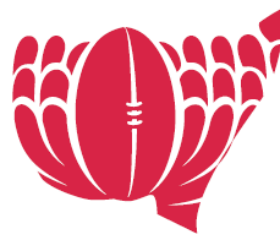


NSW Junior Gold



NSW
JUNIOR GOLD

The Junior Gold Cup

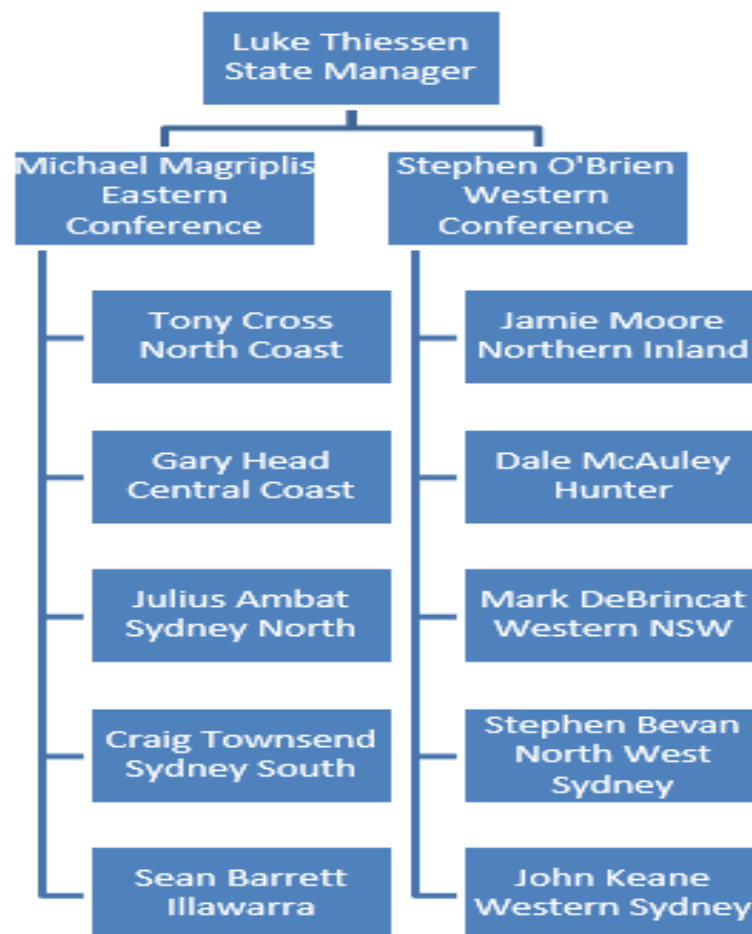
The Junior Gold Cup (JGC) is a national long term talent development and competition program at U15 and U17 age levels. The combining of these two important elements was made possible by drawing together the Junior Gold Programs that operated across Australia and the various levels of Junior Rugby representative programs. This ensured the transition was not a huge revolution of the pathway; more an evolution. The truly national nature of the JGC competition provides players, coaches, administrators and match officials with the opportunity to be involved in high levels of representative rugby programming and development at national level on an annual basis whilst maintaining local/regional representation.

The JGC program involves all eligible states and territories in Australia within a dynamic and progressive model catering for each of the state or regions individual needs. The JGC seeks to compliment and in some cases collaborate with existing participation and representative rugby pathways at State Union, Junior Club and School levels. The scheduling of the JGC program provides Junior Club and School rugby with a clear window for competition and participation and over time should work in alignment to build participation by attracting, recruiting and retaining players to the game through critical age groups.

Program Management

In 2014/2015 the Australian Rugby Union (ARU) will remain in control of the competition component (e.g. draw, scheduling, manual) of the JGC and coordination and management of the final series. All other program logistics, information and communication will now be handled by individual State bodies.

In NSW, the NSW Junior Gold (NSWJG) staff involved in developing, implementing and managing the JGC includes:



The Centres

In 2015, the JGC will remain with twenty-four (24) Centres that include both the U15 and U17 age groups. For the NSWJG the District Managers will look after two conferences that include the following teams:

Eastern	Western
1. North Coast	6. Northern Inland
2. Central Coast	7. Hunter
3. North Harbour	8. Western NSW
4. South Harbour	9. Sydney North West
5. Illawarra	10. Sydney West

Competition Conferences, Pools & Finals

As in 2014, the 24 Centres will be split across two conferences (Northern and Southern). Within each of these conferences the teams will be split across two pools, thus creating 4 pools of six teams across both conferences. Within the pools teams will play each other team (5 matches each) as per the draw.

At the conclusion of the pool matches the highest placed teams in each pool will play-off to decide the conference winners. The conference winners will then play-off in the JGC final.

Player Eligibility

A player's age group is to be determined using the calendar year and the ARU's two-year window policy i.e. for 2015 an U15 year player will need to have been born in 2000 or 2001; an U17 year player will need to be have born in 1998 or 1999.

Training/Development Program

The combined talent development and representative competition model of the JGC will allow genuine development across key areas of skill, performance, and physical and off field development whilst achieving quality efficiencies and long term development outcomes.

NSWJG Program

Stage 1 – Trial Stage

Stage 1 will run during the months of September and October, and is the trial stage. To trial for a centre players pay a registration fee of \$10* that will cover administration costs and logistics around each trial. Players should register for the centre that they live closest to. Players selected post-trials will move on to Stage 2. However, in Sydney for selection into Stage 2 players maybe selected for a team that they did not register for.

If players are injured during the time of the trials but would like to be considered, they must still register and turn up to the trial. For those players who have been selected for the U16 Sydney Juniors, NSW Schools and Country Juniors, they are required to register and attend the trials but the trial fee will be waived.

*Trial fees once registered are non-refundable.

Stage 2 – Development Stage

Stage 2 is the Development Stage of the program and will run for approximately seven (7) weeks in November and December. A maximum Development squad of 40 players per team will be selected from Stage 1 trialists. Players will be required to either attend weekly sessions or training camps depending on the NSWJG centres location.

Player levies for this Stage will be set at \$155.00[#] and covers such costs as basic apparel, administration, elite coaching, logistics etc. Each player selected for this stage will receive a training singlet, training shorts and a NSWJG cap. From these 40 Development players, a Competition squad will be selected.

Stage 3 – Competition Stage

The Competition stage runs during January to March, with the JGC being played from the 8th February until the end of March. Twenty five (25) players will be selected in Stage 3 and will come from Stage 2 players. Anyone who is injured during this time can be replaced by Stage 2 players.

Players in this stage will receive, training tee, training shorts, polo shirt, hoodie, backpack and their playing apparel, jersey, shorts and socks. Player levies for this stage will come to \$495.00[#] and go towards, team travel logistics, apparel, administration, general team logistics, elite coaching etc.

[#] hardship cases will be considered if a formal letter has been sent to the State Manager one (1) week after being selected in either stage.

Once the competition phase has been completed a NSWJG U17 and U15 will be selected to play against an U17 and U15 Queensland team on the 4th April 2015 in Brisbane.