



2021 is underway and here, at Valleys Rugby League we are gearing up for another positive year. Our Junior Sign On day was held earlier this month and training will begin early next month. Our Seniors have been back at training since the new year began and our Valleys Women's team is working hard in preparation for the state wide, BHP Premiership.

There are some important matters that each team will need to address as we continue to prepare for the 2021 season.

Valleys is a volunteer organisation and as such we need to ensure all of our teams are properly staffed with volunteers in positions of requirement.

Each team is required to have a coach, a manager, a League Safe officer and at least one sports trainer.

If you are already volunteering, take the plunge and invite some of your team to join you. If you haven't taken the plunge to get involved yet, just ask, I'm sure there are things that can be done in every team.



Volunteering as a sports trainer can be loads of fun. You get to be on the field in an up close and personal role with the team during games.

Valleys can register you for training and if you'd like to give that a go there is plenty of ongoing support from our level 2 sports trainers at Valleys. Contact your team manager or our coaching directors if you're keen to give it a try.



A team stacked with volunteers is what junior sport is all about. Parents and kids get to know each other and enjoy good times in the club colours. What better sense of belonging is there than volunteering?

Inside this month's Digest

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Junior update

Thanks to our major sponsor for 2021

2021 Junior Draw outlines



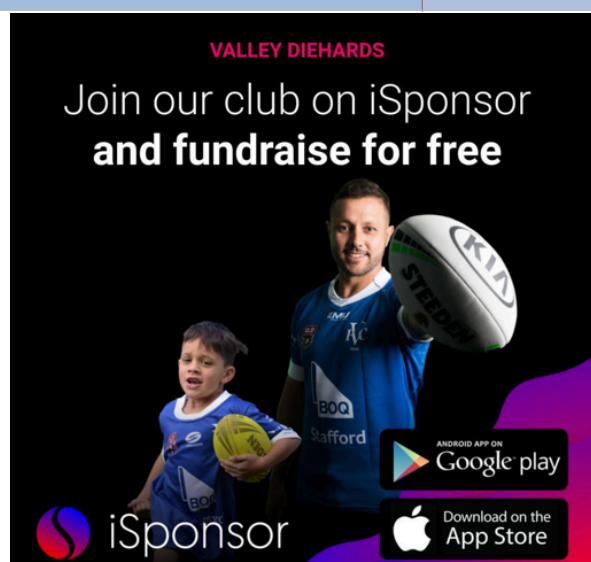
The latest information from RLB is that the Under 6-12 age groups are scheduled to begin their seasons on the last weekend of April/first weekend of May, after Easter and ANZAC Day. (Apr 30-May 2) These seasons will run through until mid August 13/14/15th.

The Under 13-16 divisions are scheduled to have pre season rounds from March 19 with their season beginning proper the weekend before ANZAC DAY, APRIL 16-18.

Each of those older junior age groups have a different length of season but their Semi Finals are scheduled for mid August.

Junior Training schedule 2021

Age Group	Time	Days	Start Date	Field
Under 6	5:15 - 6:00pm	Thurs only	11 March	Main
Under 7	5:15 - 6:00pm	Thurs only	11 March	Main
Under 8	5:15 - 6:00pm	Thurs only	11 March	Top
Under 9	5:15 - 6:00pm	Thurs only	11 March	Top
Under 10	5:30 - 6:30pm	Tue & Thurs	9 March	Main
Under 11	5:30 - 6:30pm	Tue & Thurs	9 March	Main
Under 12	6:00 - 7:00pm	Tue & Thurs	9 March	Top
Under 14/15	6:15 - 7:30pm	Tue & Thurs	9 March	Top
Under 16	6:15 - 7:30pm	Tue & Thurs	9 March	Top
Under 14/15/16	5:30 - 6:30pm	Tue & Thurs	19 Jan to 4 March	Top



We have some very exciting news, we have partnered with iSponsor as our sponsorship platform.

All you have to do is download the app <https://isponsorapp.com/download/> select Valleys Diehards as your club of choice and spend your normal every day money at the participating store located through the app.



Do you have any mates who might want to give playing for Valleys a try?

