

Community Rugby League Growth Funding Program

Guidelines for Districts, Groups and Clubs



Purpose of the program

The Community Rugby League Growth Funding Program has been established to strengthen Community Rugby League across New South Wales and ACT by supporting:

- strong and compliant competitions
- safe, inclusive and well-governed environments
- sustainable growth in participation and player retention

The program is administered by the NSW Community Rugby Leagues Association (NSWCRLA) with funding provided by the Australian Rugby League Commission through NSW Rugby League.

Who can apply

Applications are open only to:

- NSWCRLA member Districts or Groups, and
- their affiliated Clubs.

Funding overview

- Grants will generally range from \$5,000 to \$15,000 per project unless otherwise approved.
- Projects must align to one of the three priority funding streams.
- Funding supports delivery during the 2026 season or preparatory work that enables sustainable outcomes.

Priority funding streams

- **Club and Competition support** - supports Clubs and Leagues to deliver high-quality, well-run, and compliant competitions. Example initiatives:
 - game-day operations and match-day support
 - ground setup and essential match equipment
 - first-aid and medical equipment
 - compliance tools and resources
 - essential safety equipment
- **Safe environments and volunteer capability** - builds the skills, knowledge and compliance capability of volunteers and strengthens governance and safeguarding systems. Example initiatives:
 - volunteer accreditation and training
 - safeguarding and child safety training
 - governance and compliance resources
 - policy development tools
- **Growth in participation and player retention** - supports programs and initiatives that attract, engage and retain players and volunteers. Example initiatives:

- school-to-Club participation
- female participation initiatives
- culturally inclusive programs
- new-format activities
- recruitment and volunteer engagement initiatives

Grant-writing support

Grant-writing support is eligible only where it directly assists Clubs or Associations to secure external funding for Rugby League infrastructure projects such as lighting, changerooms, amenities or facility compliance upgrades.

It is not intended for general administration or sponsorship purposes.

Assessment and decision-making

Applications will be assessed by a Funding Committee with representation from ARLC, NSWRL and NSWCRLA.

Decisions will be based on alignment, need, feasibility and impact.

Key dates

- **Applications open:** Monday 9 February 2026
- **Applications close:** 5pm on Monday 16 March 2026
- **Successful projects announced:** April 2026

Application process

Applications must be submitted via the Cogito online application form: <https://bit.ly/4akB27M>

Outcomes and reporting

Successful applicants will be expected to deliver the approved project and provide a brief update on outcomes and impact.

Outcomes may be shared to promote good practice across Community Rugby League.

More information:

For further information about the Community Rugby League Growth Funding Program, including eligibility, application support or guidance on suitable projects, please contact:

NSW Community Rugby Leagues Association (NSWCRLA)

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