

COMMUNITY THEMED ROUNDS



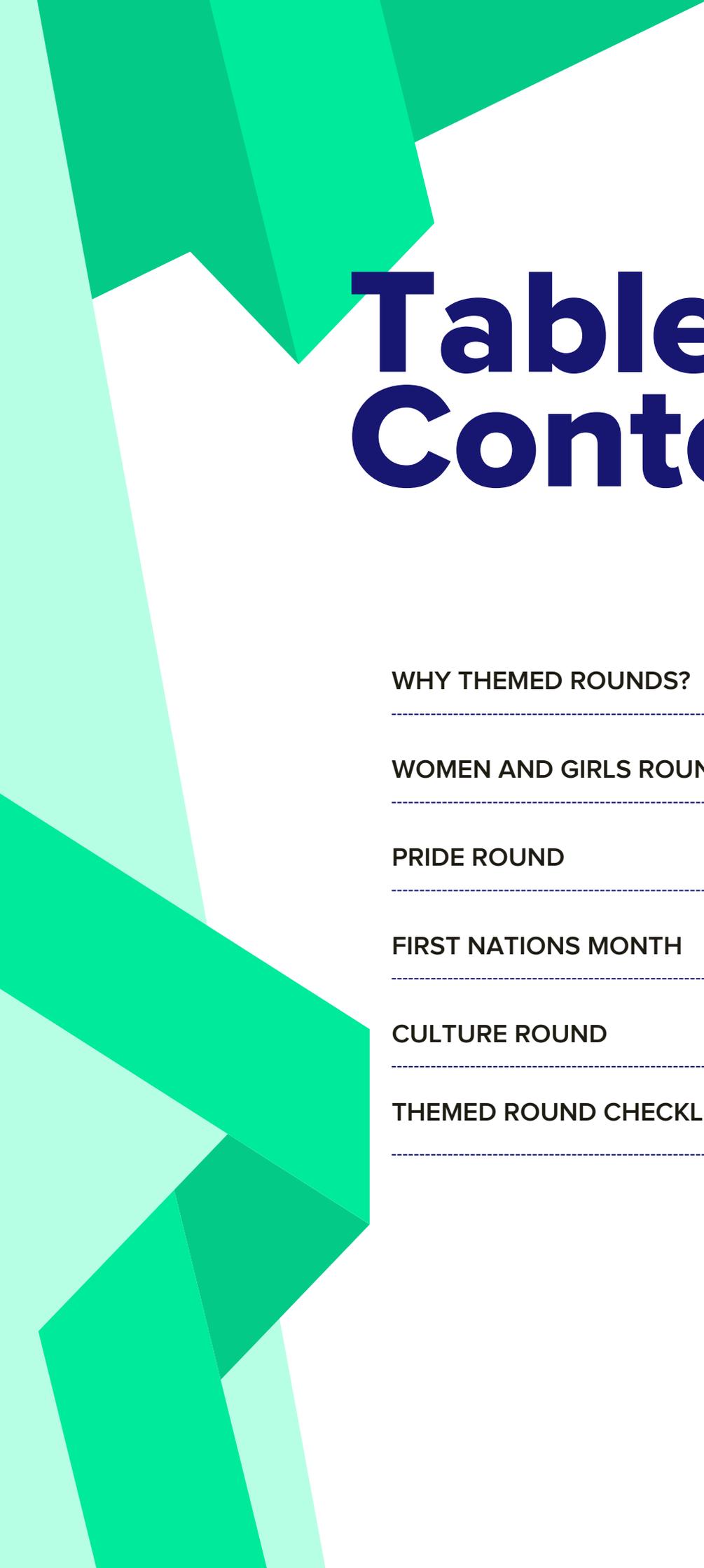


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Why Themed Rounds?

