

NRL Round 8 Insights, Analysis & Selections



MacBet - EdgeEnforcer

Early Recommended Bets

Tigers v Raiders (Leichhardt Oval - Thursday 23/4/26 7:50pm)

1.5u - Over 49.5 (\$1.91+ Most places)

Cowboys v Sharks (QLD Country Bank Stadium - Friday 24/4/26 6:00pm)

1.0u - North QLD Cowboys H2H (\$1.95+ Most places)

Broncos v Bulldogs (Suncorp Stadium - Friday 24/4/26 8:00pm)

0.5u - Over 49.5 (\$1.91+ Most places)

Warriors v Dolphins (Sky Stadium - Saturday 25/4/26 6:05pm)

1.0u - Over 49.5 (\$1.91 Most places)

Storm v Rabbitohs (AAMI Park - Saturday 25/4/26 8:10pm)

1.0u - Melbourne Storm -4.5 (\$1.91+ Most places)

Knights v Panthers (McDonald Jones Stadium - Sunday 26/4/26 2:00pm)

0.5u - Newcastle Knights +13.5 (\$1.91+ Most Places)

1.0u - Over 49.5 (\$1.91+ Most Places)



Round 8 has that classic Anzac Day feel where the standard lifts and the games tend to be more physical, more disciplined, and a touch more emotional. You can see a few teams starting to find their rhythm, while others are still searching for consistency, which makes for some really interesting matchups. The better sides look settled through the spine and are building pressure through repeat sets, while the chasing pack are relying more on moments than control. There is a noticeable trend toward faster tempo footy, with teams willing to shift the ball early and back their edges. That opens the door for points, but also exposes defensive lapses if concentration drops. It feels like a round where composure and execution will separate the contenders from the rest.

Tigers v Raiders (Leichhardt Oval - Thursday 23/4/26 7:50pm)

The Tigers return home as solid favourites and this shapes as a real opportunity to build momentum against a Raiders side still finding consistency. With Toa returning and added stability across the spine, the Tigers attack looks more fluid and capable of capitalising on field position. The market sits at Tigers -7.5 with a total of 49.5, but the rated line leans further at -8.5 and a higher projected total of 54.7. There is upside in both margin and points, particularly if the Tigers control tempo early. Canberra will rely on effort areas and resilience, but they may struggle to match the Tigers strike across the park. This looks like a game where sustained pressure should translate into points.

Recommended Bets

1.5u - Over 49.5 (\$1.91+ Most places)

Cowboys v Sharks (QLD Country Bank Stadium - Friday 24/4/26 6:00pm)

This is one of the tighter contests of the round and shapes as a genuine coin flip despite the Sharks holding narrow favouritism. The return of Nanai adds impact on the edge for the Cowboys, while McInnes brings structure and leadership back into the Sharks middle rotation. The market has Sharks -0.5 with a total of 52.5, yet the rated position flips to Cowboys at \$1.81 and -1.5 with a slightly lower total expectation. Value on the home side, particularly given their ability to generate points in Townsville, but they will need to forget about last week. Both teams can score quickly, so momentum swings will be key. Expect a high energy contest where execution under pressure decides it late.

Recommended Bets

1.0u - North QLD Cowboys H2H (\$1.95+ Most places)

Broncos v Bulldogs (Suncorp Stadium - Friday 24/4/26 8:00pm)

The Bulldogs enter as favourites with Brisbane missing plenty of talent, but this is a serious test at Suncorp. Paix provides stability for the Broncos while Crichton returning adds class and leadership to the Bulldogs backline. The market has Bulldogs -3.5 with a total of 49.5, while the rated price tightens that line to -2.3 and lifts the total to 51.5. Flip of the coin type of affair, with points likely to flow more freely. Brisbane will look to leverage home ground energy, while the Bulldogs will aim to control the middle and build pressure. This feels like a game where composure in key moments becomes the difference.

Recommended Bets

0.5u - Over 49.5 (\$1.91+ Most places)

Dragons v Roosters (Allianz Stadium - Saturday 25/4/26 4:00pm)

The Roosters come into this clash as heavy favourites and rightly so given the gap in class and consistency between the two sides, throw in a tumultuous week from the red V. The Dragons blood a debutant in Reed which adds intrigue but also uncertainty. The market line of -16.5 aligns closely with the rated -15.5, and the total sits around the low 50s which isn't typical for Anzac Day clashes but this is certainly an outlier. The Roosters should control possession and territory, and if they build pressure early this could open up quickly. The Dragons will need to show resilience and limit errors to stay competitive. Ultimately, this looks like a game dictated by the Roosters tempo.

Recommended Bets

No Early Bets

Warriors v Dolphins (Sky Stadium - Saturday 25/4/26 6:05pm)

The Warriors return home with a solid edge in this matchup and will look to assert themselves against a Dolphins side still searching for consistency. Tupaiki coming back adds spark, while Schneider shifting into the halves changes the attacking structure. The market sits at Warriors -5.5 with a total of 49.5, while the rated line is slightly shorter at -4.9 with a higher projected total of 51.9. That indicates potential for points if both sides find rhythm. The Dolphins have shown they can compete, but their defence under sustained pressure remains a concern. Expect the Warriors to lean on territory and crowd energy to gain control.

Recommended Bets

1.0u - Over 49.5 (\$1.91 Most places)

Storm v Rabbitohs (AAMI Park - Saturday 25/4/26 8:10pm)

Melbourne head into this clash with quiet confidence and their consistency continues to be a major advantage. Bellamy sticking solid with his lineup reinforces stability, while Aitken's potential inclusion adds versatility for the Rabbitohs. The market has Storm -4.5 with a total of 49.5, but the rated line pushes further to -6.4 which highlights value on the home side. The total remains aligned which suggests a controlled contest rather than a shootout. Melbourne's structure and discipline should allow them to dictate terms, particularly through the middle. South Sydney will need to match that intensity to stay in the contest.

Recommended Bets

1.0u - Melbourne Storm -4.5 (\$1.91+ Most places)

Knights v Panthers (McDonald Jones Stadium - Sunday 26/4/26 2:00pm)

The Panthers come in as strong favourites and their system continues to set the benchmark across the competition. Schiller stepping up offers some upside for the Knights, while McLean returning from suspension strengthens Penrith's rotation. The market line of -13.5 is slightly ahead of the rated -10.8, suggesting the Knights may be able to keep this closer than expected. The total sits just under 50 but projects higher which hints at scoring opportunities. Penrith will look to control the game through discipline and field position. Newcastle will need to take their chances and limit errors to stay within reach.

Recommended Bets

0.5u - Newcastle Knights +13.5 (\$1.91+ Most Places)

1.0u - Over 49.5 (\$1.91+ Most Places)

Sea Eagles v Eels (4 Pines Park - Sunday 26/4/26 4:05pm)

Manly hold strong favouritism here despite key changes, with Tolu stepping into the fullback role and responsibility shifting across the spine. The return of Tuilagi and Russell provides a boost for the Eels, adding depth and attacking options. The market sits at -7.5 with a total of 53.5, while the rated line aligns closely at -7.6 but pushes the total higher to 55.1. That suggests points will be a major feature in this game. Manly's attacking structure should create opportunities, but their defensive resolve will be tested. Parramatta have the firepower to challenge if they can maintain consistency across both halves.

Recommended Bets

No Early Bets

While I endeavour to provide accurate and correct information, at the time of publishing there is the potential for this to be outdated.

*Odds are correct as of the 23/4 5:07pm, prices are subject to change.