

Bundaberg SHS

RUGBY LEAGUE

2026



BUNDABERG SHS HORNETS

RUGBY LEAGUE

“S.W.A.R.M” FOCUS

S - SUPPORT

Players will always:

- Back your teammates, on and off the field.
- Team-first mentality, no one left behind.

W - WORK ETHIC

Players will always:

- Give 100% effort every class, every session, every game and every play.
- Embrace hard work in training and games.

A - ACCOUNTABILITY

Players will always:

- Own their actions, mistakes and effort.
- Be responsible to yourself, your team and the program.

R - RESILIENCE

Players will always:

- Bounce back from mistakes, setbacks, and tough moments.
- Push through challenges with mental toughness.

M - MINDSET

Players will always:

- Stay focused, disciplined and positive.
- Lead with intention and maintain composure under pressure.



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Overview



PROGRAM

The Bundaberg State High School Rugby League program provides students with the opportunity to develop their skills through focused high-performance coaching, specialist guest speakers, camps and training sessions in and out of class times lead by expert sporting excellence teachers with years of experience. Students will also be competing at a range of statewide competitions.

Students' skills will be developed by:

- Fitness testing compared to the Queensland Rugby League benchmarking standards.
- Specific strength and conditioning programming for different stages of development.
- Coaching of individual skills including specific position development.
- Coaching of system attack and defence concepts.
- Game knowledge and field positioning specific strategy.
- Practical game application.
- Access to multiple statewide competitions.
- Access to refereeing qualifications.

Our Program Coaching Staff



Mark Handley has led the Bundaberg SHS Rugby League program since 2017. A proud former student, he brings more than 16 years of coaching experience across club, school, and representative levels, and holds Level 2 Senior Club Coach and Level 1 Sports Trainer qualifications. Program achievements under his leadership include girls' teams reaching multiple Karyn Murphy Cup State Finals Series, NRL Schoolboys Cup debuts for both Year 10 and Open squads, and consecutive NRL Trophy Finals in 2018–19, highlighted by a dominant 2018 championship. Mark has also strengthened pathways through the CQ Capras Elite Player Academy and developed strong partnerships with the Dolphins NRL Club and Wide Bay Bulls. Passionate and committed, Mark continues to shape a competitive, inclusive, and high-performing Rugby League culture at Bundaberg SHS—one that supports student-athletes, builds character, and creates long-term opportunities on and off the field.



Scott Byron brings extensive experience to Rugby League coaching and athlete development, with eight years of coaching across club, school, and representative levels, and a decade working as a Strength and Conditioning Coach. His coaching highlights include leading Open Boys teams in the Broncos Gee Shield Cup and Titans Cup, guiding 12–14 Boys Struddies squads, coaching 14–15 Central Comets representative teams, and heading the 17–18 Western Rangers side. Scott has also served as Manager for the 17–18 Boys Wide Bay team, 15s Ipswich Jets RISE Development Coach, and contributed to elite player pathways as an International Games Coach supporting multiple school Rugby League programs. With a strong blend of coaching expertise and athlete conditioning knowledge, Scott delivers a high-performance, professional, and player-focused approach that develops talent, builds pathways, and lifts the overall standard of Rugby League programs.



Lucy Hooper has a strong background in player pathways, community coaching, and high-performance Rugby League programs. She holds League Safe and Level 1 Sports Trainer accreditations, Community Coach and Youth Development coach qualifications, Certificate III & IV in Fitness, First Aid/CPR, and a Bachelor of Youth Work, giving her the ability to support both the athletic and personal development of young players. Her coaching experience spans school, club, representative, and RISE programs, including roles as Bundaberg SHS Girls Rugby League Coach, BDSSS and Wide Bay 17–18 Years Girls Coach, Bundaberg Junior Rugby League U15 Girls Coach, RISE Head Coach, and Wide Bay Bulls U17 Girls Assistant Coach. Recent appointments include Head Coach of Bundaberg JRL U15 Girls (2024), RISE U14 Girls Head Coach (2024), Assistant Coach and Level 1 Sports Trainer with the Wide Bay Bulls Harvey Norman U17 Girls (2023–2025), and Level 1 Sports Trainer for the Wide Bay Bulls Open Women in 2025. A former NRL Game Development Officer and current Open Women's Rugby League player, Lucy brings firsthand elite-level experience to her coaching. Her combined expertise in youth development, coaching, and athlete welfare ensures a professional, supportive, and player-focused approach that strengthens pathways and promotes long-term success for young female athletes.



Corey Findlay is an experienced Rugby League coach and former BRL A-Grade representative player who brings strong on-field knowledge, leadership, and technical skill to the program. Over the past three years, he has contributed to both district (Bundaberg) and regional (Wide Bay) school Rugby League pathways as a committed member of the coaching staff. Corey holds Level 1 Community Coach and Level 1 Sports Trainer accreditations and has coached the Bundaberg SHS Dolphins Plate and Shield teams for three consecutive seasons. His coaching focuses on developing young athletes through strong fundamentals, teamwork, and game awareness, helping build confident and competitive players within the school's Rugby League pathway.

Opportunities



Students will be subject to Dolphin's development clinics and tour of Dolphins training facilities on an excursion including watching an NRL game.

Students in our year 9 and 10 program classes get the opportunity to attend our inaugural Dolphins NRL Rugby League excursion. The tour includes a full behind the scenes tour of Kayo stadium, player training facilities, wellbeing and personal branding talk and attending an NRL game.



In 2026 we have the opportunity to attend the Queensland State Schools Cup which is a competition that has been created for State Schools only to rival private schools Confraternity. This competition will see both an open boy and girls' teams in attendance from Bundaberg SHS.