Hosting a themed round is a powerful way for your club to demonstrate a commitment to inclusion, celebrating diversity, and create a welcoming environment. Themed Rounds go beyond just the game, they foster a sense of belonging, educate the community on important social issues, and help attract new participants who may not have previously felt included in sport.

Why host a Themed Round?

- Promotes Inclusion & Club Values
 - Showcases your commitment to diversity and respect for all.
- Creates a Welcoming Environment
 - Ensures everyone feels safe, valued, and included.
- Attracts New Players & Supporters
 - Encourages broader community participation.
- Raises Awareness & Education
 - Highlights the importance of inclusion in celebrating and supporting diverse communities.
- Boosts Club Reputation & Sponsorship
 - Positions your club as a leader in social impact.
- Builds Community Connections
 - Strengthens partnerships with inclusion-focused organisations.

Other Themed Round ideas could include:

- Volunteer Recognition Round
- Respect Round
- Mental Health Round
- Prevention of Violence against Women Round
- ANZAC Day Round
- Inclusion Round
- Mother's Day or Breast Cancer Awareness Round

Women and Girls Round

Hosting a Women and Girls Rugby Round is a powerful way to elevate the profile of women's rugby and celebrate its growing presence and impact within the sporting community. It showcases strong role models who inspire the next generation and helps to break down outdated gender stereotypes that have traditionally limited opportunities for women and girls in sport.

These rounds are also catalysts for positive cultural change, encouraging clubs and communities to challenge perceptions and invest meaningfully in the women's game, through enhanced facilities, quality coaching, and inclusive recruitment pathways. By creating a more welcoming and supportive environment, Women and Girls Rounds contribute to the long-term growth, visibility, and sustainability of rugby for all.

CONSIDER

Is your rugby club actively championing women and girls?
Are you creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space for everyone?

BENEFITS

- Strengthens connections with families, schools, and local stakeholders
- Attracts new players, volunteers, and fans, especially girls
- Demonstrates your club's commitment to diversity and inclusion
- Enhances visibility and appeals to socially conscious sponsors
- Encourages more girls and women to play, coach, officiate, or lead



Women and Girls Round

IDEAS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS ROUND

VISIBILITY

Shine a spotlight on women's rugby to show it's a valued and essential part of the game

- Invest in a custom jersey or socks designed to celebrate Women and Girls Round
- Use pink, purple or club specific colours to theme decorations
- Display banners or flags celebrating females
- Create posters highlighting key stats, milestones or inspiring quotes from women
- Boost social media visibility

EDUCATION

Use the round to inform and inspire, showing the many ways girls and women can get involved in the game

- Host an education session for players, coaches and volunteers about the importance of women's sport
- Invite a guest speaker to address teams
- Share coaching, refereeing and leadership opportunities for women and girls
- Spotlight female members of your club and share stories

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Make it more than a game, turn it into a celebration that brings people together

- Invite local girls schools, community sports groups or organisations to attend or participate
- Host a family-friendly open day with skills clinics or come and try activities
- Partner with local businesses or councils to support and promote the Round



Pride Round

Pride Round is a celebration of diversity and inclusion within the game and community, encouraging everyone to be their authentic selves when they are at rugby. By hosting a Pride Round, your club can demonstrate their support for LGBTQ+ individuals, ensuring they feel safe, valued and celebrated in sport.

CONSIDER

Is your club a safe and welcoming space for the LGBTQ+ community?

BENEFITS

- Demonstrates Club Leadership
- Engages the Wider Community – Sparks meaningful conversations and draws in a more diverse audience.
- Connects to Pride Events – Aligns your club with local Pride festivals and LGBTQ+ initiatives
- Supports LGBTQ+ Inclusion by promoting visibility, acceptance, and safety for LGBTQ+ participants.

