includes the scheduling of games and supply of match officials, venues, first aid, timekeepers and other officials needed for each match.

3.6 At the regional level, the format of competition can be adjusted to suit the area and can be held as weekly competitions, round robins, gala days or carnivals. The regional structure will be determined by the local NRL Game Development Officer.

3.7 The NRL Game Development Officers will oversee the competition up until the State Finals, at which point the QLD School Participation Coordinator will take control. All decisions in regards to playing dates/times, venues etc. for the State Finals will be made by the NRL.





COMPETITION STRUCTURE



4. YEAR 11/12 STATE FINALS SERIES

4.1 The NRL will be responsible for the Karyn Murphy Cup, Year 11/12, Finals Series draw.

2023 DATES	
SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND	
South Coast Metropolitan East Metropolitan West Metropolitan North	KMC - South East QLD Finals Series Venue: Brisbane Thursday 10 th August Week 5, Term 3
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND	
Sunshine Coast Wide Bay Darling Downs South West	KMC - Central QLD Finals Series Venue: Toowoomba Wednesday 2 nd & Thursday 3 rd August Week 4, Term 3
NORTHERN QUEENSLAND	
Capricornia North West Northern Peninsula	KMC - Northern QLD Finals Series Venue: Townsville Thursday 10 th & Friday 11 th August Week 5, Term 3
QUEENSLAND FINAL SERIES	
One region progresses from each series above	Tuesday 12 th September Week 10, Term 3





COMPETITION STRUCTURE



5. REGIONAL WINNERS & PLAY-BY DATES

- 5.1 Regional winners (Year 11/12) must be identified by the end of Term 2 2023
- 5.2 Regional winners (Year 11/12) must be submitted to the QLD School Participation Coordinator by the end of Term 2 2023
- 5.3 Extensions of play-by dates must be first approved by the QLD School Participation Coordinator, in conjunction with the local NRL Game Development Officer.



6. FORFEITS

- 6.1 Forfeits, at any time, are not acceptable. It is understood that situations may arise that are unforeseeable and unavoidable, however by entering the Karyn Murphy Cup, you acknowledge a commitment to the competition.
- 6.2 In the event of a forfeit during the State Finals Series, where applicable, a points differential of -20 and zero competition points will be applied to the forfeiting team.
- 6.3 Regional Convenors will provide additional direction regarding forfeits at the regional stage of the competition.



7. PENALTIES & DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 7.1 Any breach of the rules and conditions outlined in this document, or any other matter/behaviour that is deemed to bring the competition or game into disrepute, may lead to a schools disqualification.
- 7.2 The actual penalties for breaches shall be determined by the NRL, or an independent committee specifically appointed by the NRL to hear such matters.
- 7.3 Any appeals must be lodged, in writing, by 5.00pm on the first business day following the breach notice. In the event of an appeal, an NRL appointed committee will hear the matter.



8. PROTESTS & CHALLENGES

- 8.1 Any protests/challenges must be lodged, in writing, by 5.00pm on the first day business day following the match. Protests must be on a school letterhead of co-signed by the school principal.





PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS



9. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 9.1** Age eligibility:
- Year 5/6 born 1st Jan 2011 - 31st Dec 2012
 - Year 7/8 born 1st July 2009 - 30th June 2011
 - Year 9/10 born 1st July 2007 - 30th June 2009
 - Year 11/12 born 1st Jan 2005 - 30th June 2007
- 9.2** A player may only represent one school in each year of the competition
- 9.3** Schools may only register a player who is a full time student
- 9.4** Schools may only register a student who complies with the 85% attendance condition
- 9.5** A player may not play in the National Schoolgirl Cup and the Karyn Murphy Cup in the same year
- 9.6** It is the responsibility of the competing school to ensure that participating players are not subject to a suspension from the game of Rugby League (issued by local, State, or National league) at the time of playing a match in the Karyn Murphy Cup
- 9.7** It is the responsibility of the competing school to ensure all players meet the outlined eligibility criteria when submitting team lists for all fixture and finals matches.
- 9.8** Breaches of the Player Eligibility rules may result in the school being disqualified, the school being denied entry into the competition the following year or other penalties decided on by a NRL appointed independent panel.



10. ATTENDANCE

- 10.1** A student must maintain 85% attendance to be eligible to play in the Karyn Murphy Cup competition, including at a regional level and state finals.
- 10.2** When submitting team lists for each match, each competing school must confirm and acknowledge that all players have met the 85% attendance condition
- 10.3** If there are extenuating circumstances that have affected a students ability to attend school, the school on behalf of the student must apply for an exemption to the NRL and provide evidence to support the exemption.





PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS



11. COACHING QUALIFICATIONS

- 11.1** At a minimum, all coaches must have a current NRL Community Coach 6-12s or NRL Community Coach 13+ accreditation, depending on the age they are coaching.
- 11.2** As a minimum, each team must have a current teacher from the school involved as a coach, assistant coach, manager or sports trainer, and be present at every match
- 11.3** All coaches will be required to provide coaching accreditation details when registering a team into the competition
- 11.4** All coaches must not be subject to a suspension or disqualification, including from local, state or national competitions



12. TEAM STAFF EXPECTATIONS

- 12.1** All team staff must comply with any reasonable instruction issue by the ground manager, convenor, match official, or State Competition Coordinator.
- 12.2** All on-field team staff must comply with the requirements outlined in the NRL Community On-Field Policy. <https://www.playrugbyleague.com/policies>
- 12.3** All Karyn Murphy Cup matches are played in accordance with the NRL National Code of Conduct. <https://www.playrugbyleague.com/policies>



13. BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

- 13.1** It is emphasised that the strictest standard of behaviour should always be observed and followed by players, coaches, team staff, officials and spectators at all Karyn Murphy Cup matches and functions.
- 13.2** Spectator groups must always be under strict teacher/school supervision
- 13.3** Any incidents of unacceptable behaviour, on or off the field, should be immediately reported to the ground manager, convenor and/or the State Competition Coordinator.
- 13.4** Strong disciplinary action will be taken against any offender or offending school, including suspension, disqualification and, possibly, exclusion from future Rugby League competitions.





GAME DAY OPERATIONS & MATCH INFORMATION



14. MATCH DURATION

- 14.1** Match duration at the regional stage is flexible and will be determined by the Regional Convenor, in consultation with the local NRL Game Development Officer and QLD School Participation Coordinator.
- 14.2** In the Final Series, each game will consist of two (2) halves, each of twelve (12) minutes, with a half time break of five (5) minutes.



15. MATCH VENUES

- 15.1** At the regional stage, venues will be nominated by the Regional Convenor and/or the local NRL Game Development Officer. In the State Finals Series, venues will be nominated by the QLD School Participation Coordinator.
- 15.2** All matches must be played at venues that have suitable facilities, including clean change rooms for each team, suitable playing surface, appropriate space between the field of play and spectators, and appropriate areas for spectators.



16. DRAWN MATCHES - REGIONAL PHASE

- 16.1** In the regional phase, the procedure for drawn matches will be as prescribed by the Regional Convenor.



17. DRAWN MATCHES - FINALS SERIES

- 17.1** If a match is tied after the normal period of play, the winner will be determined on the following basis:
- First try scored, then (if no tries)
 - Most penalties received, then (if equal)
 - First penalty received
- 17.2** In the QLD State Final there will be five (5) minutes of extra time (Golden Point). If the scores remain equal, then the above point 17.1 will apply.





GAME DAY OPERATIONS & MATCH INFORMATION



18. INTERCHANGE & REPLACEMENTS

- 18.1** The replacement rule to be used in all matches is six (6) fresh reserves with unlimited interchanges.



19. TEAM JERSEYS

- 19.1** In the event of a significant colour clash in games, please work with your local NRL Game Development Officer, and/or the QLD Competition Coordinator for an alternative strip.
- 19.2** Schools are required to ensure that all jersey numbers are clearly visible on jerseys.
- 19.3** Schools are required to ensure no inappropriate sponsors/branding is labeled on team jerseys, i.e. gambling, alcohol, tobacco etc.



20. REFEREES & TOUCH JUDGES

- 20.1** NRL qualified referees and touch judges will be arranged by the appropriate regional and/or state convenor.



21. KICKING TEES

- 21.1** Kicking tees may be used for starts and restarts of play, from the 50m line.



22. SEND OFFS & DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- 22.1** Any player sent from the field or placed on report by the referee shall be reported to the QLD School Participation Coordinator, the governing school body, and/or the relevant state league, who shall deal with the matter via the current Judicial Protocols.





GAME DAY OPERATIONS & MATCH INFORMATION



23. COMPETITION APPOINTED FIRST AID/MEDICAL PERSONNEL

- 23.1** The NRL reserves the right to appoint trained First Response and/or Medical Personnel to oversee Karyn Murphy Cup matches.
- 23.2** Any appointed Medical Personnel will work in addition to the standard team staff, who will remain responsible for the monitoring and treatment of injuries to their team.
- 23.3** In the event of a serious injury or suspected serious injury, these appointed personnel will work with team staff, the ground manager and the State Competition Coordinator to ensure an appropriate response.
- 23.4** NRL appointed Medical Personnel will have the final say regarding any serious injury and the decision on players returning to the field.



