

RFL COMMUNITY BOARD SUMMARY – 10TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Dear Community Game Colleagues,

On Wednesday, the Community Board formally discussed the next step of shaping the future of our sport through the creation of the National Community Rugby League (NCRL). The objective is for Community Rugby League to be delivered through a newly branded single, consistent competition structure across the Country.

We have been consulting, and from listening, we know that evolution is needed. Clubs and volunteers have faced real financial and operational pressures, open-age playing numbers have declined, and behaviours across the game have at times not reflected the values of rugby league. Without action, these challenges will only grow.

The NCRL will:

- Put players, coaches, and volunteers at the heart of decision-making
- Deliver competitions that are sustainable, enjoyable, and developmental
- Reduce pressure on clubs by minimising travel, costs, and administration
- Provide a consistent and fair structure that unites the whole community game

This is a fantastic opportunity to build a stronger, more inclusive, and more sustainable rugby league for everyone.

What happens next

- Over the next weeks, we will also be meeting with Open Age competitions to ensure their views are heard and reflected.
- On 20th September, we will be meeting with Youth & Junior Leagues to discuss how these changes will apply in practice.
- On 24th September, we invite all Clubs to an online webinar, where we will share the details of the NCRL, answer questions, and explain what this means for you.
- Community Board to reconvene on the 8th of October.
- I have been meeting with Clubs and Leagues over recent months to listen, gather feedback, and ensure that every part of the community game has a voice in shaping this future.

We want every Club to feel part of this journey. The NCRL will only succeed if it works for the people who bring rugby league to life every week — you, your players, and your volunteers.

Thank you, as always, for everything you do for our sport.

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