

RL: Richardson quits as South Sydney CEO

League Souths

SYDNEY, Oct 31 AAP - Shane Richardson today quit as chief executive of the South Sydney NRL club to take up a position with a new sports, media and investment business.

But Richardson's four-year relationship with the Rabbitohs won't end as he remains on the club's board of directors and will also have a consulting role as director of football operations for the next 12 months.

Rabbitohs chief financial officer Joe Kelly will fill the CEO position in the interim while the club seeks a new chief executive.

Richardson will become director of sports operations at The Passionate Group - a new company headed by South Sydney's executive chairman Peter Holmes a Court.

Richardson has enjoyed a 15-year career as a rugby league administrator in Australia and England, working with Cronulla, Gateshead, Hull, Penrith and South Sydney.

"My task was to re-establish the Rabbitohs as a force again in the NRL," Richardson said.

"At the end of the last season I sought out the owners and informed them that I was looking for a new challenge and that we needed to look closely at the best structure to carry the club forward to success, thinking outside of the box on that structure while ensuring stability."

South Sydney co-owner Holmes a Court praised Richardson for his work with the club since joining in 2004.

"Shane has done an unbelievable job in his role as CEO," said Holmes a Court.

"The three-and-a-half years Shane has spent at Souths have been the veritable rollercoaster ride for him.

"He's had to endure a lot of pressure and turn around an underperforming business. This move now gives him an opportunity to focus on what he enjoys doing which is football."

Holmes a Court said the club will begin a domestic and international recruitment process to find its next chief executive.

Meanwhile the Bulldogs today denied a report they were on the verge of sacking club CEO Malcolm Noad.

An internet story claimed Noad would be sacked today, but Bulldogs chairman Dr George Peponis refuted the claim.

"It is a malicious lie that is totally unfounded," Peponis said in a statement.

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