The State Schools Cup is a growing open-age (16–18 years) 13-a-side competition that showcases Rugby League talent from state high schools across Queensland. Joining this carnival marks a significant milestone for Bundy High and reflects the continued growth of our Rugby League Program.



There has been a major development over the last couple of years with our girls Rugby League, 2026 is no different. Girls will be attending multiple statewide competitions attending Karyn Murphy Cup carnival. This carnival can progress on to Toowoomba to play a state final carnival against the best schools in Queensland. Our 9/10 and open girls will be competing in a Dolphins statewide competition that is parallel to the boys' competitions. This is an exciting new competition that gives the girls a greater opportunity to participate in 13 a side competition.



Boys have the opportunity to compete in statewide competitions, NRL Trophy, Queensland State Schools Cup, Dolphins Plate and Shield Competitions.

The Dolphins Plate and Shield Competitions are second-tier school Rugby League competitions featuring schools from Hervey Bay to Rockhampton, and west to Emerald. The competitions are held over several weeks and conclude with a final's series, providing an important pathway for emerging Rugby League talent in the region to the Dolphins development, including Bundaberg SHS teams.

Pathways

AFFILIATES



Bundaberg State High School has a strong affiliation with the Wide Bay Bulls through past coaching staff and links to resources. In 2025 Bundaberg State High School was used as the hub for the Bundaberg players in the Bulls system. We recommend that our students' trial to be in this system and represent our region in the QRL Cyril Connell and Mal Meninga competitions.

Dolphins' development officer has a strong presence in Bundaberg and Bundaberg SHS with development sessions being run at the school. Dolphins development squad is also held in the region where young players from the region get talent identified. Students from Bundaberg State High School are currently and have been in these squads.

DISTRICT SPORT

District sport is separate from interschool sport and acts as a pathway for students at Bundaberg SHS to represent their region in Rugby League. Students that wish to trial for district then regional teams must attend Bundaberg trials, forms for this can be collected from the sports coordinator.

This pathway would require students to attend the Bundaberg district trials, if selected they would then attend Wide Bay trials which then would hopefully see them attend the State Championships. This is a fantastic pathway that we support, State Championships is a carnival that brings together all the best talent in Queensland. Brining talent identification scouts from development pathways and affiliate NRL teams.



Cost

District sport trials have no cost requirements as they are held locally. Regional trials to make the Wide Bay team hold costs that will cover both the bus and trial levy.

Nominations

Nomination forms will be emailed out to students, placed on the notices or collected from the sports coordinator. It is the student's responsibility to collect or print out forms to take to the district sport trials. Regional trial forms will be given to the students at the trials once obtaining selection into the regional team.

Apparel

2026 Training Kit

Each year Bundaberg State High School develops a training kit that represents our valued sponsors. Students within our Rugby League program are required to purchase the training apparel as it will be worn in class for training, to excursions and to games. Students who aren't in the program also have the opportunity to purchase this training kit and support our Rugby League Program.

Training apparel will be able to be purchased from Struddys website store, and all orders will be sent to the school and distributed to the students. Rugby League coordinator will email out the link, and a Facebook post will be made for easy access.

Training Shirt and Shorts: \$56



Playing Kit and Backpack: \$114 plus GST

Please note this is only available for our Opens boys and girls' teams who will be competing at the Queensland State Schools Cup.



2026 Calendar

TERM 1

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1					30/1/2026 Program Fitness Testing	
2				5/2/2026 BDSSS Trials		
3	09/02/2026 Dolphins NRL Girls Come and Try					
4		17/2/2026 13-19 WBSS Trials			20/2/2026 10/Opens Camp Girls Beach Day	21/2/2026 10/Opens Camp
5		24/2/2026 State Schools Trial Games				
6		3/3/2026 9's Gala Day				
7		10/3/2026 State Schools Trial Games				
8	16/3/2026 BDPSS Trials					
9	23/3/2026 BDPSS Trials	24/3/2026 State Schools Trial Games				
10	30/3/2026 BDPSS Trials	31/3/2026 Open Girls 10 Boys Gala				



2026 Calendar

TERM 2

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1			22/4/2026 Program Fitness Testing		24/4/2026 Program Fitness Testing	
2				30/4/2026 15-16 and 17-18 Girls SC	1/5/2026 15-16 and 17-18 Girls SC	2/5/2026 15-16 and 17-18 Girls SC
3			6/5/2026 KMC			
4	11/5/2026 7-9 Boys vs Shalom 7/8 Girls vs North					
5	18/5/2026 7-9 Boys vs Shalom			21/5/2026 15-16 and 17-18 Boys SC	22/5/2026 15-16 and 17-18 Boys SC	22/5/2026 15-16 and 17-18 Boys SC
6	25/5/2026 7-9 Boys vs Shalom 7/8 Girls vs North		27/5/2026 Dolphins RD1			
7			3/6/2026 Dolphins RD2			
8	8/6/2026 7-9 Boys vs Shalom 7/8 Girls vs North		10/6/2026 Dolphins RD3			
9			17/6/2026 Dolphins F			
10			24/6/2026 QSSC	25/6/2026 QSSC	26/6/2026 QSSC	



2026 Calendar

TERM 3

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1						
2			22/7/2026 Program Fitness Testing		24/7/2026 Program Fitness Testing	
3						
4						
5						
6						
7				27/8/2026 NRL Tour	28/8/2026 NRL Tour	
8						
9						
10						



2026 Calendar

TERM 4

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1			7/10/2026 Program Fitness Testing		9/10/2026 Program Fitness Testing	
2		13/10/2026 Gladstone Tour TBA				
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

