

Sunshine Coast Gympie Rugby League



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Friday 19th June 2020

After considerable discussions the Sunshine Coast Gympie Rugby League board of directors has today announced that the Seniors Rugby League competition on the Sunshine Coast for 2020 will be cancelled due to insufficient number of clubs nominating to participate to make it a viable season.

The board had last week put forward to its 16 affiliated senior clubs a proposal to Return to Play for this season on the 24th July 2020, with the competition to commence under current Stage 3 CoVid -19 restrictions of 100 people per venue at the Sunshine Coast Stadium precinct in Kawana with the league investing in the competition to cover venue hire, hygiene requirements for game days, referees fees and providing clubs with hygiene packs for training and CoVid-Safe return to play checklists and templates.

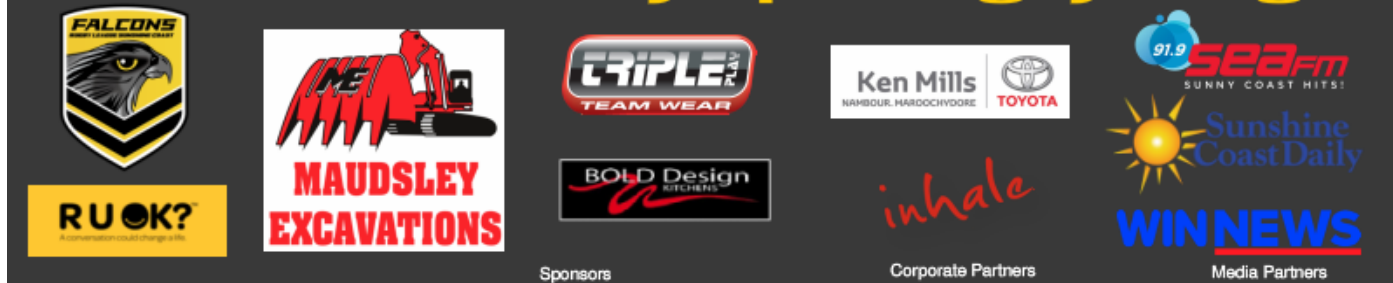
The Board had also allowed for flexibility in this plan for clubs to return to a Home and Away format at their home clubs if current restrictions set by the QLD government were further lifted to increase spectator numbers under Stage 3 guidelines and if their home grounds met the CoVid-Safe guidelines. The League would also contribute to cover most of the volunteer requirements at a centralised location with the assistance of volunteers from the Sunshine Coast Falcons staff, NRL development staff, board members and a number of our regular volunteers that assist the league throughout a normal season.

Out of our 9 clubs with A Grade teams, 6 teams decided not to nominate teams this year due to various reasons- a shortened season based on club finances, concerns for players and volunteers health risks and number of additional volunteers required to carry out the CoVid-Safe requirements under the QRL Return to play guidelines, and the season running through to October in lieu of mid-September as a normal season would. One A Grade team had nominated not to play unless it was under a home and away format only.

During the final deliberations, the board had also given consideration to a number of alternate proposals that had been put forward from clubs and local QRL staff including a representative style season with players from 4 areas of the Sunshine Coast coming together to play at the centralised venue which the board decided against as we wanted to keep our competition on the Sunshine Coast all-inclusive of all players, not just a select players.

On behalf of the board of directors we would like to give our sincere thanks to our competition major sponsors Niall and Linda Maudsley of Maudsley Excavations for their continued support of rugby league on the Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Regional Council for assisting us with providing a way forward with the usage of the Sunshine Coast Stadium Precinct venue, our media partners WIN TV News, Sunshine Coast Daily and 91.9 Sea FM and our wonderful volunteers who had offered their time to make this a possibility .

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Thank you also to Chris Flannery for your support behind the proposed competition which also allowed for the Under 20's SC Falcons to form a team along with the ISC Falcons players having an opportunity to play in their allocated local teams.

We would also like to thank the Sunshine Coast Referees association for their support and reduced fee proposal to assist with the return to play this year.

Thank you to all of our clubs in our SCGRL Senior competition for your assistance and valued feedback over the last few weeks and for your continued support of the Sunshine Coast and to all of our players who have been anxiously awaiting a decision.

Lastly, a special thanks to Adam Kruger from Caloundra Sharks Rugby League and Shannan Roy from Beerwah Bulldogs clubs for their unwavering support of the league and offering their ideas to the league to assist in trying to get the competition up and running this year and all the efforts of their respective clubs committees.

We look forward to moving forward with planning for the 2021 Sunshine Coast Rugby League season.

Yours in Sport,

The Board of Directors
Sunshine Coast Gympie Rugby League