



# Preferred Facility Guidelines

for Grassroots Rugby League 2014







## 1. Purpose & Background

Providing access to high quality Rugby League facilities is essential to facilitating participation, game development and supporting player pathways underpins the sustainability of grass roots Rugby League clubs everywhere.

The current provision of Rugby League facilities across Australia varies widely in quality and standards, which may limit the opportunities to grow and sustain participation in the game.

The National Rugby League (NRL) understands that in order to grow the game, improving the quality and access to appropriate facilities is required. A 'whole of game' and strategic approach to facility planning and development will ensure that investment is maximised and the overall quality of Rugby League facilities is improved.

As part of the NRL's National Facilities Policy, The Preferred Facility Guidelines has been developed as a guide and planning resource that will assist state bodies, association and clubs in the planning of new facilities and/or major refurbishment or redevelopment of existing facilities.

The Preferred Facility Guidelines will also assist local and state governments, schools and tertiary institutions, and other key stakeholders in the planning and development of Rugby League facilities.

The Preferred Facility Guidelines for Rugby League includes the following components:

- » A Facility Hierarchy including State, Regional and Local facilities
- » Facility Components to support participation and competitions
- » Guidelines for each level of the facility hierarchy, including essential/non-essential or desired functional areas or items for each level
- » Area Schedules for each level of facility

This resource is not intended to be a compliance document for auditing or critiquing the suitability of existing facilities for competitions.

The Preferred Facility Guidelines for Rugby League has been developed in consultation with local and state governments, Rugby League clubs and associations, and state bodies.

In addition to these guidelines, the NRL has also developed Rugby League Synthetic Sports Surface Standards, as a technical guide for the development of synthetic fields.



## 2. Facility Hierarchy

To support future planning and development of facilities, a Facility Hierarchy has been developed and includes three levels of facility: State, Regional and Local.

The Facility Hierarchy has been developed as part of the NRL's National Facilities Policy and aligns with Rugby League competition standards and requirements, pathway development and participation programs.

The Facility Hierarchy will be used to guide future facility planning and is a framework that can be used with reference to club and association size, membership, participation and facility demand within defined catchment areas.

It is intended that the Facility Hierarchy be utilised in the development of state-wide and regional facility plans and strategies, and will assist in identifying facility needs and gaps in current facility provision.

The three levels of the hierarchy are defined as follows.

### 2.1. State

A high standard premier facility that is used for major events and competitions below the NRL Premiership i.e. NSW Cup, QLD Cup or representative fixtures.

State facilities may also service the highest level of competition in the broader region and be a nominated venue for finals and/or marquee games.

### 2.2. Regional

A facility that services a region including multiple suburbs or towns, often (not always) included as part of a broader sport and recreation precinct that incorporates facilities for multiple sports.

A regional facility may include multiple playing fields and pavilions. The facility will be capable of hosting finals for the upper divisions of regional competitions, and will be maintained at an appropriate standard for these levels of competition.

### 2.3. Local

A local facility caters for local level clubs and competitions, including junior clubs and associations. Local facilities also play a very important role in game development and supporting participation programs.

The facility will service the club of the local suburb or town, and be maintained at a level suitable for lower grade home and away matches.



### 3. Preferred Facility Guidelines

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Preferred Facility Guidelines have been developed as an industry guide for the future planning of Rugby League facilities. These guidelines have been developed in consultation with key stakeholders and are an important resource in the planning process.

The Preferred Facility Guidelines are not intended to replace standards established within building codes and legislation, local or state government planning controls or health and safety regulations.

Whilst functional areas are defined below, it is important to consider the functional relationships between each area and critical adjacencies that will enhance the practical use of the facilities. In some cases, functional areas could be combined to form integrated spaces that may be more functional. The involvement of clubs and associations in the planning and design process is critical in ensuring that the facility is designed in a way that best suits its functional needs.



## 4. Facility Components

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There are three categories of Facility Components to support Rugby League competitions and participation programs.

### 4.1. Main Pavilion/Amenities Building

At all levels, the main pavilion/amenities building should be a community focussed facility. The design must be functional and cater for the needs of players, coaches, referees, officials, volunteers, and spectators, and where possible be multipurpose to cater for alternate uses. The building materials must be robust and durable, and be able to withstand high usage associated with sport to minimise repairs and maintenance costs.

Environmentally friendly design is encouraged including natural light and ventilation wherever possible, as well as water harvesting and energy saving initiatives.

The main pavilion/amenities building should be centrally located to allow for good viewing of the entire field (or fields), ideally on the western side.