Why not get them to jump online and sign up for 2021

Please note that all registrations must be done online.
All players need to be registered before training commences.

Under 6 and 7 - \$20 canteen levy only - Training Thursday evenings
Under 8 - \$200 (canteen levy inclusive) - Training Thursday evenings
Under 9 - \$250 (canteen levy inclusive) - Training Thursday evenings
Under 10 To Under 17 - \$250 (canteen levy inclusive) - Training Tuesday & Thursday evenings
Under 10+ registration includes a training shirt at \$10 discount rate, per registered player, if purchased at registration.



If you need any help with registering, please contact us at the club (registrar@valleysrugbyleague.com) and we can help.
Click on the link below to be directed to Valleys own registration link.
<https://profile.mysideline.com.au/register/clubsearch?criteria=Valleys+Diehards+Brisbane&club=10725&source=rugby-league>



Valleys is committed to helping develop not just the rugby league player, but the entire individual. As part of this, the club has established an exclusive arrangement with two quality Australian digital educational resources to have **complimentary subscriptions valued at approximately \$150 p.a.** included as part of 2021 junior player registration fees. These resources are:

- Literacy for Boys
- Matific

[Literacy for Boys](#) (LFB) is a Years 3-9 literacy resource specifically targeting the interests of boys. Engaging them through video and music on topics such as sports, technology and warfare, the activities focus on comprehension, spelling, grammar and punctuation.



[Matific](#) is an award-winning digital maths for Prep-Year 6 students. Matific uses gamification to engage students and rather than just teach them to calculate, something computers do for us, Matific fosters students' ability to think, a more valuable skill in this technological age. Parents and guardians of Valleys players wishing to subscribe their children to either or both these resources simply need to provide the following information on the supplied Google Survey Form:



- Player's Name:
- Player's Valleys Registration Number:
- School Year Level:
- Parent/s' name/s:
- Parent/s' email address/es:

Parents should be direct to send their forms to:

- Tanya Grambower for Literacy for Boys - info@literacyforboys.com.au
- Gerard Tuffield - gerard@matific.com

Junior Footy Profile

This month's Junior Footy Profile is our Junior Coaching Director, (ages 6-12) Henry l'Iga. Henry has a coaching background with both senior and junior teams. His wealth of knowledge is huge and we are lucky to have him on board. He had coached junior teams at Norths and in the Northern Broncos Development Program. He has been the trainer and strength and conditioning coach for the Norths Seniors Cyril Connell, Mal Meaning & U/18 Colts teams as well as the Norths Q Cup Head trainer. Recently he has been involved at Valleys as the BRL Head trainer and as an assistant with the under 10s. He loves the move to Valleys because of the great people and the historic nature of the club.



Henry's philosophy comes from Lawrie Lawrence, "**Failure to prepare is preparing to fail.**" Henry is also a great listener and his aim in 2021 is to assist our junior coaches and players with support, knowledge and mentorship.

Women's update

Valleys Women's BHP Premiership team have been in training for a few weeks now in preparation for their tilt at the state wide BHP Premiership. The draw is outlined on this page and we hope as many of you who can get down to Emerson Park for their home games and cheer them on.

Valleys Women's Footy BHP Premiership draw

ROUND 1 - SUNDAY 11TH APRIL

Stars



4:00pm




Diehards

Barlow Park, Cairns
SATURDAY 17TH APRIL

Diehards




3:00pm




Panthers

Emerson Park, Brisbane
SATURDAY 24TH APRIL

Diehards



3:00pm



Magpies

Emerson Park, Brisbane
SATURDAY 1ST MAY

Capras




6:00pm




Diehards

Browne Park, Rockhampton
SATURDAY 8TH MAY

Seagulls




3:00pm




Diehards

Piggabeen Sports Complex, Tweed Heads
SATURDAY 15TH MAY

Diehards




3:00pm




Tigers

Emerson Park, Brisbane
SATURDAY 22ND MAY

Bears



12:35pm



Diehards

Cbus Super Stadium, Gold Coast

Women's Footy Profile



Welcome to the BHP Premiership team's head sports trainer, Heidi Watson. Heidi is a Brisbane girl who first became involved in sports training because she wanted to be involved with her boys' teams when they were playing junior Rugby League.

