

NTRU - DARWIN CLUB PRESIDENTS MEETING

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2026

FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Attendees	
Darwin Clubs	<p>Jordan Lewis – Darwin Dragons President Steve Rossow – Casuarina Cougars President Jack (Rocky) Roachford – Casuarina Cougars Vice President Tamie Devine – South Darwin President Ben Hillary – South Darwin Junior Coordinator Mark Gillam – Swampdogs Vice President Tama Querino - Swampdogs Jacob Brant – Palmerston Crocs President Lee Frape – Palmerston Crocs Youth Coordinator Thomas Roe – Palmerston Crocs Mark Tweedie – University Pirates Junior Coordinator</p> <p>Non-attendance: Palmerston Raiders Rugby Union Club Katherine Rugby Union</p>
NTRRA	Nil
NTRU	<p>Danila Lochrin – General Manager Junior Po-Ching Pathways Manager Luigi Andreoli – Vice-President</p>
Rugby AU	Nil
Invited Guests	NIL

1. Note: It was agreed to by all parties that the naming convention for Reserve Grade from the 2026/27 season should be 'B Grade'.
2. **Action:** NTRU to update awards in relation to Eric Johnston etc.
3. Note: It was agreed to by all parties that the Get into Rugby Program (Walla and Tri-Time) should be run in the same time slot as 2025/26, at Rugby Park, Marrara and commencing at 5pm.
4. **Action:** NTRU to look at the program delivery for 'Walla' within the confines of the Get into Rugby program.

5. Note: It is agreed by all parties that the preference is for all junior grades except for under 17/18 boy's/girl's to be played on a Friday evening. Under 17/18 boy's/girls to follow the senior fixture and continue to play on a Saturday afternoon.
6. Note: It is agreed by all parties the following dates for the 2026/27 season:

Round	Juniors	Seniors
Round 1	9/10/26	10/10/26
Round 2	16/10/26	17/10/26
Round 3	23/10/26	24/10/26
Round 4	30/10/26	31/10/26
Round 5	6/11/26	7/11/26
Round 6	13/11/26	BYE
Jnr Round 7 / Snr Round 6	20/11/26	21/11/26
Jnr Round 8 / Snr Round 7	27/11/26	28/11/26
Jnr Round 9 / Snr Round 8	4/12/26	5/12/26
Jnr Round 10 / Snr Round 9	11/12/26	12/12/26
Christmas Break		
Snr Round 10		9/01/27
Snr Round 11		16/01/27
Jnr Round 11 / Snr Round 12	29/01/27	30/01/27
Jnr Round 12 / Snr Round 13	5/02/27	6/02/27
Jnr Round 13 / Snr Round 14	12/02/27	13/02/27
Jnr Round 14 / Snr Round 15	19/02/27	20/02/27
Jnr Round 15 / Snr Semi Final	26/02/27	27/02/27
Jnr Semi Final / Snr Prelim Final	5/03/27	6/03/27
Jnr and Snr Grand Final	12/03/27	13/03/27

7. Note: It was agreed by all parties that the inclusion of a 'Colts' Team (under 23 men) into B grade will be considered closer to the start of the season. On or about 1 September 2026 has been set as a target date to continue the discussion. Clubs asked for a strategic plan for the Colts and Fillies to gain better understanding of the pathway and it's importance.
8. **Action:** The Pathway's Manager will provide a copy of the Colts and Fillies Strategy to clubs.

9. Note: It was agreed by all parties during the off season the President's meeting will be once a month on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 5.30pm, commencing Wednesday 13 May 2026.

NB: due to the timing of this meeting, Easter and School Holidays there will be no meeting in the month of April.

10. Note: Transitioning to a season-based model carries risk. Approximately 300 players are currently registered under the calendar-year system; their registration would expire in April 2026, requiring them to re-register for the 2026/27 season.

NTRU is unable to provide partial refunds—only full refunds of the State and Association component. Club fees are determined by individual clubs, and the insurance component is set by Rugby Australia.

NTRU will consider offering a discount code for affected players; however, there is a risk this may not sufficiently incentivise renewal

11. **Action:** NTRU to undertake the work on the 2026/27 season pricing model and discuss with RA the cut off date for the current 2026 registrations and insurance.

- **Next Meeting:** Wednesday 13 May 5.30pm, NTRU Office.