



2026

KARYN MURPHY CUP

COMPETITION HANDBOOK

playrugbyleague.com



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1. WELCOME

Welcome

It's hard to believe the KMC is now in its tenth year. As someone who couldn't play rugby league during my schooling years, it is incredible to think this competition has reached the milestone of a decade. Representing Queensland and Australia were most definitely highlights of my playing career, however the friendships and memories made taking the field with my teammates over many years founded my lifelong involvement and love of rugby league.

The talent and development of the women's game at the elite level has improved drastically over the last ten years. I believe this is, in many ways is a result of the opportunities provided through competitions like the KMC.

I'd like to wish every player taking the field throughout this competition all the very best for each game and your future in rugby league.



Karyn Murphy

Former Queensland & Jillaroos Representative Player

Hall of Fame Inductee #131

Current NRLW Gold Coast Titans Coach

2. ATTENDANCE

- 2.1 A student must maintain 85% attendance to be eligible to play in any Karyn Murphy Cup match.
- 2.2 When submitting a team list, schools acknowledge and agree that each named player has met the 85% attendance rate.
- 2.3 If there are any extenuating circumstances that have affected a student's ability to attend school, the school, on behalf of the student, must apply for an exemption to NRL School Competition Management and provide evidence to support the exemption request.

3. CANCELLATION, POSTPONEMENT, ABANDONEMENT, FORFEIT

- 3.1 All Karyn Murphy Cup State Finals Series matches may only be cancelled, delayed, postponed, or abandoned with the prior approval of the NRL School Competition Management.
- 3.2 During the regional stage of the competition, Cancellation, Postponement, Abandonment and Forfeit rules will be at the discretion of the local convenor/s, in conjunction with NRL School Competition Management.
- 3.3 In the Finals Series, if a match is cancelled or abandoned, the decision of a replay will rest with the NRL.
- 3.4 In the State Finals Series, **if half or more** of the match has been completed, the score at the time of suspension of play in the match will be the result.
- 3.5 In the State Finals Series, **if less than half** of the match has been completed, the match shall be declared drawn at 0-0 and one (1) point awarded to each team.
- 3.6 In the State Finals Series, forfeits, at any time, are not acceptable. Consecutive forfeits over time may affect your school's participation in NRL School Competitions.
- 3.7 In the event of a forfeit during the State Final Series, a points differential of -20 and zero (0) competition points will be applied to the forfeiting school. Two (2) points will be awarded to the non-forfeiting team.
- 3.8 If any team is unable to play a scheduled match in the State Final Series, a school may apply to NRL School Competition Management for special consideration. Only extenuating circumstances will be considered.
- 3.9 In the event of an emergency during the State Final Series, the NRL School Competition Management (or their nominee), in conjunction with the referee and both schools will make the decision on the cancellation, postponement or abandonment of the match.



4. CODE OF CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOUR

NRL NATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 All Karyn Murphy Cup matches are played in accordance with the NRL National Code of Conduct. <https://www.playrugbyleague.com/policies/>
- 4.2 Players, coaches, team staff and spectators are all responsible with always upholding the NRL National Code of Conduct.
- 4.3 Game Day Operations staff and Match Officials have the right to report any breaches of the NRL National Code of Conduct to NRL School Competition Management.
- 4.4 Individuals who have been reported to have breached the NRL National Code of Conduct will be handled by the relevant disciplinary procedures and may be required to attend a hearing and face suspension from participation or attendance from future Rugby League events (school, club & representative).

BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

- 4.5 It is emphasised that the strictest standard of behaviour should be observed and always followed by players, coaches, officials, and spectators at all Karyn Murphy Cup matches.
- 4.6 School spectator groups must always be under strict teacher/school supervision. Failure of school/s to properly supervise and control supporter groups may lead to the suspension or abandonment of a match.
- 4.7 Strong disciplinary action will be taken against any offender or offending school, including suspension and possibly ineligibility from future Rugby League events.
- 4.8 Any incidents of unacceptable behaviour should be immediately reported to the Ground Manager.
- 4.9 During finals matches, schools may be required to nominate a Student Supporter Liaison who will be the point of contact for any matter relating to supporter groups.
- 4.10 All Karyn Murphy Cup matches are played in accordance with the Queensland Rugby League's Positive Environment Program (PEP).



5. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

| QUEENSLAND | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| NAME | ADDRESS | PHONE | EMAIL |
| Rugby League Central – Queensland | | | |
| Jason Perry | 83 Castlemaine St, Milton QLD 4064 | 0477 429 182 | jperry@nrl.com.au |

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

6. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

COMPETITION ENTRY

- 6.1 Participation in the Karyn Murphy Cup is on a school basis.
- 6.2 Entry into the Karyn Murphy Cup is via the online nomination form.
- 6.3 Schools participating in the NRL Schoolgirl Cup are **ineligible** to participate in the Opens division of the Karyn Murphy Cup.
- 6.4 All schools entering the Karyn Murphy Cup must adhere to the rules and conditions outlined in this document, and any reasonable request from NRL School Competition Management.

COMBINED SCHOOLS

- 6.5 Where required, schools may combine to form a team.
- 6.6 Combined schools must belong to the same sporting region.
- 6.7 Schools seeking to nominate a combined team must submit a formal request, in writing and acknowledged by both principals, to the NRL prior to nominating. Final approval on combined schools will rest with the NRL.



COMPETITION FORMAT

6.8 Karyn Murphy Cup divisions include:

- Year 5/6 Girls
- Year 7/8 Girls *
- Year 9/10 Girls
- Open's Girls

For age eligibility, please see point 21.

*Year 7/8 competitions in SEQ will be trialling a 13-a-side option.

6.9 The Year 5/6, 7/8 and 9/10 divisions are development competitions and are played inside each school sporting region.

6.10 The Opens division is a statewide competition, beginning in each school sporting region.

6.11 Regional Karyn Murphy Cup formats may differ and can be adjusted to suit each region. Local NRL staff and competition convenors are responsible for the competition structure at a regional level.

6.12 The Opens aged; statewide Karyn Murphy Cup Finals Series will be convened by NRL School Competition Management. All decisions regarding playing dates, times, venues etc. will rest with the NRL.

7. DISMISSALS & SUSPENSIONS

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

7.1 A player receiving a period of temporary suspension by the referee shall leave the field of play and enter the allocated sin bin area, or an area instructed by the Ground Manager, until the end of the temporary suspension period.

7.2 The time of temporary suspension (sin bin) shall be **three (3) minutes** of playing time only and shall commence after the referee signals time on or when play recommences.

7.3 The temporary suspension shall be suspended if the referee signals time off and the time is stopped and shall recommence when time is restarted.

7.4 Suspended time does not include the half time break and shall cease at the end of the first period and recommence at the beginning of the second period.

7.5 If more than one (1) player receives a temporary suspension from the one (1) incident, the players' temporary suspension shall be equal and they shall be entitled to return to the field of play together, after the completion of the temporary suspension.



7.6 Players re-entering the field of play must do so from an onside position.

PERMANENT SUSPENSION

7.7 Any player permanently dismissed from the field (i.e. sent off) must immediately retire to their teams' dressing room until the player has changed out of their playing uniform.

7.8 Under no circumstance can a dismissed player return to the players' bench. The player, once out of team uniform, is permitted to be outside the playing area bounded by the fence.

SUSPENDED PARTICIPANTS

7.9 Any player or team official who is suspended or disqualified from Rugby League by NRL School Competition Management or any other relevant judiciary or disciplinary bodies, including local, state, and national leagues, shall not participate in any NRL School Competition match until that suspension or disqualification period has expired.

7.10 It is the responsibility of the competing school to ensure that participants are not subject to any suspension from Rugby League, including local, state, and national leagues, at the time of participating in a NRL School Competition match.

7.11 Any player or team official who is suspended or disqualified from Rugby League by NRL School Competition Management or any other relevant judiciary or disciplinary bodies, including local, state, and national, must not enter the playing field or area inside the fence prior to, during, or after a match.

8. DRAWS & FINALS SERIES

REGIONAL

8.1 Regional draws are the responsibility of local NRL staff and convenors and may differ region to region.

8.2 Regional winners (Opens division only) must be identified and submitted to NRL School Competition Management by the end of Term 2.

