

NORTH QLD Games MMXXVI MACKAY

OPENING CEREMONY

CLUB INFORMATION PACK

Friday 1st May 2026 | 5pm-10pm | Harrup Park



2026 NORTH QUEENSLAND GAMES

OPENING CEREMONY

Join our official Athletes March and Represent your Club as we officially open the 2026 NQ Games!

Established in 1984, the North Queensland Games has brought together athletes, clubs and communities for a celebration of sport, connection and regional pride. For more than four decades, the Games has provided a platform for everyone from grassroots participants to elite athletes, playing a vital role in strengthening sport and community across the region.

The 2026 Opening Ceremony is a key part of this legacy. This will be a free, community-wide event, and we strongly encourage all clubs to be part of this iconic tradition.

Clubs are invited to take part in the March of Athletes — a proud and long-standing Games tradition where participants represent their club in front of thousands. Led by the Holy Spirit College drumming corps, this is your opportunity to showcase your club, build team pride, and be part of something bigger than competition.

The ceremony will feature the traditional Lighting of the Torch, officially opening the Games, followed by a fireworks display to close the night.

whether you are an athlete or know someone looking for a family friendly event be sure to spread the word.

We encourage all clubs to attend in strong numbers, wear club colours, and be part of an event that celebrates the spirit of North Queensland and be part of a legacy like no other!

THE HIGHLIGHTS

- Free community event with amusements, food trucks and more
- Take part in our traditional athletes march and represent you club
- Take your athletes Oath and witness the official lighting of the torch
- Live Entertainment and Fireworks
- Meet VIP athletes and NQ Games Ambassadors
- Woodchopping, Cricket and 7 News 100m Sprint competitions





EVENT ITINERARY

Friday 1st May 6pm Harrup Park

Harrup Park 89 Juliet Street, South Mackay,
Queensland 4740

Gates open – 5:00pm

Community Stalls, Amusements and Food Trucks

Sport Check in– 5:30pm- 5:45pm

March participants must be at the athlete marshalling area by 5:45
to take part in the march

Athletes March – 6:00pm

Support our clubs march their way into the opening ceremony

Opening Formalities – 6:35pm

Official welcome and speeches

Lighting of the Torch – 7:15pm

A traditional lighting of the torch ceremony and oath

Fireworks – 7:30pm

A beautiful display to officially open the NQ Games

Live Entertainment– 7:45pm

Entertainment from local band Viva Music

Special Sporting Events to Watch out for:

7 News 100m Sprint

Cricket Match

Woodchopping Tournament

MARCH ROUTE

Our Volunteers will be there to guide you along the way, staying within the dedicated marked zones, each club will follow this route as we officially open the NQ Games.



HARRUP PARK

NQ GAMES MAP 2026



GREAT BARRIER REEF ARENA



LEGENDS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| STAR FM LIVE OB | FOOD TRUCKS |
| STALLS | CRICKET GAME |
| COULDRON | ATHLETE MARSHALLING AREA |
| JUMPING CASTLES | EVACUATION SPOT |
| 100M SPRINT | ATHLETES' MARCH ROUTE |
| GBRA GRANDSTAND PUBLIC SEATING | PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTE TO EVENT |
| NO ENTRANCE VIA LAMB ST | |



GAMES OATH

Participants are encouraged to review the traditional Athlete's Oath prior to the NQ Games, it will be read during the Opening Ceremony.

Athletes Oath

“In the name of all competitors, I promise that we shall take part in the 2026 North Queensland Games, respecting and abiding by the rules set down by our sports governing bodies. And in the true spirit of sports participation, compete under the motto of
"Fun for All”.

Officials Oath

In the name of all judges and officials, I promise that we shall officiate at the 2026 North Queensland Games, with complete impartiality respecting and abiding by the rules that govern them, and in the true spirit of sportsmanship”.

FAQ's



When and where will the Opening Ceremony take place?

Harrup Park, Mackay Friday 1 May 2026

Doors Open 5pm



What time does the march officially start?

The March of Athletes will commence at 6:00pm sharp. All participants must be at March Assembly point by 5:45pm — late arrivals will not be able to join the march.



How can I participate in the Athletes March?

Anyone can participate in the march to represent their sport. We recommend to arrive at the march assembly point at 5:30pm. NQSF staff will welcome participants at 5:45pm and distribute sport picket signs.



What is the dress code?

Club colours, official club uniform or NQ Games merchandise.



Can I bring anything to represent my club?

Yes! Each club will be provided with one picket sign. We encourage clubs to bring additional items such as banners, flags, or mascots — make your club stand out.



I am not a Games participant, can I get involved?

Absolutely. Whether you are a volunteer, member or proud parent- you are more than welcome to participate. Come along to support local clubs, enjoy the atmosphere, and be part of the celebration.



Where can I find the Athletes Oath?

The Athlete's Oath is available on the North Queensland Games website. www.nqgames.com.au

Contact us



0472 559 829



games@nqsports.com.au



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