She has been involved in sports training for about 8 years, including some junior rep events. Most recently she assisted with the Valleys' BRL squad and has been inspired by the high level of community and history within the club. Prior to 2020 Heidi was involved with Easts Tigers Colts and Mal Meaning teams. Because she wanted to work at a high level in women's Rugby League, Heidi joined the BHP Diehards team and is excited by the opportunity to be amongst such talented staff and players.

Senior update

Senior training is continuing under the guidance of Tye and Nathan. We've also been given an additional sponsorship for a **'Beards at the BRL'** promotion. Many thanks to Big Z Beard Co for their generous sponsorship of \$100 worth of products to care for your beard. More info on this once the BRL season starts.

The BRL season looks something like the draw below. This draw is a draft and subject to changes but it gives an idea of the season's timing.



10/04/21	Bulimba A Grade	Valleys A Grade	Balmoral Recreational Reserve
17/04/21	Valleys A Grade	West Brisbane Panthers A Grade	Emerson Park
24/04/21	Beenleigh A Grade	Valleys A Grade	Bill Norris Oval
8/05/21	Valleys A Grade	Carina A Grade	Emerson Park
15/05/21	Valleys A Grade	Normanby A Grade	Emerson Park
22/05/21	Brighton A Grade	Valleys A Grade	JIM LAWRIE FIELD
29/05/21	Valleys A Grade	Bye	
5/06/21	Wynnum Juniors A Grade	Valleys A Grade	Kitchener Park
12/06/21	Pine Rivers A Grade	Valleys A Grade	Mathieson Oval
19/06/21	Valleys A Grade	Bulimba A Grade	Emerson Park
26/06/21	West Brisbane Panthers A Grade	Valleys A Grade	Mitchelton Park - Frank Lind Oval
3/07/21	Valleys A Grade	Beenleigh A Grade	Emerson Park
10/07/21	Carina A Grade	Valleys A Grade	Leo Williams Oval
17/07/21	Normanby A Grade	Valleys A Grade	Bert St Clair Oval
31/07/21	Valleys A Grade	Brighton A Grade	Emerson Park
7/08/21	Valleys A Grade	Bye	
14/08/21	Valleys A Grade	Wynnum Juniors A Grade	Emerson Park
21/08/21	Valleys A Grade	Pine Rivers A Grade	Emerson Park

Senior Footy Profile

This month's Senior Footy Profile is our Senior Coaching Director, Nicholas Faulkner. Nick is the coaching director for teams 13 and older and originally from Laidley but now resides locally.

Some interesting facts about Nick's family life is that his father was Para-Olympian in 76 and 80 Olympics for 100m sprint and he was a huge fan back in the day of Marty Scanlan.

Nick's mother is an immigrant from England who still doesn't know much about Rugby league.

Nick is married to Melissa and they have a son, Billy. Melissa is sick of hearing him talk about Valleys and how he can't wait for Billy to wear the royal blue.

Some background on Nick's coaching career so far...

2020 – BRL reserve coach Valley Diehards (Runners-up)

2018 and 2019 – Ipswich Jets Hasting Deering Colts coach

2015, 2016 and 2017 - Ipswich Jets Mal Meninga Coach

Other coaching teams include – Cyril Connel Norths Devils, U16 and U15 prems Aspley Devils, Coach Qld University side 2013, Former life – played for Souths and Ipswich Jets

He is happy to now be involved with Valleys because of the pride, passion and tradition of the club. Valley Diehards defines what it means to be a community club – for families and players. From all the volunteers to the parents the atmosphere and environment at Valleys breeds success and son/daughters reaching their potential on and off the field.

He has a philosophy that encompasses **"Respect over popularity"** and **"Our team will work harder and play harder than anyone else"** and his aims for the 2021 season are;

In my role as Senior Coaching director to see players and coaches alike – develop and flourish with their skills and overall enjoy their 2021 season.

In my role as assistant coach of A-grade is continue the successful culture of 2020 and hopefully win some silverware.