### 4.2. Field of Play

A strong focus in the planning and development of the field of play is the quality of the surface, including drainage design and turf performance. Appropriate drainage design must be specific to the location and aimed at limiting cancellation of matches and field closures.

Ancillary facilities i.e. substitute benches are important functional elements to deliver competitions, and appropriate lighting will reduce localised turf damage as well as increase programming and participation opportunities.

### 4.3. Additional Facilities

Additional facilities are often desirable to support both the functional requirements of the game as well as enhancing the player, coach or spectator experience at the facility.

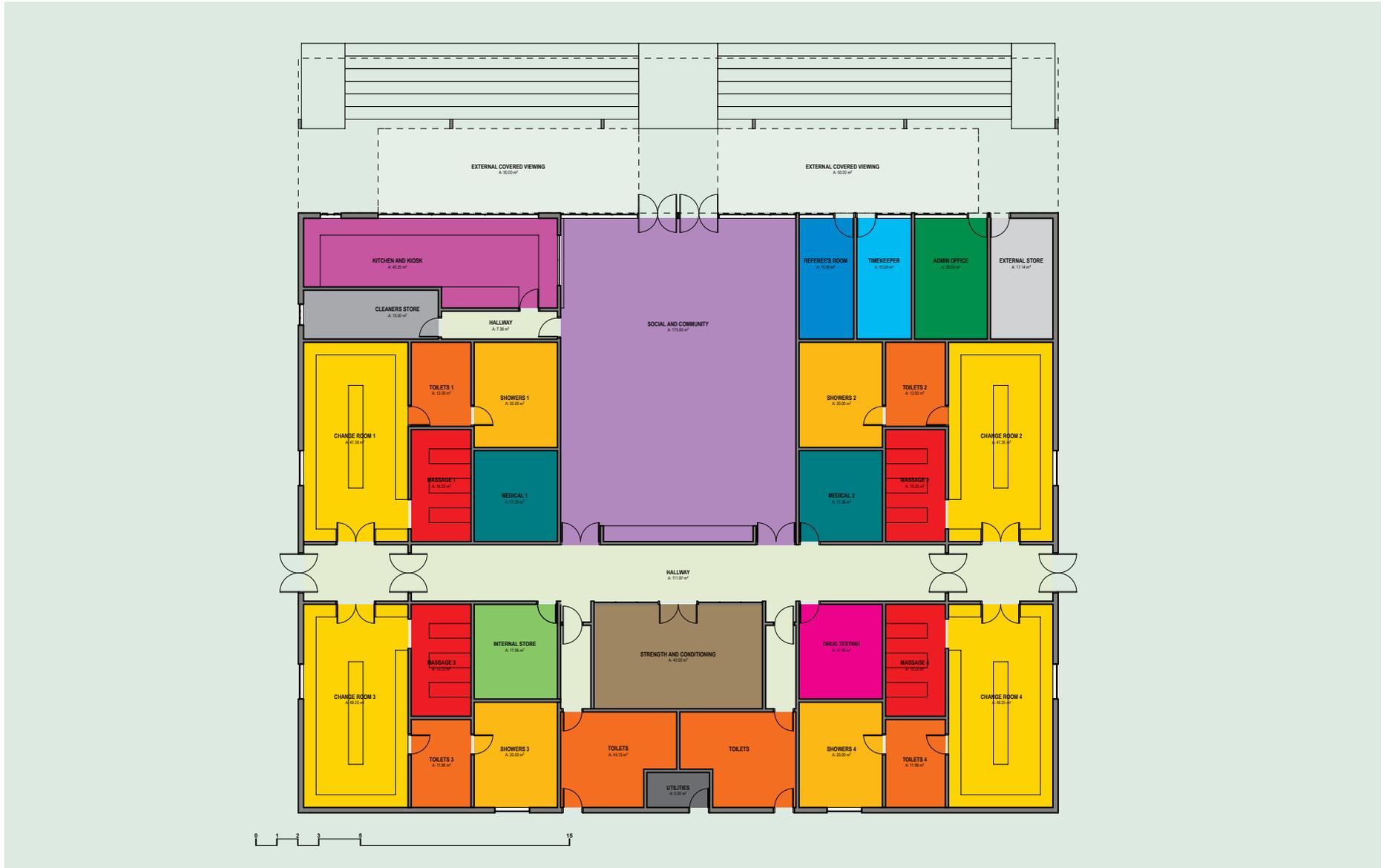
In some cases, functional areas or other items not listed may be included in the planning and development of a facility however should be assessed on a case by case basis depending on need.



