Junaid Malik is widely regarded as one of the most gifted amateur rugby league players of his generation, a leader whose influence has shaped communities across Yorkshire, Pakistan, and the British Asian rugby movement.

Raised in a family that valued both education and ambition, Junaid balanced sporting excellence with academic achievement, becoming a law graduate while turning down several opportunities to play professional rugby. His father's encouragement to pursue education never diminished his passion for the sport - it strengthened his discipline, resilience, and leadership.

Junaid's legacy at Elland Rugby League is remarkable. As the club's youngest-ever captain, he lifted the Yorkshire Cup twice, setting a standard for skill, determination, and team unity. His talent earned him representation for Yorkshire County and the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA), where he was recognised as one of the stand-out players in the amateur game.



His contribution extends internationally. Junaid is a founding member of Pakistan Rugby League, helping to introduce, develop, and promote the sport in his mother country. He also represented Pakistan in rugby union, becoming a rare dual-code international whose story bridges nations and cultures.

Beyond playing, Junaid is an influential coach and mentor. His leadership at Elland and his guidance of young athletes through the British Asian Rugby Association (BARA) has inspired countless players. As a founder of BARA, he has helped create opportunities for British Asian players who lacked pathways into the sport. His presence, calm, powerful, and unwavering, remains integral to BARA's identity.

Junaid Malik's heritage is not simply about trophies or caps; it is about representation, belief, and the doors he opened for others. His story is one of excellence, humility, and lasting impact.

> ❝ **AS A FOUNDER OF BARA HE HAS HELPED TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRITISH ASIAN PLAYERS WHO PREVIOUSLY LACK PATHWAYS INTO SPORT** ❞

## Junaid MALIK
### Heritage Profile