Clubs that host a Pride Round have seen up to a 40% reduction in the use of homophobic language at their club compared to those that don't. (Monash University study)

KEY CONTACTS

Reach out to some of the key organisations who can assist you with education and resources:

- Pride in Sport: www.prideinsport.com.au
- Proud to Play: www.proud2play.org.au
- Pride Cup: www.pridecup.org.au
- IDAHOBIT Day: www.idahobit.org.au/

Pride Round



IDEAS FOR PRIDE ROUND

Visibility:

- Invest in a rainbow or Pride themed jersey
- Pride socks
- Rainbow or Pride flag decorations around the club
- Posters and signage displaying educational information - found on the Pride in Sport or Proud to Play websites
- Social media visibility, such as changing club logos to rainbow coloured, posts promoting the day/ event

Education:

- Host a education session for all club members
- Have a guest speaker address senior teams
- Access online education or resources from Pride in Sport, Proud to Play or Pride Cup Australia
- Share stories or spotlight on allies or LGBTQ+ participants in your club via newsletters, social media or on game day

CASE STUDY

The Melbourne Chargers' annual Pride Round, now in its fifth year, delivers a full suite of inclusive initiatives that benefit both the club and the wider rugby community. Partnering with Pride Cup, the event includes game day support, educational workshops on LGBTQ+ inclusion, live streaming, and coordinated social media campaigns.

In 2025, the Chargers collaborated with Monash University Rugby Club, Melbourne Rugby Club, and Rugby Victoria to cross-promote the match and boost reach. The event increased club visibility, attracted new players from underrepresented groups, strengthened community partnerships, and supported sponsorship opportunities. By creating a visibly inclusive environment, the Chargers fostered a culture of safety, pride, and belonging, while helping grow the game through broader engagement.

First Nations Month

First Nations Month is held every year in July to coincide with NAIDOC Week. NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year, to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

By hosting an Indigenous Round during First Nations Month, rugby clubs can play a key role in promoting respect, inclusion and connection with First Nations communities.

BENEFITS

- Celebrate culture and legacy - honours traditions, leadership and excellence of First Nations players current and past who have shaped the game
- Promote respect and reconciliation - demonstrate your club's commitment to acknowledge Traditional Owners and building relationships
- Strengthen club culture - Indigenous Rounds can foster welcoming environments and connect people to the club and code
- Inspire the next generation - visibility of culture and community inspires pride and belonging amongst First Nations players and fans

CONSIDER

Throughout Australia there are established organisations with cultural responsibility for caring for their country. These Aboriginal Land Councils, Traditional Owner groups or other organisations established for this purpose can support your club to deliver culturally appropriate activities.

To assist you to identify Traditional Owners head to the website: www.aiatsis.gov.au/whose-country

First Nations Month

IDEAS FOR AN INDIGENOUS/ FIRST NATIONS ROUND

Visibility:

- Organise a Welcome to Country
- Create an Acknowledgement of Country plaque for your clubrooms
- Arrange a Smoking Ceremony or a cultural performance for pre game
- Fly an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander flag
- Engage a First Nations artist to design Indigenous jerseys or warm up uniform that reflect Country and a story
- Social media profile of key First Nations players or volunteers from your club

Education:

- Encourage members to educate themselves on NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week and other days of significance
- Host a cultural awareness workshop from a local Indigenous organisation
- Invite an Elder to speak to club members about the history of the land
- Share facts, stories or words from the traditional language in the lead up to the Round
- Confirm a zero tolerance policy at your club for racism
- Complete the [Australian Sports Commission's Anti-Racism course – Dealing with the moment](#)



Pasifika Round

Rugby in Australia is proudly shaped by the diverse backgrounds of its participants, with over 14% of registered players identifying as having a Pasifika background, including Pacific Islander, Tongan, Fijian, Cook Islander, Samoan and New Zealand Māori. This strong representation highlights the importance of creating spaces where all players feel seen, valued, and celebrated.

A Pasifika Round is one way clubs can recognise and honour the unique cultural identities within our Rugby community. It offers an opportunity to showcase the rich traditions, customs, and talents that Pasifika cultures bring to the game, while also fostering greater understanding, inclusion, and social cohesion across all communities involved in Rugby.

