



PLAYRUGBY

FEMALE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM 2026

**Strengthening rugby by building capability
and increasing female involvement across all
areas of the game**

2026 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

5th December 2025	Nominations Open
19th January 2026	Nominations Close
23rd January	Successful candidates notified
Start February	Virtual introduction and pre work
21st – 22nd February	In person workshop in Sydney
March	Mentors assigned to mentees
March – August	Formal mentoring period
October	Follow up virtual session

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- Have a strong interest in developing a future in rugby or sport, either on or off the field
- Show aspirations to grow as a leader, with goals to contribute to rugby, in particular the journey to the 2029 Women's Rugby World Cup
- Demonstrate a willingness to build confidence, communication, and relationship skills through active participation
- Be available for all program components, including:
 - Virtual introduction and pre work
 - In person workshop
 - Mentoring period

NOMINATION QUESTIONS:

- Why do you want to be part of the Female Leadership Program in 2026?
- What are your aspirations in rugby or sport?
- How have you already been involved in rugby or another sporting community?
- What strengths or qualities will you bring to the program and how will you contribute to the workshop?

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION HERE:
FEMALE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM 2026

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT:
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COACH PROFILE

EMERGING COACHES

IDEAL CANDIDATES

- Young or developing coaches working in junior or community rugby.
- Coaches involved in representative programs (e.g. State Championships, regional academies).
- Those who are passionate about building their coaching pathway and exploring opportunities in performance, development, or leadership roles.
- Coaches who want to strengthen their leadership skills, connect with mentors, and learn from experienced professionals in rugby.

WHAT THEY'LL GAIN

- Leadership development and practical learning in coaching environments.
- Access to mentorship, peer networks, and career pathway insights.
- Confidence to take on greater roles within their club, region, or representative program.



MO PROFILE

MATCH OFFICIALS SEEKING LEADERSHIP & GROWTH

IDEAL CANDIDATES

- Female referees who are officiating at club, school, or representative level.
- Match officials aiming to develop leadership and management skills - both on and off the field.
- Referees looking to connect with other female officials, mentors, and leaders within the rugby community.
- Those interested in progressing along the referee or match management pathway (e.g. referee coaching, appointments, or officiating administration).

WHAT THEY'LL GAIN

- Targeted leadership and communication training for officials.
- Networking and mentorship opportunities with senior referees and administrators.
- Practical insights into pathway progression, performance development, and community leadership.



ROLES IN RUGBY

ASPIRING SPORT PROFESSIONALS

IDEAL CANDIDATES

- Women currently studying or recently graduated in sport management, business administration, marketing, or related fields.
- Those who enjoy working or volunteering in rugby and want to expand their professional network.
- Individuals looking to gain experience, mentorship, and insight into working in sport and rugby operations.
- Future leaders who want to build confidence, industry understanding, and professional connections.

WHAT THEY'LL GAIN

- Hands-on leadership and career development opportunities.
 - Access to mentors across coaching, refereeing, and sport administration.
 - Exposure to real-world experiences in the rugby industry.
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NONPLAYING ROLES

VOLUNTEERS AND ADMIN

IDEAL CANDIDATES

- Women involved in club, school, or regional rugby administration or volunteering roles (e.g. team managers, committee members, coordinators).
- Passionate contributors who want to build leadership, communication, and organisational skills.
- Volunteers who want to transition into paid roles or broader leadership within rugby.
- Those looking to connect with like-minded women, share experiences, and strengthen their impact on the game.

WHAT THEY'LL GAIN

- Leadership and management training relevant to club and community sport.
 - Access to a supportive network of mentors and female leaders in rugby.
 - Practical skills to enhance their confidence and effectiveness in administration, governance, and volunteer coordination.
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