



WE WANT YOUR VIEWS

BIG League and the National Rugby League are asking you, the fans, to tell us what you think of the greatest game of all. And your thoughts will be passed on all the way to the top of the game – to the desk of NRL chief executive David Gallop.

We received an extraordinary response from our readers – the game's most devoted fans – when we last ran the official NRL Fans Poll in 2000. With the recent issues in the game surrounding player and crowd behaviour and the debate about whether the salary cap should be increased, we thought it was timely to document the views of the game's supporters again.

You can respond by copying the survey, filling it out (feel free to attach your views in more detail) and posting or faxing it to us. Alternatively you can email your responses, marking each answer with the relevant question number, to: bigleague@bigleague.newsLtd.com.au.

If you feel it would be more convenient, why not go straight to the National Rugby League's website nrl.com.au (as from next Monday) and click on the *Big League* button on the bottom left of the home page, then follow the prompts.

We have tried to include what we feel are the issues the fans would most like to document their views about. The NRL have donated **three double passes to this year's grand final** for those readers who we feel have provided valuable input, so there is a good incentive to provide us with your views.

IDENTIFICATION

What club do you follow?

How many games do you attend in a season?

Less than five 5-10 More than 10

Are you a season ticket holder? Yes No

Name: _____

Address: _____

Age: _____ Sex: Male Female

THE COMPETITION – ON FIELD

1. Who will win the 2004 NRL grand final?

2. Which team has been the most surprising in 2004?

3. Which team has been the most disappointing in 2004?

4. Which team do you dislike most?

5. How do you rate the level of rugby league being played this season compared to previous years?

Better No change Worse

THE COMPETITION FORMAT

6. Do you believe the NRL should allow a 16th team to enter the competition? Yes No

7. If so, which team should be accepted?

Gold Coast Central Coast Wellington
 Other (please specify)

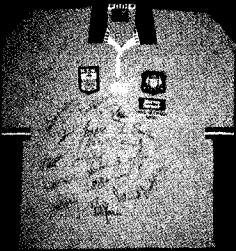
8. What is the ideal number of teams in the NRL competition (please circle)?

12 14 15 16

Other (please specify)

9. Do you believe any of the current NRL clubs should be relocated? No Yes (please specify)

10. Are joint ventures (eg. St George Illawarra and Wests Tigers) a good idea? Yes No



11. Which joint venture do you feel has been the most successful?

- St George Illawarra Wests Tigers

12. Should there be further joint ventures, if so which teams (specify)?

13. Are there too many teams in Sydney?

- Yes No

14. How many Sydney teams should be in the NRL?

15. Should the NRL maintain a presence in Melbourne via the Storm? Yes No

REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

16. Do you believe the annual City-Country clash should be maintained? Yes No

17. How important is international rugby league?

- Very Important Some Importance
 Not Important

18. Is the Anzac Test a good idea? Yes No

19. Should we create a mid-season three Tests series, even if it meant players being unavailable for some NRL games? Yes No

20. If Test matches were held after the NRL competition finished, would you attend?

- Yes No

21. Has State of Origin lost any of its appeal to you?

- Yes No

22. Do you prefer a daytime or night time grand final? Daytime Night time

23. What day would you like to see the grand final

scheduled? Friday night Saturday
 Saturday night Sunday Sunday night

FACILITIES

24. Which NRL ground has the best facilities?

25. Which NRL ground has the worst facilities?

26. Which ground do you most like attending?

a) _____

27. What are the most important aspects for you when you go to a game?

- Seating View Crowd behaviour
 Amenities Catering Pricing
 Atmosphere

Other: _____

28. What do you believe is a fair price to attend an NRL game?

(general admission) _____

(reserved grandstand) _____

29. What do you believe is a fair price to attend a State of Origin game?

Bottom price _____ Top price _____

PLAYERS

30. Do you believe players are generally well behaved and good role models for rugby league?

- Yes No

31. Have you, or do you know of anyone who has, had experiences with NRL players where they have been outstanding role models? Yes No

