



NSW Rugby will be running the **Emerging Talent Program 2026/2027**, including a **Level 3 Accreditation** on completion.

The competitions and programs that Rugby Australia are targeting through the Emerging Talent Coach Program include:

- Premier Rugby
- Colts Premier Rugby
- Director of Rugby
- Representative Pathway Teams
- Schools Representative
- Juniors Representative
- Regional Competitions – Senior representative
- Women's Rugby – Senior representative
- Elite players transitioning from athlete to coach.

This is a NSW Rugby delivered and Rugby AU supported program.

Program Costs

A course levy of **\$1450 (GST incl.) per participant** either from successful applicants or their club/school/zone. At this stage there is no overseas participant intake.

The fee covers all costs of the program including, resources, videos, meals, facility hire fees, consultant and presenter fees, assessment, mentoring and all course materials.

Applications

Closing Date

C.O.B Monday the 14th of September, 2026

Apply to

Owain Roberts

Email

owain.roberts@nsw.rugby

How To Apply

Your application must include:

- COVERING LETTER (no more than 1 page)
- CURRICULUM VITAE

Your cover letter should address your relevant experience and why you will be successful in the program.

Applications should be emailed to owain.roberts@nsw.rugby

NSWRU strongly encourages applicants to apply well in advance of the closing date of 14th of September, 2026. Men and Women are encouraged to apply.

Dates

Participant **MUST** be available to attend **ALL** dates to complete the course.

Weekend One

- October the 31st and November the 1st, 2026
- 9am-5pm both days (Approximately)
- Waratahs HQ, Daceyville, Sydney

Weekend Two

- November the 21st and 22nd, 2026
- 9am-5pm both days (Approximately)
- Waratahs HQ, Daceyville, Sydney

Weekend Three

- Dependent on Waratahs Home Fixtures, 2027
- **TBA** (Could include Friday/Saturday Evening Game)
- Likely February and likely Sydney Based

You must be able to attend all block weekends to complete the course.

The program also involves in-season mentoring and support, so **you need to be actively coaching** to complete the work.

This is a competency-based course and you will be assessed through observation of your coaching, small group work, video evidence and the maintenance of a coaching diary/portfolio.

During the course you will be required to film your coaching as part of the self-reflection and action planning process.

Nomination Details

Coaches wishing to participate in the program must meet the following criteria:

- Currently Smart Rugby compliant.
- Possession of a current Rugby AU Community Coach Accreditation or approved RPL equivalency (Level 2).
- Recent completion of professional coach development (e.g. attended an Advance Coach Seminar, relevant tertiary education).
- Currently coaching in targeted Rugby Australia competitions and programs as outlined above.
- Currently identified as a 'coach of potential' by Member Union Pathway staff.
- Potential to coach at the performance level, with an intent to keep coaching domestically for the next four-year period.
- Willingness to commit to continual professional development beyond completion of this course.
- Preparedness to assist in Member Union Player Development Programs.
- Commitment to fulfilling a coach mentor role for future Member Union coaches.

Selection

The selection process and timelines are as follows:

1. Coaches apply to NSW Rugby Union Coach Development and Education Manager by – **COB Monday the 14th of September, 2026.**
2. NSW Rugby Union prioritise and rank applications against the nominated selection criteria. A ranked list of coaches by – **Monday the 21st of September, 2026.**
3. The MU/RA Emerging Talent Coach Program consultancy group collates all state feedback and develops a state & national nomination list by **Friday the 25th of September, 2026.**
4. Interviews or further selection process of potential course participants are conducted by Member Unions as required by **Wednesday the 30th of September, 2026.**
5. In consultation with NSW Rugby Union the RA Emerging Talent Coach Program consultancy group selects the final candidates. Successful coaches are contacted no later than **Friday the 2nd of October, 2026.**
6. Participants confirm their attendance through payment of the \$1450 course levy by **Friday the 16th of October, 2026.**

Ongoing development opportunities may be made available to selected coaches post completion of their Emerging Talent Coach Program.

A NSW Rugby Union based 'Coaches of Interest' nomination list will be provided to the Rugby AU Consultancy group for further individual tracking and development. Continued Performance opportunities may be provided to coaches who show exceptional coaching ability.

For more information, please contact NSW Rugby Union Coach Development and Education Manager:

Owain Roberts

E: owain.roberts@nsw.rugby

****Please Note****

For candidates who may be experiencing financial hardship, please contact NSW Rugby Union Coach Development and Education Manager Owain Roberts to discuss potential solutions to your application.

Candidates that have received Rugby World Cup Legacy Funding for their coaching development are asked to contact NSW Rugby Union Coach Development and Education Manager Owain Roberts to discuss application, process and logistics.

