

NOMINATING PLAYERS FOR HJRU WILDFIRES 2025 SELECTION

To all nominating HJRU Wildfire Players,

I hope this letter finds you well. We are excited to announce that the Hunter Wildfires are now accepting registrations for players interested in being nominated for selection into our prestigious 2025 Wildfires program.

As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering rugby talent within our community, the 2025 Wildfires program is designed to provide young athletes with the opportunity to develop their skills and compete at a higher level. This program emphasises a holistic approach to player development, focusing on both athletic excellence and personal growth.

By participating in the 2025 Wildfires program, players will benefit from:

- **High-Quality Coaching:** Access to experienced coaches dedicated to enhancing both your technical and tactical abilities.
- **Comprehensive Support:** Other resources such as introduction into sports psychology and a player's mindset, leadership, and general well-being to help balance your sporting and personal life.
- **Competitive Exposure:** An opportunity to compete in higher level competition, allowing you to gain valuable experience and showcase your talent.

We encourage all aspiring rugby players who are passionate about the sport and committed to their development to register their interest and submit a "Nomination for Consideration". This is a unique opportunity to be part of a program that not only aims to improve your rugby skills but also to shape you into a well-rounded individual.

Nomination for Consideration

To register your interest, please complete the attached "**Nomination for Consideration**" form and **submit it by the 31st August, 2024**. We look forward to reviewing your application and potentially welcoming you into the Hunter Wildfires Community for 2025.

Again, I would like to thank you for your interest in the 2025 Wildfires program, and should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm regards,

Shane Shelly

HJRU Wildfires Coordinator

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Wildfires 2025

Selection Process

Information for

Players



WILDFIRES 2025 SELECTION PROCESS (PLAYERS)

NEW PLAYER SELECTION PROCESS

Our 'Player Invite' model aims to:

- Create a greater level of visibility for potential players over a longer period under real playing conditions that maximises their chances to be 'seen' by selectors.
- Expose a greater number of players (32 instead of 23 only), to representative level coaching and development increasing a player's chance to be selected for Country/State championship teams.
- Reward players for their contribution and commitment to rugby

STEP 1: NOMINATION PERIOD

PLAYERS

All players may submit a 'Nomination for Consideration'

- This will be collected via Jotform over the nomination period and include:
 - Terms and conditions
 - Name
 - D.O.B
 - Club
 - Current Team

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY NOTES

- If a player does not prioritise Rugby ahead of competing sports (i.e. asking for dispensation to play other sports), then the nominating player/squad member may not be prioritised by Wildfires Rugby and risk forfeiting their position to another suitable participant
- Lodging false dispensation forms is a serious offence and constitutes 'Non-attendance' of training and/or games, thereby impacting the minimum attendance rule
 - A player will receive a written warning if it is found they have breached this dispensation rule

- A second infringement will result in an immediate expulsion from the Wildfires Program
- Rigorous screening for “Coaches Considerations” must be passed by majority vote of the Wildfires Sub-committee with final approval by way of the HJRU bylaws
- Red Cards within the current season for a ‘Breach of the Code of Conduct’ or, ‘Player Misconduct’ may preclude inclusion in Squads, or as a ‘Coaches Consideration’ player.
 - Whilst not possible to provide a definitive and exhaustive list of inappropriate behaviours, acts of violence, intimidation and other forms of abuse will not be tolerated and is in no case acceptable.
 - Any player bringing the game into disrepute through misconduct or a breach of the Code of Conduct, will be required to show cause for consideration.
- Mandatory attendance of Wildfires 2025-Squad Training over the Summer period

STEP 2: CLUB COACH ASSESSMENTS

Each club coach will be sent a list of nominating players from their respective age groups with an attached information form including:

- Player commitment level (i.e. club participation level)
- Perceived ability to perform at representative level
- Coachability
- Communication skills etc

COACHES NOMINATIONS

Club coaching staff may also have the opportunity to submit a “Coaches Consideration” nomination on behalf of a player they believe may be a good fit for Wildfires Development Squads.

- Nominations from club coaches on behalf of a player will be restricted to 5 players maximum (outside of self-nominating players)

STEP 3: PLAYER OBSERVATION

With a list of player assessments coming from club coaches through communication and collaboration, selectors/coaching staff can also observe players they may need to consider during the regular season.

STEP 5: PLAYER/SQUAD ANNOUNCEMENTS

As not to disrupt the regular season and take the focus and attention of players during finals series games, Wildfire Squads will not be named until after the completion of Grand Finals on the 14th September, 2024.

EXPECTED PLAYER LEVIES

If a player is selected into a HJRU Wildfires Squad for 2025, the following player levies will apply:

- Proposed player fees/levies for Wildfires 2025 Squads will be as follows:
 - u12 – u18s will be set at a maximum \$450 per season
 - \$150 is payable upon player acceptance and due by 30th September
 - \$150 is payable due by 8th December 2024
 - Remaining (Up to \$150) is payable only by final team members, due by 11th May, 2025
 - Squad members not achieving selection in the final team will not be required to pay any further levy amount regardless of whether they have been called into the final team at a later date due to injury, illness etc of another player.
 - Development teams will see an increase from \$220 to \$300
 - \$150 is payable upon player acceptance
 - \$150 is payable due by 11th May, 2025

EXPECTED TRAINING SCHEDULE: TO BE FINALISED BY APPOINTED COACHES

2024		
Location	Date <i>(or day of week)</i>	Time
Coach the Coaches Weekend (Coaching Staff Only)	19 th & 20 th Oct, 2024	9.00am – 4.00pm
Session 1: Team Development & Cohesion	17 th Nov, 2024	10.00am – 12.00pm
Session 2: Team Development & Cohesion	01 st Dec, 2024	10.00am – 12.00pm
Session 3: Team Development & Cohesion	15 th Dec, 2024	10.00am – 12.00pm
2025		
Session 4: Fitness (stamina), Technical Skills	16 th February, 2025	TBD
Session 5: Fitness (stamina), Technical Skills	23 rd February, 2025	TBD
Session 6: Fitness (stamina), Technical Skills	2 nd March, 2025	TBD
<i>Coaches Retreat (i.e. Week off training)</i>	<i>9th March, 2025</i>	<i>No Training</i>
Session 7: Fitness (game), Technical Skills, Structure	16 th March, 2025	TBD
Session 8: Fitness (game), Technical Skills, Structure	23 rd March, 2025	TBD
Session 9: Fitness (game), Technical Skills, Structure	30 th March, 2025	TBD
<i>Coaches Retreat (i.e. Week off training)</i>	<i>6th April, 2025</i>	<i>No Training</i>
Session 10: Fitness (game), Technical Skills, Structure	13th April, 2025	Trial 1 Window (Full Squad Trial)
Session 11: Fitness (game), Technical Skills, Structure	20th April, 2025	
Session 12: Fitness (game), Technical Skills, Structure Final Squad Selection Due	27th April, 2025	
<i>Coaches Retreat (i.e. Week off training)</i>	<i>4th May, 2025</i>	<i>No Training</i>
Session 13: Technical Skills & Structure only	11 th May, 2025	Trial 2 Window (Championship Team Trial)
Session 14: Technical Skills & Structure only <i>(Last day to trial)</i>	18 th May, 2025	
Session 15: Technical Skills & Structure only	25 th May, 2025	TBD
Session 16: Technical Skills & Structure only	1 st June, 2025	TBD
State Championship Weekend	7 th , 8 th , 9 th June	