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Rabbitohs facing D-Day

By [Ali Hughes](#)
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South Sydney Rugby
League Club fights to
survive.

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produced this site.

As the finals of the Rugby League season draw near, the South Sydney Rabbitohs approach their own important finale - whether they will be included in the National Rugby League.

The Rabbitohs were excluded from competition last October, when the NRL announced they had decided to reduce the competition from 16 to 14 clubs. But the Souths side are refusing to go down without a fight, and have taken their case to court in an attempt to be reinstated in the competition.

The case is currently before the Federal Court, with the Club and its supporters determined not to be excluded for the sake of economics.

The oldest club in the competition, Souths was formed in 1907 when Rugby League was developing as a break away code from Rugby Union. One of the founding clubs of Australian Rugby League, they have played in the code for 92 years.

During their time in the competition, the club has had twenty premiership wins, and has produced some of the game's great players including Clive Churchill, John Sadler and John O'Neil.

It is from this history that the Rabbitohs have grown such a large and passionate group of fans, whose support has been strong and ongoing. A week before the ARL announced the decision to cut the club from competition, an estimated fifty-thousand Rabbitohs fans gathered on the steps of Sydney's Town Hall in support of Souths' survival.

Amongst the supporters were media personalities Ray Martin, Mikey Robbins and [Andrew Denton](#), who have helped to give the fight for survival a higher profile. Fans have maintained this support throughout the case, much to the appreciation of the club.

After giving evidence in court, Souths Chairman and former player George Piggins, was met by a group of supporters from Scone in the Hunter Valley, who had raised \$15,000 for the Souths Fighting Fund. "I am greatly heartened by the overwhelming number of messages of support that the club and I personally have received. I know I have an army of Aussies behind me and it certainly gives me strength," said

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Piggins, who expressed his gratitude fans on the Club's Official website.

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The case has been adjourned until July 24.

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