



# Memo

**Date:** Tuesday, 23 April 2019  
**To:** NSW Touch Association Affiliates  
**From:** Daniel Rushworth-Sport Manager  
**Subject:** 2019 Vawdon Cup Update and Review Findings

The NSW Touch Association as per our normal process with all events undertakes extensive reviews, which includes stakeholder feedback via surveys and other direct means.

Specifically in relation to the Vawdon Cup 2019, this has required further analysis and review, due to the extensive elite calendar with the World Cup in May and the continuation of an expanded NRL Touch Premiership which now crosses over into the historical Vawdon Cup schedule through to mid August.

## NRL Touch Premiership Schedule/Historical Vawdon Cup Crossover Period

Date	Vawdon	NRL Touch Prem Game	NRL Touch Prem Game
Friday 7 June	VC Pre-Season	Sat 8/6 Cowboys vs Knights	Sun 9/6 Broncos vs Tigers
Friday, 14 June	VC Pre-Season	Sat 15/6 Eels vs Roosters	
Friday, 21 June	VC Pre-Season	Nil	Nil
Friday, 28 June	VC Pre-Season	Thurs. 27/6 Tigers v Titans	Sun 30/6 Warriors vs Eels
Friday, 5 July	VC Pre-Season	Fri 5/7 Tigers vs Cowboys	Sat 6/7 Knights vs Broncos
Friday, 12 July	VC Pre-Season	Sat 14/7 Roosters vs Knights	
Friday, 19 July	Round 1	Sun 21/7 Titans Vs Eels	
Friday, 26 July	Round 2	Fri 26/7 Knights vs Warriors	
Friday, 2 August	Round 3	Thurs 1/8 Tigers vs Knights	
Friday, 9 August	Round 4	SF Sun 11/8	SF Sun 11/8
Friday, 16 August	Round 5	GF Sun 18/8	

Upon the release of the NRL Touch Premiership draw in January, the NSW Touch Association recognised the challenges that the schedule would have on not only the elite players and officials that participate in our pathway but also those that are aspiring to be at that level.

The Vawdon Cup construct for 2019 would need to be reviewed whilst maintaining the integrity and history of this prestigious competition. As such the following review process was implemented;





As such, the initial communication had been sent to all top 16 ranked Affiliate Men's/Women's Teams and their Affiliate for the 2019 Representative Season that would either be usually participating in the Vawdon Cup Premier League competitions or be potentially eligible.

### Men's Open Category

Team Name	Ranking 2019
Doyalson Dragons	1
Parramatta Eels	2
Bankstown Sports	3
West's Magpies	4
Penrith Panthers	5
Wollongong Devils	6
Hornsby Lions	7
Canterbury Bulldogs	8
C. Coast Dolphins	9
Manly Sea Eagles	10
Ryde Eastwood Hawks	11
Beresfield Bandits	12
UNSW Bullets	13
Wagga Wagga Vipers	14
East's Roosters	15
Sydney Uni Stingers	16

### Women's Open Category

Team Name	Ranking 2019
East's Roosters	1
Manly Sea Eagles	2
Canterbury Bulldogs	3
New City Knights	4
West's Magpies	5
Wollongong Devils	6
C. Coast Dolphins	7
Penrith Panthers	8
Nth Beaches Renegades	9
Hills Hornets	10
Parramatta Eels	11
Canterbury Bulldogs 2	12
East's Roosters 2	13
UNSW Bullets	14
West's Magpies 2	15
Manly Sea Eagles 2	16

Furthermore, additional feedback was sourced at the National Touch League in March of elite participating players as to further add weight to any feedback that had been already collated.

