

**LEAGUE
OF LEGENDS**



**100 YEARS
OF RUGBY LEAGUE
IN AUSTRALIA**

League of Legends: fast facts about rugby league

- In 1908, only players chosen to represent Australia in overseas tours were known as the Kangaroos. More recently the term has been used to embrace all Australian representative rugby league teams.
- 33 clubs have played in the Sydney-based competition over the years. Only two foundation clubs remain as their original entities.
- The Winfield Cup, Optus Cup and the Telstra Premiership Trophy all depict the gladiators image of Norm Provan and Arthur Summons taken after the 1963 Grand final.
- In 1974, man of the match for a mid-week Amco Cup match received a new pair of jeans.
- The biggest rugby league crowd was 104,583 at the Sydney Olympic Stadium in March 1999. The event was used as a test for the Olympic facilities and the crowd saw a double header of Newcastle versus Manly and Parramatta versus St. George.
- Four television channels have at some stage televised rugby league.
- Many players have gone on to have careers in the media, including Rex Mossop, Paul Vautin and Andrew Ettinghausen.
- It was originally Dally Messenger's mother, Annie, who James Giltinan, Victor Trumper and Henry Hoyle had to seek permission from for Dally to defect from rugby union to rugby league.
- Legendary Frenchman Puig Aubert had to the nickname 'pipette' after his habit of smoking while playing matches.
- The Courtney Goodwill Trophy was the first trophy presented for international rugby league. Starting in 1936, the trophy depicts pioneering greats of the code: James Lomas (England) Jean Galia (France) Albert Baskerville (New Zealand) and Dally Messenger (Australia).
- The Maher Cup was the focus for passionate rivalries between teams from Southern New South Wales. From 1921 until 1971, neighbouring towns would challenge whoever happened to hold the cup at the time.
- Admission to a first grade game cost the equivalent of 10 cents in 1908. Today, general admission to a National Rugby League game costs about \$15.
- Radio commentator Frank Hyde called 33 grand finals and was never beaten in the ratings.