



# 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
- 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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# 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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**

- 27<sup>th</sup> 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

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# Hunter Secondary Schools



## Competitions

### Steve Merrick Cup – Tier 1

- Rd 1\* – 31<sup>st</sup> March
- Rd 2\* – 28<sup>th</sup> April
- Rd 3\* – 12<sup>th</sup> May
- Rd 4\* – 4<sup>th</sup> August
- Rd 5\* – 18<sup>th</sup> August

\* All Locations TBC

### Morgan & Stewart Cup

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

*\*All Rounds to be played at  
Passmore Oval, Wickham*

### Hunter SS7's

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

### 1st XV Events

- HVGS Challenge Cup Day
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Event (TBC)





# Hunter Secondary Schools



## Steve Merrick Cup & 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



# Secondary Schools



## Representative Programs

### NSW CHS

#### **Boys**

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

#### **Girls**

- 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- U18's
- Location (TBC)

### NSW CCC

- June NSW Catholic Schools selection trial (Sydney)

### AICES

#### **Girls**


- 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- U16 / U18's
- 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
AICES Cup



# Hunter Secondary Schools Finals Night 2026

## Hunter Secondary School's Finals 2026

- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September
- No.2 Sportsground

Check out our clips from the 2025 Finals Night 



Santos



People Culture  
Strategies

Thrifty

Ta-te Living  
the home of home renovations

ISC



# Coach Education

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# 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.



# Sporting Schools

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# Sporting Schools



## Sporting Schools Applications

1. Apply for funding on the below link  
[https://www.sportaus.gov.au/schools/schools/sports/rugby\\_union](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

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**Draw**