Rugby League

Activity scope
This document relates to student participation in Rugby League as a curriculum activity including the teaching of rugby league skills, team training and competition matches conducted by schools.

Special considerations
Where the rules and procedures of a Rugby League competition impose additional or more stringent safety requirements than are listed below, then those competition rules and procedures must take precedence.

Minimum activity-specific qualifications for supervisors

Note: During competition, a qualified first aid officer/sports trainer should be readily accessible to the field(s) of play to provide immediate first aid assistance. There must be phone access to call an ambulance if required.

Medium risk (modified games/competition adhering to the National Safeplay Code)

- For a registered teacher:
  - Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program Rugby League Coaching Course, OR
  - Level 1 coaching qualifications from Queensland Rugby League, OR
  - Competence (demonstrated ability/experience) in the teaching of Rugby League.

- For a leader other than a registered teacher:
  - Get Active QLD Accreditation Rugby League Coaching Course, OR
  - Level 1 coaching qualifications from Queensland Rugby League.

High risk (unmodified games/competition)

- For a registered teacher:
  - Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program Rugby League Coaching Course, OR
  - Level 1 coaching qualifications from Queensland Rugby League
  - Familiarity with the Australian Rugby League National Safeplay Code and coaching qualifications from Queensland Rugby League
  - for players 12 years & under Modified Games Coach, OR
  - for players 13 years & over International Games Coach.

- Competition games must be controlled by competent coaches and officials. The minimum requirements are:
  - a registered teacher, Level 1 Modified/Level 1 International accreditation and competence (i.e. demonstrated ability) in refereeing the game of Rugby League, OR
  - a qualified referee with Level 1 International (Schools) accreditation for 13 years and over matches, OR
  - a qualified referee with Level 1 Modified (Schools) accreditation for 12 years and under matches.

- A referee who is currently a student of a participating school should not be appointed to referee a game in which his/her school is playing, unless no other referee is available and there is agreement by officials of both teams for that to occur.

- In competition games where touch judges are not provided by the Referees' Association, each school should endeavour to provide a competent touch judge (such as an older student or parent).

Minimum activity-specific equipment/facilities

- Goal posts must be padded.
- Corner flags and other markers should be made of non-injurious material.
- Injury management procedure (including for head injuries) in place.
- Mouthguards are recommended for full contact games. Parental permission should be sought for students to participate without a mouthguard.
- Consider body padding for full contact games.
- Ensure that player equipment, including footwear and other protective items, complies with age and standard levels appropriate to the laws of the game.
- Recommended clearance of 5 metres surrounding the play area. Consider the participants’ ability level, age, size and the competition when determining the appropriate clearance.
- Some suggested alternate controls where minimum boundary clearance is not met:
  - reduce the size of the playing field to achieve an adequate clearance zone
  - remove spectators/dangerous obstacles within the clearance zone
  - provide instructions to the official/supervisors and players about the limited clearance zone
  - station supervisors near any obstacles within the clearance zone.

Activity-specific hazards/risks and suggested control measures
- Rules for the games of mini and mod league should be used for the specified age groups.
- The activity should include modified games that match the skill and fitness levels of students.
- Teachers should identify students who may be suffering an existing injury and where necessary seek first aid treatment.
- Ensure procedures are established for the management of any student receiving an injury to the head.
- Ensure students do not return to playing after injury until it is clear that the injury has been managed. If in doubt, the student should not play until medically cleared.
- Ensure strict adherence to rules of rugby league, especially Australian Rugby League National Safeplay Code where required.
- Select students on the basis of ability, size and suitability for the position(s) they are to play (for example, students with long thin necks should not play in the scrum).
- Note that in competition games for students aged 15 years and younger, the age difference of team members should be no greater than two years. Students turning 16 years of age in the year of competition are permitted to play in 18 years and under competitions, as per the Queensland Rugby League rules.
- Boots should be inspected before each match. Boots with loose, sharp-edged or excessively worn studs and sharp-edged soles should not be worn.
- Guidelines/codes of practice are established for this activity, refer to Queensland Rugby League, and Australian Rugby League.

Useful activity-specific links
- Australian Rugby League
  http://www.nrl.com/
- Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program
- National Safeplay Code
- Queensland Rugby League