

RLB MEMO

Our Reference: RLBM06.20



To: RLB All Clubs
From: Scott Dunshea
CC: RLB Board, RLB Staff, RLB Referee Association
Date: 17th June 2020
RE: **2020 RLB Return to Play Announcement**

Hi All,

The Rugby League Brisbane Board (RLB) at its meeting on Tuesday night this week have voted for a return to play in Brisbane for the 2020 season.

Following the release of the QRL Return to play handbook and relevant government guidelines a consultative process was undertaken with all Brisbane clubs and survey feedback from clubs was provided with 82% of clubs either fully committed or most likely to return to play under the current guidelines that are in place. Of the remaining 18% of clubs only 4% of clubs have indicated they would not return and the other 10% a chance of still returning depending if restrictions are eased at stage 3 of the Queensland Government Roadmap.

Under the current restrictions in place the RLB board has indicated that commencement for Junior Rugby League will be in a staged approach as follows,

U6's & U7's – Commence on weekend of 18th/19th July 2020

U8's – U12's – Commence on weekend of 25th / 26th July 2020

U13's – U18's – Commence on weekend of 1st / 2nd August 2020

All international age groups will play a minimum of 10 rounds of rugby league with teams having the opportunity to play finals rugby league over a two-week period with division one teams finishing on the 18th October and lower divisions a week earlier on the 11th October.

The 7-12's year age groups with play between 10-12 rounds of rugby league to finish on the 11th October with the 6's at this stage playing 10 rounds and finishing on the 20th September.

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Eight of the nine 'A' Grade BRL clubs will be returning to the **BRL In Safe Hands 'A' Grade competition** in 2020 and will also commence on weekend 1st / 2nd August 2020. The competition will be split into two four team conferences (North & South) with each conference playing each other twice and playing the other conference once to give a 10 round competition plus a finals series over two weeks with the grand final being held on the 18th October 2020. The RLB Open men's competition will also commence and finish on the same dates with structure to be determined once nominations are received.

The RLB board appreciates and understands that these have been trying times for all our clubs especially financially with the board confirming they will provide some financial assistance to all junior clubs who return to play in 2020.

- All affiliation and nominations fees will be reduced via a pro rata systems for all junior teams in 2020
- A one-off contribution of \$1000 will be provided to assist with costs for junior clubs in 2020

The RLB board would like to thank all our clubs, members and its volunteers on their patience and hard work in getting your clubs ready for a return to rugby league in 2020.

Regards



Scott Dunshea
Manager Rugby League Brisbane
QRL South East Division