## 4.1. Main Pavilion /Amenities Building

Pavilion / Amenities	Preferred Minimum Sizes (m <sup>2</sup> )			Essential/Non-Essential or Desired Facility Component			Comments and Specifications
	State	Regional	Local	State	Regional	Local	
Changing Rooms	45m <sup>2</sup> x 4 (2 home team and 2 away)	45m <sup>2</sup> x 2	30m <sup>2</sup> x 2	Essential	Essential	Essential	At a State League level, 4 changing rooms (2 home team and 2 away team) should be provided. To offer flexibility, the changing room should be able to be configured in either 4 separate changing rooms or 2 large changing rooms. At a Regional and Local level, 2 changing rooms (1 home team and 1 away team) are essential.
Showers	20m <sup>2</sup> x 4	15m <sup>2</sup> x 2	15m <sup>2</sup> x 2	Essential	Essential	Essential	Each changing room requires its own wet area (showers) located as far as possible from changing room entrance and WCs to minimise water migration and to separate mud and moisture from dry areas, and with no direct sight lines to adjoining areas. State League facilities should incorporate a minimum of 5 shower points, whereas Regional and Local facilities should incorporate a minimum of 4 and 3 respectively. Ideally, plan for one square metre for the shower area and the same for the drying area. To accommodate wheelchair access avoid raised thresholds. Showers on opposing walls should be spaced 2.5m apart to permit a central circulation route and will require a separate dry-off area to one end. To improve flexibility and to cater for mixed use, cubical showers can be provided.
Toilets	10m <sup>2</sup> x 4	10m <sup>2</sup> x 2	10m <sup>2</sup> x 2	Essential	Essential	Essential	The provision of toilet facilities should be based on the following minimum requirements: Men: one WC, two urinals and two washbasins. Women: two WCs and two washbasins. To better cater for mixed gender use, male urinals should be replaced by an additional WC.
Referee's Room (including shower and toilet)	15m <sup>2</sup>	15m <sup>2</sup>	15m <sup>2</sup>	Essential	Essential	Essential	The pavilion should include a self-contained changing room for use by officials. Provide a room of 15m <sup>2</sup> with a shower, washbasin and bench space. Secure locker storage is required when the room is used by more than one official. In rooms for five or more officials, include a WC. If officials of both sexes use the pavilion at the same time, provide separate accommodation.
Scorer & Timekeeping Box	15m <sup>2</sup>	15m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup>	Essential	Essential	Desired	The Scorer and Timekeeping box needs to have a clear view of the playing field and ideally located in line with or near the centre line. It can be incorporated in the main pavilion or separately as a stand-alone structure. The Timekeepers area must include a siren.
Kitchen & Kiosk	40m <sup>2</sup>	30m <sup>2</sup>	20m <sup>2</sup>	Essential	Essential	Essential	An appropriate standard kitchen and kiosk facility is required to support catering and food and beverage sales. These facilities are essential in supporting revenue generating opportunities and club sustainability. All areas must meet public health requirements.
Social/Community Room	175m <sup>2</sup>	125m <sup>2</sup>	75m <sup>2</sup>	Essential	Essential	Essential	The social/community room is an important element of the facility that will facilitate social interaction as well as provide a source of revenue and sustainability for the club. The area should be used for post-match gatherings or presentations, as well as club committee meetings or education/training courses. The social/community room should have large windows for viewing the game. Social areas may include specialised bar facilities and or access to appropriate kiosk/kitchen servery. Planning should consider the range of potential uses and flexibility of the space.
Administration Area / Competition Office	20m <sup>2</sup>	15m <sup>2</sup>	15m <sup>2</sup>	Essential	Essential	Essential	An administration area for the management of competitions and club administration and paperwork. The room should include a desk/bench area and appropriate office storage.
Accessible Public Toilets	45m <sup>2</sup>	35m <sup>2</sup>	35m <sup>2</sup>	Essential	Essential	Essential	Public toilets are a vital amenity to have when having large numbers attending training and weekend events. These can either be in the pavilion or stand alone. The size of public toilets should be based on crowd history and relevant planning and/or building codes.
Storage - Internal	15m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup>	Essential	Essential	Essential	Adequate internal (dry) storage is essential for club materials and equipment such as uniforms, merchandise and stock.
Storage - External	15m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup>	Essential	Essential	Essential	Adequate externally accessible storage is essential for sport related equipment (i.e. balls, tackle bags, goal post padding), and other necessary maintenance equipment (i.e. line marking machines).
Cleaners' Store	5m <sup>2</sup>	5m <sup>2</sup>	5m <sup>2</sup>	Essential	Essential	Non-essential	A lockable cupboard for cleaning materials is the minimum provision required. For multi-team pavilions, provide a store with shelving and a bucket sink adjacent to changing rooms.
Utilities/Plant Room	5m <sup>2</sup>	5m <sup>2</sup>	5m <sup>2</sup>	Essential	Essential	Non-essential	A separate utilities/plant room should be provided for any essential facility services such as electrical switchboard.