8.3 Extensions to regional winners' timelines must be first approved by NRL School Competition Management.



STATEWIDE (Opens)

8.4 The NRL will be responsible for the Karyn Murphy Cup Opens Division Finals Series draw.

| 2026 FINALS SERIES – OPENS DIVISION | |
|---|---|
| SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND | |
| South Coast | SEQ Finals Series |
| Metropolitan East | Venue: Brisbane |
| Metropolitan West | Thursday 13th August |
| Metropolitan North | Week 5, Term 3 |
| CENTRAL QUEENSLAND | |
| Sunshine Coast | CQ Finals Series |
| Wide Bay | Venue: Toowoomba |
| Darling Downs | Tuesday 4th & Wednesday 5th August |
| South West | Week 4, Term 3 |
| NORTHERN QUEENSLAND | |
| Capricornia | NQ Finals Series |
| North West | Venue: Townsville |
| Northern | Thursday 6th & Friday 7th August |
| Peninsula | Week 4, Term 3 |
| QUEENSLAND FINAL SERIES | |
| One region/team progresses from each series above | QLD Final Series |
| | Venue: Brisbane |
| | Wednesday 9th September |
| | Week 9, Term 3 |



DRAWN MATCHES & EXTRA TIME

8.5 In the **regional phase** of the competition, the procedure for drawn matches will be set by the local convenor and/or local NRL staff.

8.6 In the final of each **regional finals' series**, there shall be five (5) minutes of golden point extra time. If scores remain equal, the below procedure applies:

- Most tries, if equal;
- First try scorer, if no tries;
- Most penalties received, if equal;
- First penalty received, if no penalties
- Toss of a coin

8.7 In the **QLD Final**, there shall be five (5) minutes of golden point extra time. If no points are scored in the first five (5) minutes, teams will swap ends and commence a second period of golden point extra time. The second period will continue until a point is scored to determine a winner.

9. EQUIPMENT

9.1 Playing jerseys must meet all sponsorship guidelines and not conflict with any major sponsor of the NRL.

9.2 A player must not wear any item that may prove dangerous to other players. The Match Officials will have the final say on the allowance of potentially dangerous items.

9.3 All jewellery must be removed prior to the start of the match.

9.4 Kicking tees may be used provided it is a licensed product and is for starts or restarts of play from the 50m line.



10. FACILITIES & VENUES

- 10.1 In the regional stage of the competition, match venues will be nominated by local NRL staff and/or local convenors.
- 10.2 In the final's series, match venues will be nominated by NRL School Competition Management.
- 10.3 All match venues shall be required to provide as a minimum standard the following items;
 - Suitable and up-to standard playing surface with appropriate line markings consistent with the game of Rugby League.
 - Adequate female dressing room facilities
 - Separate home and away dressing rooms, with toilet facilities
 - Match officials dressing room
 - Suitable and designated area for home and away benches
 - Public amenities
 - Suitable area for spectators that is fenced or roped off at least three (3) metres from the field of play
 - Ambulance access

11. GAME DAY OPERATIONS

- 11.1 In the regional stage of the competition, game day operations will be the responsibility of locally appointed convenors and/or local NRL staff.
- 11.2 In the final's series, game day operations will be the responsibility of the NRL.
- 11.3 Schools and team officials must adhere to any reasonable request from the locally appointed ground managers/convenors and/or NRL staff.
- 11.4 Locally appointed ground managers/convenors and NRL staff can report any breach of the NRL On Field Policy or NRL National Code of Conduct to NRL School Competition Management.

12. INJURY REPORTING

- 12.1 In the finals' series, all schools are required to report all serious injuries on MySideline, **within 24 hours** of the incident. Serious injuries can be defined as, but not limited to, concussion, head injuries, fractures, ligament injuries etc.



13. INSURANCE

13.1 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 in the case of accident, injury, loss and/or damage arising out of a student's participation in the programs or that its student players have made their own arrangements. 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'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.

14. INTERCHANGE & REPLACEMENTS

14.1 Interchange is unlimited for all Karyn Murphy Cup matches.

14.2 Teams are permitted to have up to six (6) players on the interchange bench.

14.3 Locally appointed ground managers/convenors and NRL staff, in conjunction with the independent medical officer, have the right to request an interchange for the purpose of a medical assessment.

15. LAWS OF THE GAME

15.1 Subject to the modifications below, all Karyn Murphy Cup matches will be played in accordance with the Junior Laws (6-12s) and International Laws (13+).
<https://www.playrugbyleague.com/laws-of-the-game-community/>

COMPETITION RULES

15.2 Field Size

Full sized Rugby League field with the sidelines brought in ten (10) metres either side. This modified sideline must be identified with coloured markers.

