

— NSW —
RUGBY UNION

Hunter Schools Rugby programs

Information Pack 2026



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2025 Overview and Strategic Plan

In 2025, NSW Rugby Development officers supported by Hunter Junior Rugby Union will be coordinating the following;

Secondary School Based Competitions

- Steve Merrick Cup – U16 Boys
- Morgan & Stewart Cup – U16's Girl 7's Competition
- 1st XV Challenge Day
- Mckendry Shield – U14's Boys Competition
- U14's Girls Gala Day
- Secondary Schools 7's – U14 / U16 / U18 boys and Girls
- School representative programs (PSSA, ISA, CCC)

Primary School Competitions

- Upper Hunter & Newcastle PS7's gala days
- School representative programs (PSSA, ISA, CCC)
- Sporting School Programs

Key School Rugby Objectives:

- To increase rugby participation in Newcastle and the Hunter schools through programs and competitions
- To provide kids a great environment to enjoy their rugby
- To provide a pathway for junior rugby talent to reach the highest levels
- To develop school coaches through coach education programs



NSW Rugby Development Staff



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Primary Schools



Primary Schools



NSW Rugby PS7's

Singleton PS7's

- 13th March 2026 at Allan Bull (**Singleton Rugby**)

Newcastle PS7's

- 1st April 2026 at Waratah Ovals

NSW Primary School Finals

- Friday 22nd May 2026

Hunter PSSA Boys

- **Upper Hunter** Zone Trial 26th March 2026 (Allan Bull)
- **Maitland Zone** Trial 1st May 2026 (Maitland)
- **Crossroads** (TBC)
- **Eastlakes & West lakes** (TBC)
- **Hunter PSSA Zone** (TBC)
- **NSW PSSA Championship** (TBC)

Hunter PSSA Girls Trials

Girls:

- Monday 11th May 2026
- NSW Championships (TBC)

Bryan Palmer Shield Boys (12's Rugby) + Girls Rugby 7's Knockout

- **Thursday 11 June 2026**
- Location - **TBC**



Primary Schools



Digby Rayward Shield

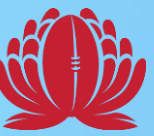
- U12's Rugby (Stage 3)
10 a Side
- U10's Rugby (Stage 2) 7's
rugby
- Date (TBC)
- Hunter Valley Grammar
School

Hunter Catholic Diocese

- 27th May 2026 at Maitland
Rugby Club (3rd June as a
back up)
- Catholic PS Polding Trials
Boys at Forbes (TBC)
- Chris Gangemi Shield**
- 22nd July 2026 at Maitland
Rugby Club
- **State Finals** TBC (Sydney)

Hunter PSSA 7's Gala Day

- Term 4, 2025
- Open to all Hunter primary
schools (State, catholic,
independent)
- U12 Boys and U12 Girls
competition



Secondary Schools



Competitions

Steve Merrick Cup – Tier 1

- Rd 1* – 31st March
- Rd 2* – 28th April
- Rd 3* – 12th May
- Rd 4* – 4th August
- Rd 5* – 18th August

* All Locations TBC

Morgan & Stewart Cup

- Rd 1 – 29th April
- Rd 2 – 13th May
- Rd 3 – 18th June
- Rd 4 – 5th August

*All Rounds to be played at Passmore Oval, Wickham

Hunter SS7's

- U14's & U16's girls
Tuesday 11th August 2026
- U14's & U16's Boys
Wednesday 12th August 2026
- Location (TBC)
- NSW schools Finals 18th September

1st XV Events

- HVGS Challenge Cup Day
- Thursday 7th May
- 2nd Event (TBC)



Hunter Secondary Schools



Steve Merrick Cup Tier 2 & McKendry Shield

Round 1

Newcastle

- Tuesday 5th May
- No.2 Sportsground

Singleton

- Wednesday 6th May
- Allan Bull Reserve,
Singleton

Round 2

Newcastle

- Tuesday 19th May
- University Oval 3

Singleton

- Wednesday 20th May
- Allan Bull Reserve,
Singleton

Round 3

Newcastle

- Tuesday 16th June
- Southern Beaches

Singleton

- Wednesday 17th June
- Allan Bull Reserve,
Singleton

Round 4

Newcastle

- Tuesday 28th July
- University Oval 3

Singleton

- Wednesday 29th July
- Allan Bull Reserve,
Singleton



Representative Programs

NSW CHS

Boys

- 25th March 2026
- U16 / U18's
- Location (TBC)

Girls

- 13th March 2026
- U18's
- Location (TBC)

NSW CCC

- June NSW Catholic Schools selection trial (Sydney)

AICES

Girls

- 28th April 2026
- U16 / U18's


- 28th May 2026
AICES Cup



Hunter Secondary Schools Finals Night 2026

Hunter Secondary School's Finals 2026

- Wednesday 9th September
- No.2 Sportsground

Check out our clips from the 2025 Finals Night 





Coach Education



Coach Education



Smart Rugby & Smart Tackle

ALL COACHES MUST be Smart Rugby accredited.

Coaches can complete [Smart Rugby online](#)

*Expires every 2 years

Coaching Kids Rugby (CKR)

Suitable for new coaches coaching younger age groups and new players.

Aimed at providing group management skills through a variety of high involved, short timespan activations

Coaches can complete [Coaching Kids Rugby online](#)

Junior Coach Course (Level 1)

Suitable for coaches looking to coach older age groups, and potentially pursue representative coaching opportunities.

This single day course introduces the coaching process and games-based learning, whilst going through the principles of play.

[Register your Expression of Interest Here](#)

Community Coach (Level 2)

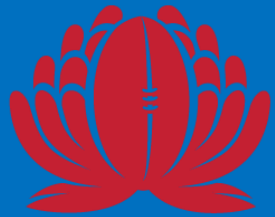
Suitable for coaches pursuing senior or representative coaching pathways. This two-day course goes into detail of the coaching process, philosophies of coaching and base analytics of rugby.

Newcastle Course: 14th & 15th February 2026

[Register your Expression of Interest Here](#)

For more information on Coach Education courses, visit the [Rugby Xplorer Learning Centre](#) or [Hunter Junior Rugby Union](#) for details.





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Sporting Schools



Sporting Schools

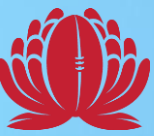


Sporting Schools Applications

1. Apply for funding on the below link
https://www.sportaus.gov.au/schools/schools/sports/rugby_union
2. Primary and Secondary School grants available
3. NSW Rugby development officers will contact your school to develop a program
4. NSW Rugby Development officers will deliver the program in the school

Application open dates

- **Term 1, 2026** 8am AEDT Monday 27 October 2025 - 5pm AEDT Friday 14 November 2025
- **Term 2, 2026** 8am AEDT Monday 16 February 2026 - 5pm AEDT Friday 6 March 2026
- **Term 3, 2026** 8am AEDT Monday TBC 2026 - 5pm AEDT TBC 2026
- **Term 4, 2026** 8am AEDT Monday TBC 2026 - 5pm AEDT TBC 2026



NSW Waratahs

Draw