### 4.1. Main Pavilion – State



### 4.1. Main Pavilion – Regional



#### 4.1. Main Pavilion – Local

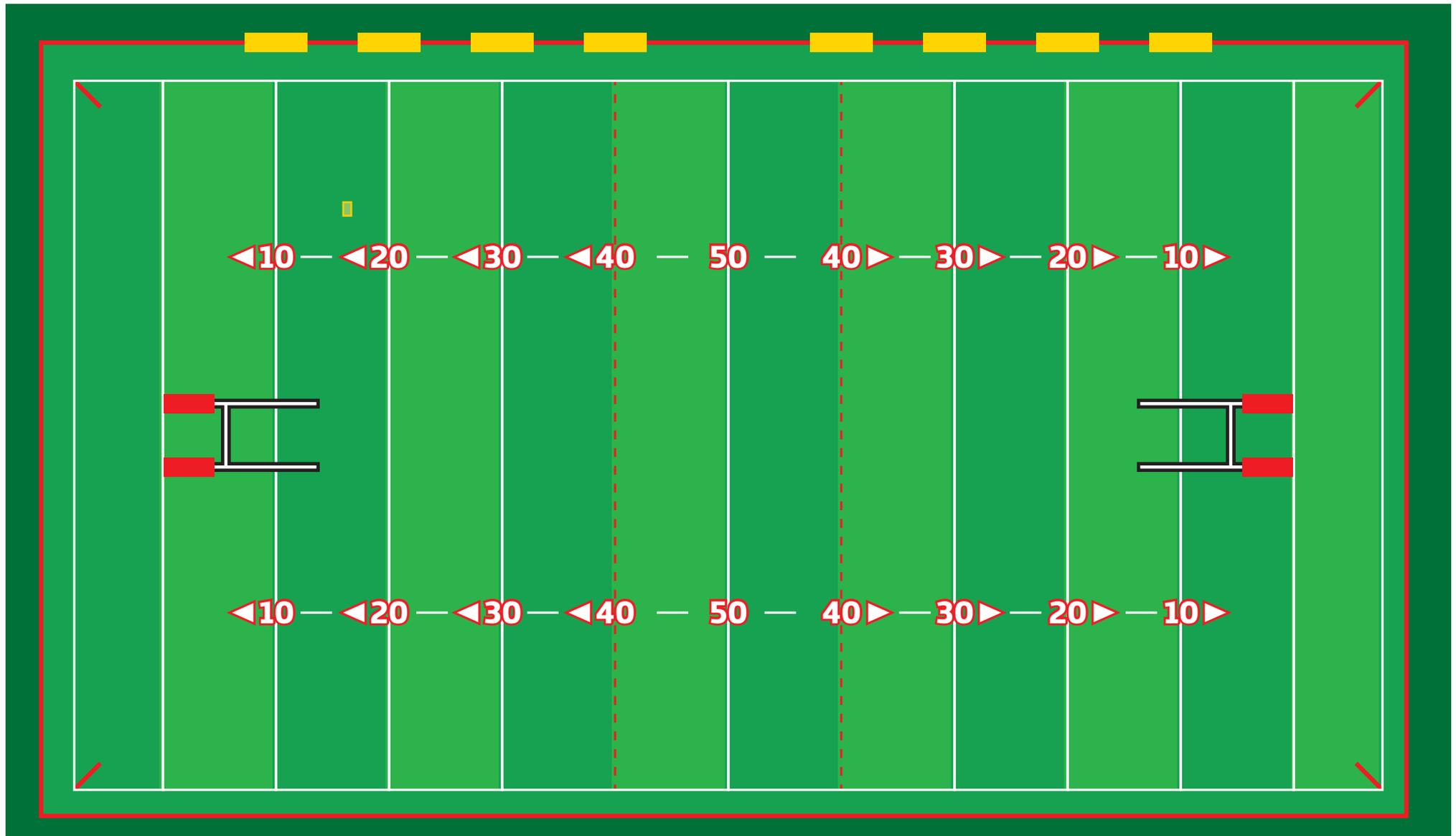




## 4.2. Field of Play

Field of Play	Preferred Minimum Sizes (m <sup>2</sup> )			Essential/Non-Essential or Desired Facility Component			Comments and Specifications
	State	Regional	Local	State	Regional	Local	
Coaches Boxes	Elevated position for 4 people	Touchline seating for 4 people (separate to Substitutes Bench)	Touchline seating for 4 people (as part of Substitutes Bench)	Essential	Essential	Essential	Separate Coaches Boxes should be provided for the home and away teams, ideally on the western side of the ground close to the halfway line.
Substitutes Bench	Seating for 8 people	Seating for 6 people	Seating for 4 people	Essential	Essential	Essential	Home and away team substitute benches are to be provided, ideally as permanent shelters close to the Interchange Box.
Goal Posts	Height: 16m Width: 5.5m Crossbar: 3m	Height: 16m Width: 5.5m Crossbar: 3m	Height: 16m Width: 5.5m Crossbar: 3m	Essential	Essential	Essential	At a State League level, goal posts must be 16 m in height, 5.5 m apart with a crossbar at 3 m from the ground. The bottom 2m of the uprights should be padded. At a Regional and Local level, a reduced goal post height is permissible. Mini League: 3.5m High and 3m wide, crossbar is located 2m above the ground.
Playing Field Run-off	5m	4m	3m	Essential	Essential	Essential	There must be adequate run-off area between the field of play and any perimeter fencing. Where possible, any new fields should aim for the highest run-off area (i.e. 5m).
Playing Field Markings	Yes	Yes	Yes	Essential	Essential	Essential	Field width: 68 m Length: Goal line to goal line - 100 m. In goal areas - to measure 68 m x 8 m Refer to Section 18: Ground Markings & Dimension Guidelines in 'Rugby League Laws of the Game'
Playing Field Quality	High	High - Medium	Medium	Essential	Essential	Essential	State League level playing surface must be of high quality including civil designed sub-surface drainage and a high quality even coverage of turf with no obvious undulations. At Regional and Local levels, high to medium standard playing surface is required including an even cover of turf and limited to no undulations. Each playing field should have a planned maintenance program relative to the standard of competition and should consider seasonal top-dressing, aeration, and fertilisation.
