



Australian Rugby Players To Boycott Game After Being Told To Wear Pride Themed Jerseys

Description

AUSTRALIA: Seven Australian rugby league players have vowed to boycott a key match after their team announced they would be wearing a rainbow-themed LGBT jersey to show support for 'inclusivity and diversity'.

The move has sparked vicious debate that has even dragged in the Prime Minister

The Manly Warringah Sea Eagles made headlines when they announced last week that they would be the first team in Australia's National Rugby League (NRL) to wear pride shirts to promote the LGBT agenda.

In a statement the team declared: "Manly Warringah Sea Eagles will proudly wear a rainbow-detailed jersey to celebrate inclusiveness during our Round 20 game against the Roosters at 4 Pines Park"

Gateway Pundit reports: According to various reports, the players were not consulted before the decision was made. As a result, several players refused to wear the team's pride shirt because it goes against their religious beliefs and cultural differences.

The seven players were Josh Aloiai, Jason Saab, Christian Tuipulotu, Josh Schuster, Haumole Olakau'atu, Tolutau Koula, and Toafofoa Siple.

Players Sean Keppie, Kieran Foran, and Reuben Garrick were the three players who modeled it for the promotional campaign.

Watch the video below:

You, Me, Everyone in League. [#ManlyForever](https://t.co/csnxCYOs7h@dynasty_sport)

pic.twitter.com/buVY5B8Vgm

— Manly Warringah Sea Eagles (@SeaEagles) [July 24, 2022](#)

More from Dail Mail:

Manly Warringah Sea Eagles, based north of Sydney, unveiled the strip – which features rainbow piping on the neck, sleeves and around the sponsor logo – yesterday morning, saying it showed support for ‘inclusivity and diversity’.

But just hours later club bosses were forced to call a crisis meeting with players who said they would refuse to wear the top on ‘religious and cultural grounds’, having failed to consult them on the decision ahead of time.

Now, what was meant to be a symbol of togetherness has instead become one of division as an openly gay club legend, league bosses, radio presenters, and even the Prime Minister have been dragged into a vicious debate overshadowing the sport.

Meanwhile Manly faces calling up reserve players for Thursday night’s game that could prove crucial for their chances of winning the league, after owner Scott Penn categorically ruled out dropping the strip.

Manly Coach Des Hasler and Captain Daly Cherry-Evans addressed the media on Tuesday and apologized for the “mismanagement” of the pride jersey release, per CNN.

“The intent of the rainbow color application of our jersey was to represent diversity and inclusion ... embracing all groups who feel marginalized, face discrimination and have a suppressed share of voice,” Hasler said.

“The jersey’s intent was to support the advocacy and human rights pertaining to gender, race, culture, ability and LGBTQ movements. Sadly, the execution of what was intended to be an extremely important initiative was poor. There was little consultation or collaboration between key stakeholders, both inside and outside the club.

“Sadly, this poor mismanagement has caused significant confusion, discomfort and pain for many people. We have even adversely affected our playing group, a wonderful group of people comprising of many different races and cultural backgrounds.

“We wish to sincerely apologize for the mistakes we have made. We wish to apologize to the minority groups within the community who embrace the rainbow colors as a symbol of pride in who they are and what they stand for.

“We wish to apologize to the LGBTQ community who embrace the rainbow color for pride and advocacy and human rights issues. We accept your cultural beliefs and hope that you can accept our apology.”

by Niamh Harris

Category

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