24. FILMING/VIDEO FOOTAGE

- 24.1** In the Karyn Murphy Cup State Finals Series (Year 11/12), matches may be filmed/recorded/live streamed. It is the school's responsibility to ensure student permissions are organised prior to the competition.
- 24.2** Where matches are filmed, schools can request a copy of the footage, after the match, via the QLD School Participation Coordinator.



25. SITUATIONS NOT COVERED BY THE RULES

- 25.1** Should any situation or matter arise that is not covered by the rules and conditions in this handbook, the matter shall be referred to the NRL for decision, which will be final.





LAWS OF THE GAME



29. RULE MODIFICATIONS

29.1 Subject to the modifications below, games will be played in accordance with the Junior League Laws (6-12s) and International Laws (13+).

<https://www.playrugbyleague.com/laws-of-the-game-community/>

29.2 DURATION

24 minute games: Two (2) x twelve (12) minute halves, with a five (5) minute half time

29.3 FIELD SIZE

Full sized Rugby League field, sidelines brought in ten (10) metres either side.

29.4 PLAYERS

- The total number of players on the field at any one time, in each team, shall not exceed nine (9).
- Each team's squad size must not exceed fifteen (15) (six (6) interchange).

29.5 SCRUMS

- No scrums
- Where a scrum would normally be formed to restart play, play will instead restart with a handover to the non-offending team.
- Where kicks find touch in general play, a handover, to the non-kicking team, will take place ten (10) metres infield, opposite to where the ball crossed the sideline.
- In the event of a successful 40/20 kick, play will commence with a tap restart to the kicking team, twenty (20) metres infield, opposite to where the ball crossed the sideline, but not closer than ten (10) metres to the try line.

29.6 POINTS

- A try shall be worth four (4) points
- No conversions, except for the Year 11/12 Division, where a drop kick can be taken from in front of goal
- No penalty kicks or field goals are allowed

29.7 RESTARTS

- If the restart kick finds touch, once traveling ten (10) metres, the receiving team will maintain possession of the ball. To restart play, a play-the-ball to the receiving team, will take place ten (10) metres infield from the where the ball crossed the sideline.
- All kick off restarts, after a try has been scored, will be taken by the scoring team.
- Kick off restarts can be taken via a drop kick or place kick.
- In the Year 5/6 Division, restarts after a try has been scored, will be a tap, on halfway, to the non-scoring team.





LAWS OF THE GAME

29.7 SIN BIN

- Year 5/6 Division, sin bin rules do not apply. The rotation rule is to be applied, as per Junior League Laws (6-12s)
- Year 7/8, Year 9/10, Year 11/12 - The period of temporary suspension shall be a maximum of three (3) minutes

29.8 PLAY THE BALL & MARKERS

- Year 5/6 - No DH & FR bibs are to be worn, therefore no two pass rule is in place
- One (1) marker is allowed at the play the ball





GENERAL INFORMATION



26. COMPETITION TRAVEL

- 26.1** The NRL provides funding to the participating school to offset the costs associated with taking part in the Karyn Murphy Cup.
- 26.2** The actual subsidy level will be determined by the NRL and is subject to change.
- 26.3** Schools must contact the QLD School Participation Coordinator to discuss accommodation/travel arrangements and expected expenditure prior to finalising bookings.
- 26.4** Travel and accommodation subsidies are based on a traveling party of 18 (15 Players, 3 staff)
- 26.5** Travel subsidies will only be paid on receipt of a Travel Subsidy Application Form, accompanied by receipts/paid accounts, sent to the QLD School Participation Coordinator within 14 days of the playing of the match.



27. INSURANCE

- 27.1** It is the responsibility of each school that participates in any program to ensure that it has in place all insurances required to cover its student/player in the case of accident, injury, loss and/or damage arising out of a student/player's participation in the programs. The NRL accepts no responsibility for a failure by a school to have in place any such insurance policy which would otherwise cover an accident, injury, loss and/or damage that arises out of a student/player's participation in a program. Additionally, we recommend schools inform parents that they obtain private health insurance for their child (for things such as general medical expenses and dental) to the extent necessary to meet any gap and to cover any accident, injury, loss and/or damage to their child which would not be covered by the mandatory insurances held by the school.



28. CONTACT

- 28.1** Jesse Naumann
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QLD School Participation Coordinator
National Rugby League





For more information visit
playrugbyleague.com