Rugby League Academy

The Mackay State High School Rugby League Academy is a unique program and was the very first of its kind in the Mackay School District. One of the aims of the Academy is to provide students with training and playing opportunities above and beyond what currently exists in the Mackay area for talented junior rugby league players. The opportunities provided for the students of this program will be second to none. This program will provide increased exposure for players, which in the past, has been restricted. This exposure will be at a State and National level. This is a prestigious Academy and aims to bring together the very best players in our school region, and this is evident by its continued growth.

In addition to improving the playing ability of our Academy students, the Mackay program places a very strong emphasis on developing player’s as responsible members of society. High expectations are conveyed across all year levels with consequences for failure to meet these standards.

The Academy is heavily supported by Souths Rugby League Club, one of the most professional Rugby League Clubs in Regional Queensland. Souths views this program as an important component in the region’s overall rugby league structure and the club’s commitment will involve the use of all training facilities and coaching resources. This program is not a recruitment tool for Souths, and the benefits are expected to assist all clubs competing in the Mackay Rugby League.

The Academy is currently linked to the North Queensland Cowboys Development Program, however we also have students on scholarships with a number of clubs including the Melbourne Storm and the Brisbane Broncos. In addition to this support, the program is assisted by the Mackay Cutters as well as the Australian Rugby League Foundation and the Queensland Rugby League.

The Year 8 program is divided into 2 areas, 1) an Academy class which is for those who show a distinct talent in the game of rugby league, and 2) an Elective class which runs for any boys interested in playing the game regardless of their ability levels. Boys in both programs will be coached in the finer skills of the game, the most up-to-date techniques of play and also game play scenarios.

In addition to in-class activities, all boys will also play for Mackay SHS in one of our Year 8 teams in the Interschool rugby league competition run in Terms 2 and 3. This gives the boys a great opportunity to put into practice what has been done during Academy lessons.