Playing Field Drainage	Excellent - Good	Excellent - Good	Good	Essential	Essential	Essential	Appropriately designed surface and sub-surface drainage and the development of a good overall maintenance plan for sports field drainage is critical in enhancing the participant experience and maximising the use of the facility (meaning fewer cancelled games). Installing sub-surface drainage systems in an existing playing fields may be required to improve surface quality, reduce cancellations and maximise use of existing facilities
Scoreboard	Yes	Yes	Yes	Essential	Essential	Essential	Scoreboards should be positioned appropriately and visible to players, coaches and spectators. At a State League level, electronic scoreboards are encouraged but not essential
Grounds Maintenance Store	Yes	Yes	Yes	Essential	Essential	Essential	Adequate storage for playing field maintenance equipment is required and may include storage for mowers, line marking equipment and other field of play maintenance materials.
Emergency Access	Yes	Yes	Yes	Essential	Essential	Essential	The playing field must have an accessible point for ambulance or any related access in the event of an emergency.
Sports Floodlighting	Training: 100 Lux Competition: 200 Lux	Training: 50 Lux Competition: 150 Lux	Training: 50 Lux Competition: 100 Lux	Essential	Essential	Essential	Appropriate playing field lighting is essential in maximising facility use and therefore participation. High quality lighting will also reduce localised overuse of the playing field. Preferred minimum requirements for playing field lighting will vary depending on the level of competition and therefore facility. The Australian Standards (series 2560.2.3) contains recommendations and requirements specific to the lighting of Rugby League. The Standard contains information highlighting the maintained horizontal illuminance (lux) required for training and club competition at a recreational, amateur, semi-professional and professional level.

