

## NTRU - DARWIN CLUB PRESIDENTS MEETING

WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2026

FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Attendees	
<b>Darwin Clubs</b>	Jordan Lewis – Darwin Dragons President Tamie Devine – South Darwin President Stacie Campbell – Swampdogs President Ben Edwards – University Pirates  Non-attendance: Casuarina Cougars Rugby Union Club Palmerston Crocs Rugby Union Club Palmerston Raiders Rugby Union Club Katherine Rugby Union
<b>NTRRA</b>	Nil
<b>NTRU</b>	Danila Lochrin – General Manager
<b>Rugby AU</b>	Fraser Brydon – Competition Lead Developing States
<b>Invited Guests</b>	NIL

- Note: Home and away rounds still to be determined. South Darwin and Swampdogs will provide their requests by the end of the week. Triangulation of club home games needs to be considered for referee allocation and travel.
- Action:** South Darwin and Swampdogs to provide their home game preferences by Monday 18 May.
- Note: Upcoming dates (noted at end) tabled for information.
- Note: Hottest 7's under 12's and under 14's. There was very little engagement in these age groups during the 2026 tournament with 2 teams in the under 12's, 2 teams for the same club in under 14 girls, and 2 teams in the under 14 boys.

Learnings for 2026, during the day was too hot for the younger players not knowing when they are overheating themselves and how to address it. Parents were either reluctant or unable to take the day off work to attend tournament. Based on this NTRU will consider the possibility of running the tournament as twilight event to encourage more participation or the removal of the younger age groups based on feedback from clubs.

5. **Action:** Clubs will discuss if they are in a position to support teams in the under 12 mixed and under 14 boy's and girls divisions in the 2027 hottest 7's and provide feedback to NTRU.

NB: Clubs will not be able to consider this until further into the new registration period.

6. Note: The Alice Springs 7's has been endorsed by NTRU however, the framework for the Darwin 7's is still being developed. NTRU provided the presidents the undertaking that a tournament would not be sanctioned to play in the top end that competed with Darwin Club competition.
7. Note: Players who purchased a full season registration at the commencement of 2026 (excluding weekly or monthly registrations) will have their registration rolled over into 2027. This means players who registered under a full season senior or junior registration will not be required to pay registration fees again until the latter half of the 2027 calendar year and will remain covered for the 2026/27 competition season (October 2026 through to March 2027).

NB: The standard registration and approval process will still apply for any junior player wishing to participate in the senior competition.

8. Note: Pricing model for 2026/27 competition season is yet to be finalised. NTRU advised a price increase is anticipated.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 10 June 5.30pm, NTRU Office.

### Key Dates:

- 10 June 2026 – Junior Law Review Presentation – NTRU Office
- 14/15 June 2026 – Heart of Rugby Tour/Clinic – Rugby Park
- 14 June 2026 – Coaching Master Class – Rugby Park
- 27 June to 10 July 2026 – NT Rep program on tour
- 18 September 2026 – Longest Lunch
- 19/20 September 2026 – Master's 10s
- 8/11 October 2026 – Australian Rugby Shield (ARS) – Geelong, Victoria
- 9 October 2026 – Round 1 Juniors – Rugby Park
- 10 October 2026 – Round 1 Seniors – Rugby Park
- 30 October to 1 November – Alice Springs 7's – Anzac Oval
- 9 December 2026 – Junior's last round prior to Christmas break
- 10 December 2026 – Senior's last round prior to Christmas break
- 9 January 2027 – Senior's first round post-Christmas break
- 22/24 January 2027 – Hottest 7's
- 30 January 2027 – Junior's first round post-Christmas break
- 7 March 2027 – Eric Johnston Awards Night
- 12 March 2027 – Junior Grand Finals
- 13 March 2027 – Senior Grand Finals