

Bribie vs Beachmere Delivered a Derby to Remember – What's Next for Both Teams?

By Chase Christensen

The Bribie Warrigals and Beachmere C Grade rugby league teams took to the field in a highly anticipated crosstown grudge match on the afternoon of Saturday the 7th of June. Both teams are currently sitting back-to-back on the ladder, with the Warrigals (4th place) one spot ahead of Beachmere — making this clash even bigger.

Many Warrigals players were absent due to sickness and injury, including their most important player, Guireh Brooks. This meant they were carrying a significant disadvantage into the match, but the Bribie spirit is never thinking you can't win a game of footy, no matter what the circumstances are.

The entertainment in this game was far from underwhelming. Despite Beachmere scoring three unanswered tries in the final fifteen minutes, Bribie managed to hold them off — thanks to a solid buffer built midway through the second half. It was a tense final few minutes for the Warrigals, as Beachmere were firing in all dimensions — both offensively and defensively. Bribie looked tired but never appeared like giving up. It took a mammoth defensive effort to survive the Beachmere attack, but they got the job done in a match both teams can walk away from with their heads held high.

Both sides have been a little shaky throughout parts of the season — Beachmere slightly more so than Bribie — with an even split of wins and losses compared to the Warrigals' six wins and two losses. The result widens the gap between the two teams on the ladder, despite them sitting just one place apart. The top five teams in the C Grade competition will play finals footy in 2025, which means both teams are still well-placed for a post-season berth — but there's a lot of footy to play before then.

Beachmere look a little less safe right now than Bribie. Beerwah — in 6th position — are breathing down their necks. Beachmere's cross-town rivals did them a favour, as Bribie beat the Beerwah Bulldogs in the following round, preventing the Bulldogs from knocking Beerwah out of the top five.

Only a fortnight after their disappointing loss to the Warrigals, Beachmere will face them again — this time at the Yandina Multi Sports Complex. This rematch will mean even more for both teams, especially Beachmere, as a loss could put them at huge risk of falling out of the 'Fantastic Five', with Beerwah expected to handle Yandina in the following match. This showdown is about more than just four competition points — it's about bragging rights in one of Sunshine Coast Rugby League's most historic and bitter rivalries.

Following the enormous clash, Beachmere will face Caloundra, Beerwah, Yandina and Noosa. It's a favourable run — all very winnable games that could place them securely on the ladder. Besides Caloundra, they've already beaten each of these teams this season, so anything less than three wins from four would be disappointing.

On the other hand, Bribie can take a deep breath and enter each battle with renewed confidence, having proven they can win tough games despite missing a host of key players. Following their second matchup with Beachmere, they'll face Kilcoy, Palmwoods and Mary Valley. Mary Valley have just scraped home on several occasions this season and may not be as strong as their 3rd-place position suggests. The Kilcoy game will be a revenge mission for Bribie, after narrowly losing in the dying minutes of their first clash this season.

Both teams proved their grit, but with finals looming, every game now becomes a must-win in this fiercely competitive season.