CONSIDER

It is important to note that the Pacific region encompasses a number of different countries, with a broad range of cultures, customs, languages, and days of significance. To ensure your Culture Round is meaningful and respectful, it is essential to consult with relevant individuals, community leaders, and organisations in the planning process.

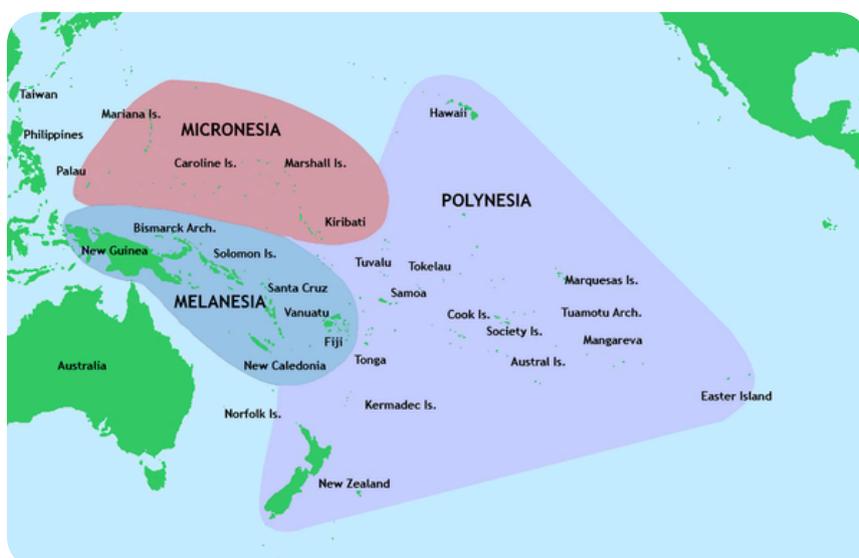


Image depicting the diversity of countries found in the Pacific region.

Pasifika Round

IDEAS FOR PASIFIKA ROUND

Visibility:

- Wear heritage jerseys or elements of uniforms that reflect Pasifika motifs or colours
- Display flags around the venue
- Incorporate traditional music or drumming
- Utilise signage at venue or social media to spotlight players or volunteers with Pasifika heritage
- Invite community groups to perform traditional dances or ceremonies
- Serve culturally significance food and/ or drinks at the club canteen

Education:

- Host a pre-game talk from a Pasifika Elder or leader sharing the significance of their culture and Rugby
- Share educational material about different Pasifika nations and their traditions and cultural protocols on social media
- Encourage teams to learn and use simple greetings in Pasifika language



Themed Round Checklist

Utilise the below checklist as a guide to plan and deliver a themed round:

Category	Task	Complete
1. Early Planning	Define the theme and purpose of the round	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Set a suitable date	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Form a planning team (players, volunteers, community)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Community Engagement	Identify and consult relevant groups/organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Involve community members in planning and game day	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Visibility	Plan themed elements (jerseys, socks, posters)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Organise performances or cultural displays	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Display visual elements at venue (signage, flags, artwork)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Promote the round online and at the club	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Education	Share educational resources/social media content	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Organise speaker or cultural awareness activity for game day	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Provide context and explanation of the theme	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Inclusion & Respect	Ensure respectful and appropriate representation	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Acknowledge relevant cultural protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Encourage respectful participation by all members	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Communication	Promote through club channels (email, social media, posters)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Share stories from players/community relevant to the theme	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Encourage themed attire or symbols of support	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Game Day Delivery	Confirm all logistics (venue, volunteers, equipment, catering)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Brief coaches, players, match officials	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Capture content (photos/videos) for sharing and reflection	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Reflection	Debrief with team and community reps	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gather and record feedback from participants and attendees	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Document key learnings for future themed rounds	<input type="checkbox"/>