HERITAGE CORNER

In our Heritage Corner each month, Diehard Digest will share a short story about some of our illustrious players from the past. We've had a look at Grand Final games from 50 years ago and one from 30 years ago. This month we are going to dive into the far distant reaches of the past and explore a **BRL Premiership from 90 years ago.**

We congratulate the Diehards of 1931 on their season. They were led by Arthur Donovan who paired with Valleys' legendary clubman, Fred 'Firpo' Neumann in the centres and this pair broke the hearts of all who contested games against them. The speed and elusiveness of Donovan and the guile and giftedness of Neumann were a great pair. In 1931, they also had Kangaroo tourist Jack Little playing at hooker, so they won a fair share of the ball and used it to great effect.

The BRL had 8 teams contesting the Premiership in 1931. They played two full rounds of fixtures totalling 14 games. Valleys finished as Minor Premiers with 9 wins, 4 losses and a draw. Two of the four losses occurred when they had a number of players, including their star game breaking centres, missing for representative duties.

In the 1931 season, Valleys won the President's Cup which was the early season Knock out Cup, then contested the Pike Cup which was later replaced by the President's Cup. This game was played between the two leading teams at the end of the first round of fixtures. Those teams were Wests and Valleys. In a bizarre match, Wests had kicked a penalty goal early and 3 minutes into the first half, Shields countered with a penalty to Valleys. 2-all after just 3 minutes.



A. Donovan.



F. Neuman.

The full time score after a game full of attacking raids and brilliant play, was 2-all. Extra time was called and although Arthur Donovan went perilously close to scoring on more than one occasion, the score remained 2-all. This was the match that Valleys drew during the season, but they were called on to play an extra match to determine a winner for the Pike Cup. They won that game 8-0 and took the Pike Cup, but received no points on the ladder for this win.

After the Pike Cup win Valleys had 3 more wins to secure the Minor premiership and a loss in the final game against University.



Valleys in the lighter jerseys against Wynnum. When Wynnum joined the competition in 1931, they wore an all black strip. Valleys were in their traditional royal blue.

The loss to University didn't affect Valleys as they remained atop the table. In 1931, the Minor Premiers were allowed the right of challenge. This means they could challenge the winners of the semi final series if they lost a match during the semi finals. In week 1 of the semi finals against Past Grammars (later to become Norths) Valleys led 8-2 at half time, but Grammar's rough style of play and moving ex-Valleys international halfback, Arthur 'Fatty' Edwards to 5/8 proved a winner for Past Grammars as they took out the second half by 10-3. Valleys looked to have the game sewn up until Edwards ran across field and picked up the Grammars winger Holden, who scored in the corner and converted to give them the one point win.



**A. EDWARDS,
Grammars' Leader.**

After Carltons beat University in their semi final, Carltons and Grammars played in the Final with Grammars winning by 15-13. Again, Holden was the ace in the Grammars pack, scoring 13 of the team's 15 points.

With the right to challenge, though, Valleys took on Past Grammars in the Grand Final. After 3 minutes, halfback, Peter Scott found a gap at the scrum base and scored.



Lock forward Martin sends the ball out to the flying Roy Boxall in a closely fought game against Coorparoo on July 20. Boxall was small of stature, but lightning fast with a terrific swerve and proved very hard to bring down. He left Valleys mid season to take up a position in Lismore's Bulimba Cup team.

A little later he repeated the effort by putting 5/8 Dudley Bird into the gap for another try and Valleys had an 8-4 lead at halftime.

After the break, Bird put Neumann into a gap, he took advantage of it and with perfect placement and timing put Donovan away to beat the fullback with a swerve. Valleys were up 11-4. Neumann put winger Wing over for a try in the corner and Wing followed up with another. At 22-4, Valleys had the game in hand when Grammars scored an opportune try when one of the Valleys players dropped the ball on their own try line. With about 10 minutes to go, though it would seem an impossible task for Grammars to come back. Valleys scored again through the winger, Shields who also converted for the Diehards to run out winners and 1931 Premiers by 27-9.



Valleys captain, Arthur Donovan being chaired off the field after the 1931 Grand Final win.