Queensland Representative School Sport

# The Game Plan

'The Game Plan' is Queensland Representative School Sport's bulletin designed to deliver news, once per term, to the dedicated players in our sporting arena.

QRSS has provided Queensland school students opportunities to access quality competitive sporting pathways for over 100 years. With district, regional, state and national level events supported by over 4,000 team officials and 200 Board, Committee and Executive members, no wonder the program delivers a world class product.

\*If this was forwarded to you, subscribe here to receive The Game Plan direct to your inbox.

### **Our Teams, Our People!**

Queensland Representative School Sport takes pride in individuals who harbor a passion for our program and is delighted to spotlight the personal journeys of some of our inspiring individuals, shedding light on the positive influence our representative school sport program has on people, in their own way.

Watch their inspiring journeys here.

Deanna Turner grew up in Mirani, North Queensland, playing netball during her younger years. She proudly represented both her school and the small town near Mackay across a range of sports. Her athletic journey included State and National netball championships, leading to her selection in the Queensland Firebirds. Despite her initial focus on netball, Deanna decided to explore Rugby League at the suggestion of some friends and found herself representing her state and nation in her new sport as well.



Through her dedication to sport, Deanna has enjoyed many opportunities and, today, she serves as the QRSS Rugby League 18 years girls Queensland team coach, investing her time in providing students a genuine pathway.



Alexa Leary competed in a variety of sports at school leading her to represent Queensland at the School Sport Australia National Championships and then Australia, in Triathlon. Unfortunately, a training accident shattered her dreams. Medical professionals predicted she would never walk or talk again, let alone participate in sport, turning her family's world upside down. Despite facing one of Australia's most severe cases of traumatic brain injury, Alexa

underwent two years of intensive rehabilitation and has since made a remarkable comeback as a para swimmer in the S9 category, competing on the international stage once again. Alexa remains

determined and resilient in her pursuit of goals, albeit on a different path. Her unyielding spirit recently earned her the prestigious title of the 2023 AIS Discovery Athlete of the Year.

Jaspa Fletcher, a current Brisbane Lions grand finalist, made his debut in 2023 after emerging from the Queensland academy pathway and representing the junior club of Sherwood. His journey through the Queensland Representative School Sport pathway as a junior saw him competing for his school at both State and National Championships. Following an impressive 2022 campaign at the under-18 level, Fletcher caught the attention of the Brisbane Lions and was selected at the 2022



NAB AFL draft. Notably, he clinched the Hunter Harrison Medal as the best and fairest player in the Academy series and showcased his prowess by averaging 23 disposals at the National Championships in 2022.





#### **Student Referee/Umpires Program**

Calling interested students! Register now for your opportunity to be part of the 2024 Student Officials program and be an Umpire or Ref at a State Championship.



Register here

# **Recognising QRSS Team Officials**



Congratulations to all the QRSS dedicated officials, you do an amazing job.

Special recognition also goes to:

- Kristen Knight Far North Queensland: AFL Queensland Female Teacher of the Year 2023
- Cameron Hutchins Sunshine Coast: Hockey 20 years' Queensland Service Award & Life Membership and SSA Service Award
- Pia Leinonen Metropolitan West: Hockey Queensland Service Award
- Beth Henderson Metropolitan North: Hockey 20 years' Queensland Service Award & Life Membership
- Alyson Aleksic Metropolitan North: Hockey 30 years' Queensland Service Award
- Dale Beecher Sunshine Coast: 35 years' Queensland Service Award
- Matt Barritt Sunshine Coast: Hockey SSA Service Award

\* let us know others out there who deserve recognition. We know there are a lot of you.

