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IRL - International Rugby League

As the Rugby Football Union in England refused permission to obtain compensation for players of the northern clubs for loss of earnings, 22 clubs founded their own association. At a meeting in the George Hotel in Huddersfield in August 1895, the **Northern Union** was created.
In 1907 the major differences to Rugby Union laws were introduced with the reduction in the number of players from 15 to 13, the "play the ball" rule, the elimination of line-out, and a different scoring. Renamed it to **Northern Rugby League** in 1922, the association is simply called **Rugby League** since 1980. Alongside England the sport spread especially in Australia and New Zealand.
Instigated by the French the **International Rugby League Board** was formed as a world governing body on 25.01.1948. It has only five full member nations AUS, FRA, GBR, NZL and PNG at all times.
The new **Rugby League International Federation (RLIF)** was established by AUS, GBR, NZL and PNG in August 1998. This also formally ended the so called “rugby war" in Australia between the Australian Rugby League (ARL) and the 1995 created Australian Super League (ASL). Beginning with the 1998 season both leagues merged to the National Rugby League. (This “rugby war” had influenced rugby league worldwide as all member nations except AUS withdraw from International Rugby League Board forming the Super League International Board instead.)
The board of RLIF changed the name to International Rugby League on 2019, Oct 15.

Chairmen

International Rugby League Board	
25.01.1948 - 1985	???
1985 - 28.02.1997	Kenneth Arthurson AUS
28.02.1997 - 19.08.1998	Neil Whittaker AUS
Super League International Board	
18.12.1995 - 19.08.1998	Maurice Lindsay GBR
Rugby League International Federation	
19.08.1998 - 19.03.2002	John McDonald AUS
19.03.2002 - 01.06.2011	Colin Love AUS
01.06.2011 - 02.05.2014	Scott Carter NZL
02.05.2014 - 27.02.2018	Nigel Wood GBR
27.02. - 11.11.2018	John Grant AUS
11.11.2018 - 15.10.2019	Graeme Thompson SCO
International Rugby League	
15.10.2019 - 01.02.2020	Graeme Thompson SCO
01.02.2020 - 30.03.2021	Greg Barclay NZL
30.03.2021 -	Troy Grant AUS

Secretary General

International Rugby League	
01.12.2020 -	Danny Kazandjian FRA

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Player of the Year Awards

The best player in Rugby League is awarded the “World Golden Boot”, which is voted by journalists within Australia, Great Britain and New Zealand. 2008 - 2014 the RLIF hands out its own “International Player of the Year” award.

World Golden Boot

1984	Wally Lewis AUS	Wynnum Many Seagulls AUS
1985	Brett Kenny AUS	Wigan RLFC ENG
1986	Garry Jack AUS	Balmain Tigers AUS
1987	Peter Sterling AUS	Parramatta Eels AUS
	Hugh McGahan NZL	Eastern Suburbs AUS
1988	Ellery Hanley ENG	Wigan RLFC ENG
1989	Mal Meninga AUS	Canberra Raiders AUS
1990	Garry Schofield ENG	Leeds RLFC ENG
	Retrospective awarded in 2011	
1991 - 1998	*not awarded*	
1999	Andrew Johns AUS	Newcastle Knights AUS
2000	Brad Fittler AUS	Sydney Roosters AUS
2001	Andrew Johns AUS	Newcastle Knights AUS
2002	Stacey Jones NZL	New Zealand Warriors NZL
2003	Darren Lockyer AUS	Brisbane Broncos AUS
2004	Andrew Farrell ENG	Wigan Warriors ENG
2005	Anthony Minichiello AUS	Sydney Roosters AUS
2006	Darren Lockyer AUS	Brisbane Broncos AUS
2007	Cameron Smith AUS	Melbourne Storm AUS
2008	Billy Slater AUS	Melbourne Storm AUS
2009	Greg Inglis AUS	Melbourne Storm AUS
2010	Benji Marshall NZL	West Tigers AUS
2011	Johnathan Thurston AUS	North Queensland Cowboys AUS
2012	Kevin Sinfield ENG	Leeds Rhinos ENG
2013	Johnathan Thurston AUS	North Queensland Cowboys AUS
2014	Shaun Johnson NZL	New Zealand Warriors NZL
2015	Johnathan Thurston AUS	North Queensland Cowboys AUS
2016	Cooper Cronk AUS	Melbourne Storm AUS
2017	Cameron Smith AUS	Melbourne Storm AUS
2018	Tommy Makinson ENG	St. Helens RFC ENG
2019	Roger Tuivasa-Sheck NZL	New Zealand Warriors NZL
2020 - 2021	*not awarded*	
2022	Joseph Manu NZL	Sydney Roosters AUS
2023	James Fisher-Harris NZL	Penrith Panthers AUS
2024	Isaah Yeo AUS	Penrith Panthers AUS

International Player of the Year (2008 - 2014)

2008	Billy Slater AUS	Melbourne Storm AUS
2009	Jarryd Hayne AUS	Parramatta Eels AUS
2010	Todd Carney AUS	Sydney Roosters AUS
2011	Billy Slater AUS	Melbourne Storm AUS
2012	Cameron Smith AUS	Melbourne Storm AUS
2013	Sony Bill Williams NZL	Sydney Roosters AUS
2014	Sam Burgess ENG	South Sydney Rabbitohs AUS

World Women’s Golden Boot

2018	Isabelle Kelly AUS	Sydney Roosters AUS
2019	Jessica Sergis AUS	St. George Illawarra AUS
2020 - 2021	*not awarded*	
2022	Raecene McGregor NZL	Sydney Roosters AUS
2023	Georgia Hale NZL	Gold Coast Titans AUS
2024	Tarryn Aiken AUS	Sydney Roosters AUS

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