



Media Release

18 June 2019

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE WELCOMES ICARE NSW AS A PLATINUM SPONSOR OF THE 2019 WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE STATE OF ORIGIN

Wheelchair Rugby League Australia is thrilled to announce that icare NSW has come on board as a Platinum Sponsor of the 2019 Wheelchair Rugby League State of Origin to be held Saturday, 6th July 2019 at Quaycentre, Sydney Olympic Park.

Billed as one of the biggest events on the Wheelchair Rugby League calendar, the interstate challenge will see representative players compete for their state in this physical and exciting clash.

In announcing icare's involvement, Wheelchair Rugby League Chair, Martin Meredith said "icare's support of our game and this clash in particular is a very welcome development for our sport. There are definite synergies between the organisations in terms of facilitating and supporting resilience, rehabilitation, health and wellbeing. A number of our players are participants of icare, having come to the sport after workplace or motor vehicle accidents."

icare Group Executive, Care and Community, Nick Allsop said icare was proud to be teaming up with Wheelchair Rugby League Australia and sponsoring the 2019 Wheelchair Rugby League State of Origin.

"Wheelchair Rugby League Australia has created a truly inclusive sport – an event and community that provides connection and inclusion for people from all backgrounds and abilities," Dr Allsop said.

"We're very excited that so many of our Lifetime Care and Workers Care participants will be welcomed at the match. Returning to recreational activities and engaging in the community can be a challenge after a life-changing injury. WRLA's incredible athletes exemplify the empowerment, independence and choice we aspire to facilitate for our customers."

The Wheelchair Rugby League State of Origin game will kick off at 3 pm. It will be preceded by a Redback and Bluetongues Push and Power game.

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About Wheelchair Rugby League

Wheelchair Rugby League Australia (WRLA) originated from the founding of the New South Wales Wheelchair Rugby League Association which was established in 2009, with the long term focus to make it a national sport.

WRLA introduced seasonal competition from 2010 which built awareness at all levels of the game including referees, players, coaches and administration of the sport and provide opportunities for athletes with disabilities within the league.

Our vision is to be recognised as an inclusive sport for all communities, provide pathways for participants to represent their respective states and to contribute to making it a global sport.

About icare

Insurance and Care NSW (icare) protects, insures and cares for the people, businesses and assets of NSW.

We provide workers compensation insurance to more than 326,000 public and private sector employers in NSW and their 3.6 million employees. In addition, we insure builders and homeowners, provide treatment and care to people severely injured on NSW roads; and protect more than \$193 billion of NSW Government assets, including the Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, schools and hospitals.

For more information, visit: www.icare.nsw.gov.au



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How is Wheelchair Rugby League played?

This fast-paced game is played on an indoor court, about half the size of rugby league field. It follows a five-on-five format, using a rugby league football. A kick is achieved by a clenched fist and a tackle is achieved by removing a Velcro tag from the sleeve of an attacking player. The game can be played socially and there are defined player pathways to representative level.

The game allows up to 2 able bodied athletes per team, meaning that members of families and mates can play alongside their siblings and friends.

Wheelchair Rugby League is an inclusive sport – a variation of the running game allowing athletes with disabilities to compete with and against able-bodied people. The emphasis is on the participation, health and well-being of individuals, personal performance, social interaction and self- esteem.

Wheelchair Rugby League aspires to provide an inclusive recreational activity and to promote fun, fitness and self-development while fostering good sportsmanship in a safe and positive environment.

See the Wheelchair Rugby League for more: [here](#)

Wheelchair Rugby League Ambassadors are Brett Kimmorley and James Tamou.