

The Queensland Rugby League recognises the impact behaviour on and off the field has at Community Rugby League clubs and that creating a fun and safe environment for participants is everyone's responsibility. In addition to the ongoing implementation of the Positive Environment Program and our junior referee Green Sock campaign, this May the QRL are asking Community Rugby League Clubs and Match Officials to participate in Respect Month.

Below is some information on QRL Respect Month 2024 and how your club or league can get involved! We will be sharing further information and resources in the coming weeks, however we encourage you to take a look at this document and begin plans on how your club can promote respectful behaviours in the game of Rugby League and the greater community.

QRL Respect Month

QRL Respect Month will be held across all QRL competitions throughout the month of May. QRL Respect Month is an opportunity for clubs and leagues to remind their participants, volunteers, families, and spectators that creating a fun and safe experience in our game is everyone's responsibility. A key part of this is showing respect to others. It's important to not only respect others, but to respect yourself and respect the game of Rugby League. This is an opportunity for club's to show the standards they expect at their home matches and to set an example and ask other club's to join them in ensuring our Rugby League community is a positive, fun, safe and respectful environment for all.

Participating in Respect Month

To kick-off Respect Month, Hostplus Cup and BMD Premiership competitions will be hosting a Respect Round on the weekend of May 4th and 5th. Community Rugby League clubs have been invited to host a Respect Round on a weekend across the month of May that best suits their local draw.

Below is a list of guidelines and recommendations for hosting a successful Respect Round.

Respect Month Game Day Guidelines:

Participating in Respect Month is simple! We ask clubs to please follow the below process prior to kick-off of each game:

- Team captains and match officials meet in the middle of the field to shake hands as a sign of respect
- Supporters to give a round of applause to show commitment to creating a positive and respectful environment for the game ahead
- **Share photos and/or videos of your club participating throughout Respect Month to social media using #QRLRespectMonth**

Note: please ensure appropriate consent has been given for images/video of children to be shared. Community Rugby League Photography/Videography Consent Form can be found on qrl.com.au/clubhouse.

Additional Resources and Recommendations:

In Australia, each year the month of May is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month. In addition to ensuring we create safe, fun, and respectful Rugby League environments we also want to take this opportunity to show support to our greater community and ensure these positive behaviours continue outside of our game. Ways in which you can do this are:

- QRL Support Squad: Ensure your Support Squad member is visible at training and game days. If your club does not have a Support Squad representative you can nominate someone [via this link](#).
- Respectful Relationships Education: Complete an expression of interest form for one of our Club Education Wellbeing Managers to deliver a “Respectful Relationships Program” session at your club. EOI form can be found [via this link](#).
- Wellbeing Support: Ensure your club has contact details for White Cloud Foundation (QRL’s Community Rugby League Wellbeing Provider) displayed – poster attached
- The following support services have FREE resources on their website:
 - 1800RESPECT - <https://shout.finsbury.com.au/ustore/74/Home>
 - DV Connect - <https://www.dvconnect.org/about-us/brochures/>
 - 13YARN - <https://www.13yarn.org.au/>