

# Steve Merrick Cup - Newcastle City



## Project Overview

- 1) Year 9 & 10;
- 2) 6 Weeks (6-side comp for Hunter Region) up to 8 Weeks (if Newcastle City becomes an 8-side comp);
- 3) 10-a-side
- 4) Wednesday afternoons 4pm – 7pm
- 5) Referees supplied by NRURA
- 6) Importance of integration of Rugby into the PDHPE and sports programs. This will be supported by an Ambassador Program  
The aim is to develop into a weekly 1st XV competition

## Relationship Between the Schools

The schools that are included in the 'Steve Merrick Cup - Newcastle City' are geographically accessible to each other as well as ideally located to the Local Club that they will be attached to/partnered with for access to resources

## Coaching Strategy

Schools are being partnered with Local Clubs who will provide coaching resources to their partnered School.

Develop a partnership with the Hunter School Sports Association who have agreed to conduct Coach Accreditation under their banner which includes the provision of teacher relief to attend courses.

This strategy will broaden opportunities for staff to become accredited coaches and will be NESAs approved with the training hours counting towards teacher accreditation hours.

Support for coaches will be offered through the Breakfast Network Meetings.

We also aim to introduce a Rugby Ambassador Program.

## Match Official Strategy

Matches will be officiated by the NRURA at commercial rates (provided for in the budget)

It is the intention that all participating schools will need to nominate a minimum of two students that will be required to undertake a formal Assistant referees' course as part of their involvement. These students will then be used to sideline officiate matches in the tournament. The NSW Referees education body has already agreed to formulate a suitable course for delivery in a two-hour timeslot 1 week prior to the competition starting. These students will then be mentored by officials from the Newcastle Referees association who will then work with these students with the desired outcome being to further develop them into referees that can then gain experience in junior sevens carnivals etc.

## Region

Newcastle Hunter Rugby Union

NSW

## Convenor

Andrew Fairfull

## Status

Commencing Term 2 2019

## Current Project Expenditure

Year 1: \$45,880 Approved

## Start up Schools' Competition

### Local Geographical

**Age/Grade:** Year 10

**Game Form:** 10-a-side

**Gender:** Male

**Number of Schools:** 8

**Schools new to Rugby:** 6

**Venues**

School/Club venues (Home and Away)

Central venue each round will be one of the partnering Local Clubs.

The final round and presentations to be held at University Oval.

**Sustainability**

We feel that once the competition has been run for the first 2 years it will become embraced by the schools and become part of the schools sporting programs and budget.

Notwithstanding the forgoing, the NHRU, HJRU, NRURA and the partnering Local Clubs are committed to the long term success of the Schools Competition in the Zone and will continue to provide the resources to run the competition post the initial grant years.

We are also attempting to get the competition sponsored/branded to provide funding resources for the future.

Beyond the initial grant years we budget that up to circa \$15,000 annually may need to be contributed by the partners to the Program (the Local Clubs, NHRU, HJRU, NRURA and any sponsors we can attract).