## 4.2. Field of Play





### 4.3. Additional Facilities

Additional Facilities	Preferred Minimum Sizes (m <sup>2</sup> )			Essential/Non-Essential or Desired Facility Component			Comments and Specifications
	State	Regional	Local	State	Regional	Local	
Spectator Seating	Grandstand or tiered seating	Bench seating	Bench seating	Desired	Desired	Desired	At a State League level, tiered spectator seating in a grandstand or similar structure is desired to cater for expected crowds. At Regional and State level, the provision of bench seating around the field of play is desirable. Where seating is provided, some undercover seating is preferred. The total number of spectator seats should be determined on a case by case basis.
Broadcast Area	Yes	NA	NA	Essential	Non-essential	Non-essential	Broadcast facilities are required at the State League level. Position should be elevated off ground level and have an unobstructed view of the playing field, ideally undercover
PA System	Yes	NA	NA	Essential	Non-essential	Non-essential	State League facilities must include an appropriate Public Address system for ground announcements.
Time Clock	Visible time clock	Visible time clock	NA	Essential	Desired	Non-essential	An approved match time clock that can be seen by spectators, players and officials shall be provide at all State League venues.
Car Parking	In accordance with local gov't standards	In accordance with local gov't standards	In accordance with local gov't standards	Essential	Essential	Essential	Adequate car parking is required to support facility use. Although no specific car park numbers are prescribed, parking should cater for the anticipated regular daily demand. Off street parking is considered advantageous. Car park lighting is an important safety and surveillance measure. Car parking may be sealed or unsealed where appropriate. Disabled parking bays should be as close as possible to the main pavilion and include accessible curbs and pathways leading to the pavilion and spectator areas.
Reserve Fencing	No specific standards	No specific standards	No specific standards	Essential	Essential	Non-essential	Appropriate reserve fencing is required at State and Regional venues to control crowd access and management, including the collection of entrance fees.



## 5. Area Schedules

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The following area schedules are to be used as a guide to inform the planning for new or redeveloped existing Rugby League facilities. At the beginning of the concept design and feasibility assessment process, the relevant area schedule can be used as a starting point in determining the facilities requirements.



## 5.1. State Facility Area Schedule

State League Facility Area Schedule	
Room Name	Size (m <sup>2</sup> )
Changing Room 1	45
Changing Room 2	45
Changing Room 3	45
Changing Room 4	45
Showers 1	20
Showers 2	20
Showers 3	20
Showers 4	20
Toilets 1	10
Toilets 2	10
Toilets 3	10
Toilets 4	10
Massage/Strapping Room 1	15
Massage/Strapping Room 2	15
Massage/Strapping Room 3	15
Massage/Strapping Room 4	15
Medical/Doctors Room 1	15
Medical/Doctors Room 2	15
Drug Testing Room	15
Strength & Conditioning area	40
Referee's Room (including shower and toilet)	15
Scorer & Timekeeping Box	15
Kitchen & Kiosk	40
Social/Community Room	175
Administration Area / Competition Office	20
External Covered Viewing Area	100
Accessible Public Toilets	45
Storage - Internal	15
Storage - External	15
Cleaners' Store	15
Utilities/Plant Room	5
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>905</b>

## 5.2. Regional Facility Area Schedule

Regional Facility Area Schedule	
Room Name	Size (m <sup>2</sup> )
Changing Room 1	45
Changing Room 2	45
Showers 1	15
Showers 2	15
Toilets 1	10
Toilets 2	10
Massage/Strapping Room 1 (Desired)	10
Massage/Strapping Room 2 (Desired)	10
Medical/Doctors Room	10
Strength & Conditioning area (Desired)	30
Referee's Room (including shower and toilet)	15
Scorer & Timekeeping Box	15
Kitchen & Kiosk	30
Social/Community Room	125
Administration Area / Competition Office	15
External Covered Viewing Area	75
Accessible Public Toilets	35
Storage - Internal	10
Storage - External	10
Cleaners' Store	5
Utilities/Plant Room	5
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>540</b>

## 5.3. Local Facility Area Schedule

Local Facility Area Schedule	
Room Name	Size (m <sup>2</sup> )
Changing Room 1	30
Changing Room 2	30
Showers 1	15
Showers 2	15
Toilets 1	10
Toilets 2	10
Massage/Strapping Room 1 (Non-essential)	10
Massage/Strapping Room 2 (Non-essential)	10
Medical/Doctors Room (Non-essential)	10
Strength & Conditioning area (Non-essential)	20
Referee's Room (including shower and toilet)	15
Scorer & Timekeeping Box	10
Kitchen & Kiosk	20
Social/Community Room	75
Administration Area / Competition Office	15
External Covered Viewing Area	50
Accessible Public Toilets	35
Storage - Internal	10
Storage - External	10
Cleaners' Store	5
Utilities/Plant Room	5
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>410</b>