15.3 Match Duration

Each Karyn Murphy Cup match shall be played in two (2) equal periods of twelve (12) minutes, with a five (5) minute half time.

15.4 Players



The total number of players permitted on field at any one time, per team, is nine (9).

15.5 **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-offending team will take place ten (10) metres in-field, opposite to where the ball crossed the line.
- In the event of a successful 40/20 kick, play will commence with a tap restart to the kicking team, ten (10) metres in-field, opposite to where the ball crossed the sideline, but not closer than ten (10) metres to the try line.

15.6 **Points**

- No conversions are permitted, except for the Opens Division, where a drop kick can be taken from in front of goal.
- No penalty kicks at goal.
- Field goals in general are permitted.

15.7 **Restarts**

- If a kick off finds touch, once travelling ten (10) metres, the **receiving team** will gain possession of the ball. Play will restart via a play the ball, ten (10) metres in-field from where the ball crossed the sideline, but no closer than ten (10) metres to the try line.
- After a try has been scored, the kick off restart will be taken by the **scoring team**.
- Kick off restarts can be taken via a drop kick or place kick.

15.8 **Markers & General Play**

- Year 5/6 – No DH or FR bibs are to be worn, therefore no two (2) pass rule is in place.
- One (1) marker is allowed at the play the ball.



16. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 16.1 In the regional stage of the competition, match officials will be organised by the locally appointed competition convenor and/or local NRL staff.
- 16.2 In the finals series, all match officials will be organised by the NRL.
- 16.3 It is the responsibility of all schools to ensure that their staff, coaches, trainers, players, and supporters do not approach, question, or harass Match Officials in any way.

17. MATCH REVIEW & DISCIPLINARY

- 17.1 In the regional stage of the competition, all match review and disciplinary action will be handled by the locally appointed convenor and/or local NRL staff, in conjunction with NRL School Competition Management.
- 17.2 In the finals' series, all match review and disciplinary action will be handled by NRL School Competition Management.
- 17.3 All match review and disciplinary matters will be dealt with via the current Judicial Protocols, in conjunction with the governing school body and/or the relevant state league.

18. MEDICAL

- 18.1 The NRL reserves the right to appoint independent medical personnel to oversee Karyn Murphy Cup matches. These personnel will work in addition to the standard team staff who will remain responsible for the monitoring and treatment of injuries.
- 18.2 In the event of a serious injury or suspected serious injury, the NRL appointed medical will have the final decision.

CONCUSSION

- 18.3 All Karyn Murphy Cup matches are played in accordance with the **Community Rugby League Policy and Guidelines for the Management of Concussion – 2025**.
<https://www.playrugbyleague.com/policies/>
- 18.4 Any player who is diagnosed with a concussion cannot return within the timeframe outlined below;
 - **Children and Adolescents (18 years and younger):** Nineteen (19) days. The earliest a player can be made available for team selection is on the 19th day after sustaining a concussion and only after all symptoms have resolved and the player has been cleared to play by a medical professional.



19. MYSIDELINE

- 19.1 All Karyn Murphy Cup finals series participants (players, coaches, trainers, volunteers) must be registered to their school via the National Registration Database (MySideline).
- 19.2 MySideline training will be made available to all Karyn Murphy Cup final series schools.
- 19.3 Any participants marked as unavailable on MySideline will be unable to participate in a Karyn Murphy Cup match. Cases of exceptional circumstances only will be heard by NRL School Competition Management.

20. ON-FIELD POLICY & QUALIFICATIONS

- 20.1 All Karyn Murphy Cup matches operate under the **Community** level of the NRL On-Field Policy. <https://www.playrugbyleague.com/policies/>
- 20.2 All team trainers must have the required accreditation for the role in which they are performing. No match shall commence until the required on-field personnel are available.
- 20.3 Under no circumstances are trainers permitted to approach, become involved, or enter the field of play during an altercation or melee involving players from either team. This includes not attempting to separate or restrain players.
- 20.4 If any on-field personnel abuse their roles or behave in a manner contrary to the NRL On-Field Policy or NRL Code of Conduct or bring the game of Rugby League/their school into disrepute, they may be subject to sanctions and/or disciplinary action, up to and including deregistration from the game.