32. Has recent incidents of player misbehaviour negatively affected your love of rugby league?

- Yes No

33. Do you know of anyone who has stopped following the game because of reports of player misbehaviour? Yes No

34. Do you believe there is a culture of binge drinking among rugby league players? Yes No

35. Are players loyal to their clubs? Yes No

36. Who is the best player in the NRL?

37. Who is the best emerging talent in the NRL?

38. Which player do you dislike most in the NRL?

39. Best in each position:

Fullback: _____

Winger: _____

Centre: _____

Five-eighth: _____

Halfback: _____

Lock: _____

Second row: _____

Prop: _____

Hooker: _____

Utility: _____

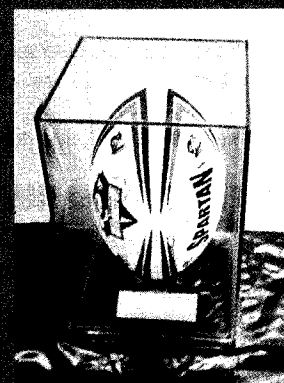
Goalkicker: _____

SALARY CAP/CONTRACTS

40. Are players paid more than the game can afford? Yes No

41. What should the 'elite' players receive?

- \$400,000 plus \$350,000-\$400,000
 \$300,000-\$350,000 \$250,000 to \$300,000
 \$200,000-\$250,000 Less than \$200,000 ▶



42. What should the minimum wage for a first grade squad member be?
 \$40,000 \$50,000 \$60,000
 \$70,000 \$80,000 More than \$80,000

43. Should the June 30 no poaching deadline be extended? Yes No

44. If so, until when:
 Last round End of finals
 Other (specify): _____

45. As a fan, are you concerned at news, mid-season, that a player is leaving next season?
 Yes No

46. Do you feel contracts are now devalued, with so many players and coaches being released?
 Yes No

47. Should coaches be dumped before the end of a season/contract if not performing? Yes No

48. Should the salary cap be raised?
 Yes No
 If so to what?
 \$3.5 million \$3.75 million
 \$4 million or above

49. Should the salary cap be reduced?
 Yes No
 If so, to what?
 \$2.5 million \$2.75 million \$3 million

50. Should there be more concessions under the salary cap? Yes No

51. If yes, which of these:
 For junior players
 Long serving players less than 10 years?
 If so, how many years? _____
 Other (concession): _____

52. Do you believe the salary cap is working, and clubs generally abide by it? Yes No

53. Has the salary cap been successful in providing an even competition? Yes No

54. Should there be a player draft? Yes No

REFEREES and RULES

55. Are on-field referees are doing a good job?
 Yes No

56. Who is the best referee in the NRL?
 Sean Hampstead Tim Mander
 Shayne Hayne Steve Clark
 Paul Simpkins Jason Robinson
 Tony Archer Steve Lyons
 Matt Cecchin

57. Are video referees doing a good job?
 Yes No

58. Should video referees be handed more responsibility? Yes No

59. Do referees rely too much on video refs?
 Yes No

60. If you could alter one rule, what would it be (please specify)? _____

61. Are you in favour of the golden point rule?
 Yes No

62. Should there be two refs on the field?
 Yes No

63. Should there be interchange referees?
 Yes No

64. Would you make any changes to the golden point or extra time rules (please specify)? _____

65. Should there be golden point in State of Origin? Yes No

JUDICIARY

66. Do you have confidence in the current judiciary system? Yes No

67. Is the judiciary:
 Too harsh Too lenient Fair

MEDIA COVERAGE

68. Is the rugby league media doing a good job?
 Yes No
 Comment: _____

69. Which media do you read, watch or listen to (tick more than one if applicable)?

a) PRESS:
 Daily Telegraph Sunday Telegraph
 Sydney Morning Herald Sun-Herald
 Courier Mail Other (specify): _____

b) RADIO
 2GB (or affiliate) 4BC (or affiliate) ABC

c) TELEVISION Channel 9 Fox Sports

70. What TV league program do you most watch (specify)? _____

71. Who is the best rugby league journalist (specify)? _____

72. Who is the best rugby league commentator – TV or radio (specify)? _____

73. Who is the best radio broadcaster (specify)? _____

74. Who is the best TV broadcaster (specify)? _____

ADMINISTRATION/ISSUES

75. How do you rate the job the NRL is doing administering the game?
 Very Good Good OK
 Not Good Poor?

76. Which is the most professional team in the NRL (specify)? _____

77. Who is the best administrator? _____

78. Who is the best coach? _____

79. What is the major issue in the game (specify and explain)? _____