



16th March 2020

Dear Downs Rugby Community,

Just received notification from QRU as follows: (4pm Qld time Monday 16 March 2020).

Downs Rugby Limited Board will meet this week, in the meantime, please abide by the direction comply with the QRU Directive in the interests of Public Health

You will be sent communications through Electronic Mail Distribution from Rugby Australia and Queensland Rugby Union Ltd. at approximately 4:00pm AEST (QLD time).

Queensland

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/.../guidelines-proced.../diseases-infection/diseases/coronavirus>

Regards,

Matt Hammond | General Manager

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>> A copy of the QRU Statement appears below:

On behalf of Queensland Rugby we would like to thank you for your assistance in managing a response to this extraordinary situation. This has been mirrored by all state unions in collaboration with the Rugby Australia.

While this communication piece is significant, it will not be our last. The intent is to continue with a daily email to this group until otherwise advised. The current practice of responding to this email has proved effective over the recent period and we should continue this practice.



Queensland Rugby Union statement regarding community Rugby and COVID-19

Following the announcement by Rugby Australia this afternoon relating to COVID-19 and community rugby across Australia, Queensland Rugby Union (QRU) and therefore Downs Rugby Limited, will suspend all affiliated and sanctioned community Rugby competitions - including training - until Saturday, 2 May 2020.

The sanctioning of competitions is one of the QRU's key responsibilities, along with full compliance with our public health responsibilities around grass-roots Rugby.

During this time, the QRU is encouraging clubs and other affiliated bodies to follow public health information and procedures regarding containment of the spread of COVID-19, from the World Health Organisation, Australian Federal Government, Rugby Australia and Queensland Health.

There are immediate logistical issues for clubs affiliated to the QRU, meaning clubs would often exceed the mandatory Federal Government mass-gathering policy.

The recommended suspension would leave a window from Saturday 2 May through to Saturday 12 September 2020, preserved for local club competitions to be played, if circumstances allow.

Schools Rugby governance will continue to sit with the relevant principal and associated administrations.

QRU CEO David Hanham said: "This public health emergency we're working through is unprecedented and today's announcement on community Rugby takes into account all the relevant information provided by public health bodies, government and Rugby Australia.

"We're putting in place policies and procedures that don't place players, volunteers, staff and other stakeholders at unnecessary risk.

"This moratorium on community Rugby also allows the QRU time to plan at the community level and implement new participation/competition structures that would allow Queenslanders to participate in Rugby within the designated window, should circumstances allow.



"We will continue work with our clubs and affiliate bodies on measures to assist them during this challenging period, we're mindful that this global health-crisis is bigger than sport and the health and welfare of the communities of Queensland remain our priority."

Regards

Gaven Head General Manager – Community Rugby

Queensland Rugby Union

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