COACHING QUALIFICATIONS

- 20.5 At a minimum, all coaches must have a current NRL Community Coach Accreditation, age relevant to the age they are coaching.
- 20.6 All coaches must not be subject to a suspension or disqualification from the game, including local, state, and national leagues.



21. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

21.1 Age eligibility:

| AGE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Year 5/6 | Born 1 st Jan 2014 – 31 st Dec 2015 |
| Year 7/8 | Born 1 st July 2012 – 30 th June 2014 |
| Year 9/10 | Born 1 st July 2010 – 30 th June 2012 |
| Opens | Students must, at the end of the calendar year, reach the age of 16 and must not turn 19 |

21.2 A player may only represent one (1) school in each year of the Karyn Murphy Cup.

21.3 Players must be categorized as a full-time student.

21.4 Players must always comply with the 85% attendance condition outlined in **2. Attendance**.

21.5 Players must not be subject to a current suspension from the game of Rugby League, including local, state, and national leagues, at the time of playing a Karyn Murphy Cup match.

21.6 A player will be deemed ineligible if they are marked unavailable on MySideline.

21.7 In the regional stage of the competition, a player may not participate in more than one (1) division. During the finals series (Opens), all eligible players may participate.

21.8 It is the responsibility of competing schools to ensure that all players meet the above eligibility criteria.

22. PROTESTS, CHALLENGES & EXEMPTIONS

22.1 Any protests or challenges must be lodged in writing, via email, to NRL School Competition Management **within 24 hours of the completion of the relevant match**. Protests must be on a school letterhead and signed by the school principal.

22.2 Any exemption requests relating to the rules in this document must be lodged in writing, via email, to NRL School Competition Management. Requests must be on a school letterhead and signed by the school principal.



23. SPONSORSHIP

23.1 Schools seeking to engage sponsorship must adhere to the following guidelines;

- Sponsorship arrangements must not conflict with the competition or that of the National Rugby League.
- Sponsorship arrangements must be of an appropriate nature for School Rugby League. An alcohol manufacturer or seller is an example of an inappropriate sponsor.
- The final decision on sponsorships will rest with the NRL.

24. TEAM LIST SUBMISSIONS

24.1 In the regional stage of the competition, team list requirements will be outlined by the local convenor and/or local NRL staff.

24.2 In the finals series, schools must submit a team list via MySideline for each match, with the following.

- Maximum of (15) players, with correct jersey numbers
- All team staff (head coach, assistant coaches, trainers, manager)

25. TRAVEL

25.1 The NRL provides funding to schools participating in the Karyn Murphy Cup, to assist with travel related costs.

25.2 The items subsidised, and the subsidy level, will be determined by the NRL and is subject to change.

25.3 Travel subsidies are based on a travelling party of 19.

25.4 The Travel Subsidy application process is as follows;

- **PRIOR TO BOOKING YOUR TRAVEL**, the PRE-TRAVEL portion of the Travel Subsidy Application form needs to be completed and submitted to the NRL for approval at least 5 days prior to travel, accompanied with quotes/estimates.
- Upon pre-travel approval, confirm all details and retain receipts/paid invoices for acquittal post travel.
- Post travel, complete the post travel portion of the form and submit to the NRL **within 14 days of travel**, accompanied with receipts/paid invoices.
- **Any invoices received after the 9th of October 2026 will not be accepted.**



26. VIDEOGRAPHY & MEDIA

- 26.1 The NRL has the right to arrange the production and live steaming/broadcast of Karyn Murphy Cup matches.
- 26.2 Match footage will be made available to schools and match officials. The provision of match footage is for **coaching purposes only**. Under no circumstance can match be footage be shared without the prior permission from the NRL.
- 26.3 The NRL shall maintain exclusive rights to the intellectual property captured by the nominated provider and shall be entitled to use such property in a manner that it deems appropriate for the promotion and enhancement of the competition.

27. WINNERS

| KARYN MURPHY CUP – OPENS DIVISION | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Year | Winner |
| 2017 | St Patrick's College, Mackay |
| 2018 | Keebra Park State High School |
| 2019 | Mabel Park State High School |
| 2020 | *Covid |
| 2021 | Keebra Park State High School |
| 2022 | Cairns State High School |
| 2023 | Stretton State College |
| 2024 | Stretton State College |
| 2025 | Mackay State High School |





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