## **New QRSS Offerings in 2024**



# **School Sport Competitions 2024**

- <u>AFLQ Schools Cup</u> The StreetSmarts AFLQ Schools Cup is back and better than ever in 2024, with nominations open for primary and secondary schools today.
- <u>Netball</u> The Vicki Wilson Championship and Boys Open is the premier netball competition for secondary schools across Queensland.
- Cricket StreetSmarts Secondary School T20 Challenge promotes and develops the game of cricket throughout the State for male and female secondary school students. Zone and regional co-ordinator opportunities currently exist. Contact <u>Adam.Paroz@gldcricket.com.au</u> for details.
- <u>Champion Basketball School of Qld competition</u> The CBSQ tournament is the premier school basketball tournament in Queensland catering for different age groups, locations and talent levels.
- <u>Volleyball Schools Cup</u> The premier school volleyball competition in Queensland for primary and secondary schools.
- <u>All Schools Touch Football</u> Gold Coast Titans All Schools (GCTAS) is the world's largest touch football tournament, with over 530 national and international teams, run by Queensland Touch Football each year.
- <u>Rugby League Schoolboy and schoolgirl competitions</u> Nominations are now open for the 2024 NRL Major School Competitions in Queensland.
- <u>Schools Rugby competitions</u> For information and nominations regarding Schools Rugby and the Ballymore Cup.

# **Student Funding Opportunities**

QRSS is committed to ensuring we provide support in all aspects of our program. Funding assistance may be available to assist students. For specific information, please visit the websites listed below.

- <u>Emerging Athlete Pathway</u> all State Championships (except the 10-11 years Rugby League and Netball)
- Local Sporting Champions
- Sports Excellence Scholarship Fund
- South West Indigenous Network (SWIN) Pathways Program
- FairPlay Vouchers (for sport and active recreation)
- School P&C associations seek support through your school
- Council Grants refer to your local council

Please note: these programs are not managed by QRSS and therefore QRSS is unable to comment on eligibility or other details.



QRSS is committed to providing opportunities for students and staff to develop the values of leadership, resilience, teamwork and sportsmanship on and off the field. 'Around the Grounds' provides links to various reference points and opportunities. Please share this information through your contact channels.

- <u>Australian Sport Participation Strategy</u>
- Australian 2032+ High Performance Sport Strategy
- <u>Community Coaching</u>
- <u>Community coaching masterclasses</u>
- <u>Community officiating</u>
- Sport Governance
- <u>Accessibility</u>



• Australian Sporting Alliance for People with a Disability (ASAPD)

Let us know if you have an event, or opportunity, you would like promoted here.

#### New QRSS Uniforms have arrived!



Queensland Representative School Sport welcomes Struddys to our program, as the official uniform provider for 2024. As well as offering stylish new uniforms State Championship merchandise will also be available online and at events.

See the promotional video here.

#### Click here for the online portal.

#### **Students delivering with QRSS**

The QRSS Student Advisory Committee (SAC) offers insights and counsel to QRSS, shaping the future landscape of school sport in Queensland, from a student perspective. The program's objective is to foster student leadership and promote community engagement, with a focus on 'leading school communities to make a difference in the world of school sport.' Students not only develop leadership skills, but also use their experiences, to bring ideas to fruition, ensuring accessible opportunities for all Queensland students in school sport.

The 2023 SAC focussed on two key areas:

- Student official opportunities
- Multi-class opportunities

Kaylea C, a student from Gordonvale State High School, and member of the QRSS SAC, initiated an 'All Abilities Touch Football training program'. Conducted in partnership with Gordonvale State School and Isabella State School, with the aim to raise awareness and create opportunities for multi-class students. She is planning to collaborate with Peninsula School Sport, organising an All Abilities Touch Football event linked to regional trials in 2024.

Moving into 2024, the collaboration will continue, with *Future Anything* joining forces to support students in networking and further collaboration opportunities.

Register now: Student Advisory Committee 2024



# Sport can't help my teen at school, can it?

The Department of Education has developed a valuable resource on their <u>Spark their Future website</u>.

This resource delves into the positive influence of sports and physical activity on students' health and learning abilities.

Additionally, the website features numerous articles providing guidance for parents and young athletes, addressing the various challenges students may encounter throughout their school years.





# 2024 QRSS Official's Induction and Training Details

Congratulations to all district regional and state officials selected for the QRSS 2024 program. Don't forget to complete your mandatory training. Links to the training is available through your regional sports office. Certificates of completion are to be sent to the respective officer, relevant to the level you are engaged at, by the end of February. Officers include:

- District chair/secretary (District level)
- Regional School Sport Officer (Regional level)
- QRSS Sport Officer (State Level)

This training program, as well as your concussion management training and all required QRSS documentation, must be submitted to complete the QRSS induction.

## **Get in Touch**

Have a story you would like to share? Feedback or other queries?







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