Through this process the following questions were offered;

1. Team Participation in/or requesting Vawdon Cup Premier League (Yes/No)
2. Do you envisage your team(s) being impacted by the NRL Touch Premiership/Representative Load for Vawdon Cup Participation? If so, how do you see this impacting your team/Affiliate?
3. Premier League Competition Structure: This is an open opportunity to provide preferences and or other options; acknowledging that previously we have played 12 rounds across 8 Fridays and 2 double header Sundays.
4. Premier League Player Movement options during the crossover period of the NRL Touch Premiership and Vawdon Cup (Jul19-Aug18)
5. Other General Vawdon Cup Premier League Competition construct feedback



## Feedback Summary

In reference to other feedback in relation to questions 2-5 these are summarised in the following;

**Premiership Player Impact:** Affiliates have indicated there is an impact across many and that they have engaged with their players on this and that participating for their Affiliate in Vawdon Cup is important for both the individual and the viability of the team/Affiliate. Some Affiliates had no impact but were aware of what other Affiliates would be facing and wanted to ensure there would be a quality competition.

### Competition Structure:

- Key aspects were to ensure the competitions do not overlap and that players are not caught between both and having to choose.
- The competition length can be reduced and that adding another double header is viewed as reasonable.
- The competition starts later to avoid significant seasonal clash with other sporting commitments
- Additional Round games removed-e.g. Rd 12 where they play 1v12 etc.
- Each Teams Double Header games played closer together rather than 4-5 timeslots apart.
- The Vawdon Cup competition would need to start all at the same time, regardless of start date

### Premier League Player Movement

- If the competitions do overlap, assuming that the Touch Premiership players are not available that an Affiliate can use other players possibly twice during a single round-A mixed player could play Mixed and Premier League or Divisions 1/2/3 etc.

### General Vawdon Cup Feedback (Not already mentioned)

- Keep the competition short to ensure that the representative pathway is not so long
- Add more Sundays to shorten the competition
- We need to continually be mindful of the Elite Athlete loads
- We do not want to dilute the Vawdon Cup Premier League by removing/or having the Premiership Players unavailable
- Vawdon Cup has great history and it needs to be protected and not turned into a tier B competition
- The draw needs to be more considerate for travelling teams and what time is reasonable for late and or early games
- Are we able to have the Premier League live streamed?
- Allow reasonable time between the completion of Vawdon Cup and the lead into State Cup

### Suggested Timeline based on feedback and all variables to deliver competition;

- The whole of Vawdon Cup is conducted together start-finish
- The competition starts later and finished two weeks later than originally planned, allows Coaches/Affiliates to manage Elite player loads
- There is no overlap between the Premiership and Vawdon Cup
- An additional double header is included
- A maximum of 12 teams would exist in any division ensuring that the competition is a maximum of 11 rounds

**NB. It is acknowledged that is some areas of the feedback provided there was no clear majority in preference, while in others there seemed to be clear consensus**



## NSW High Performance Unit & NSW Touch Association Executive Board

Once these findings were collated, they were also presented to the NSW Touch Association High Performance Unit and Executive Board for further feedback and consideration.

With these findings and consultation, the below table was presented and then accepted as the format for the 2019 Vawdon Cup competition (Highlighted in green)

Original Dates	Rounds	New Dates	Notes
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	1	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Starts 1 week after NRLTP GF (18 <sup>th</sup> )
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	2	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	3	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> August	4	Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	5	Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August	6	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> Wet Weather Back Up
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	7	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	No Games 20 <sup>th</sup> due to NYC
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	8	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Hornets Champs 28 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	9	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	10	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> Wet Weather Back Up
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	11	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	12	Not Required	
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Finals Wk 1	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Possible Country Champs 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Finals Wk 2	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Grand Final	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Grand Final 6 Weeks Prior to SC

## 2019 Vawdon Cup Advice

With the above dates now being advertised as the draft dates of the competition, NSW Touch Association will now be liaising with Affiliates and Facilities in relation to hosting the competition.

Final details of the competition will be released with **Vawdon Cup Conditions of Entry on May 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Any questions in relation to this information please contact NSW Touch Football Sport Manager Daniel Rushworth via [daniel.rushworth@nswtouch.com.au](mailto:daniel.rushworth@nswtouch.com.au)