

It will certainly be a battle of the football codes on the Gold Coast during the coming winter season.

If their plans work out, all four codes — Aussie Rules, Rugby League, Rugby Union and Soccer — will be functioning, for the first time together on the Coast.

Football form in this area has certainly been topsy-turvy in the past 10 years or so. After the war ended, Rugby League prospered and practically every centre between Burleigh and Beenleigh entered first and reserve grade teams in the Coast competition.

Then a slump set in for the League code, and Aussie Rules took advantage by getting a competition going firstly among the juniors and then the seniors. Soccer came into the picture for the first time last season with the formation of a Coast club, which made a spectacular showing in the Tweed competition.

The football picture will alter considerably in the coming season. While the Rules code seems certain to retain its player strength, the revived Rugby League code will make a bold bid for player and spectator interest. The newly-formed Gold Coast Rugby League Club has many obstacles to overcome before it achieves its objective of playing in the strong Tweed competition, but club officials told me this week the new club has already received the blessing of the Queensland Rugby League and the N.S.W. Group One. The new club's next big obstacle is to secure a suitable enclosed playing area, which will be a vital necessity to accommodate the big crowds expected to follow the Coast side in its clashes with the strong Tweed teams.

An intriguing late entrant to the Coast football scene is Rugby Union. After talking with Union enthusiasts, I am convinced that the code will field a strong team. Likely players include Paul Perrin, an outstanding Wallaby forward, and a number of other former G.P.S. and C.H.S. boys who are now living on the Coast. It is proposed that the Coast team should play matches against teams in the sub-district embracing Brisbane, Toowoomba and Ipswich. The inaugural meeting to form a Union side will be held tonight at the Seahorse Motel, at Mermaid Beach.

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