



NSW Country (Junior Rugby Union) Representatives from the Illawarra

Overview

- NSW Country Junior Rugby Union is made up of 8 zones. Far North Coast, Central North, New England, Mid North Coast, Central Coast, Hunter, Central West and Illawarra.
- Illawarra is one of the smallest in terms of player numbers but this year was by far the most successful.
- Of the 7 contested age groups 12 – 18's, Illawarra won 13's,14's,17's and 18's age groups. Their best result ever.
- NSW Country Junior Rugby Union start their representative programmes at the 14 years age group.
- Last month all selected players in all age groups attended an All Age Camp at the Myuna Bay Sport & Recreation Facilities at Lake Macquarie. The Australian Rugby Union Player Development Staff run day 1 of the camp doing numerous skills and drill with the players, then the Team Coaches have the players for the balance of the camp, with trial games organised for all teams on the Sunday at Maitland.
- NSW Country v City takes place August 2nd in Sydney in all age groups (14 – 18's)
- A NSW team is then selected from the city v country game in the 15's and 17's age groups

Under 14's

Players

Rory Davis (Shamrocks), Corey Tulloch (Shamrocks), Tom Aney (Shoalhaven), Jamaine Crossley (Shoalhaven), Sam Connor (Shoalhaven), Tim Lewis (Bowral).

Programme

- This is the NSW Country entry age group.
- 5 – 12th July travelled to the Gold Coast and played in a tournament which included some of the best Rugby school teams from around Australia. The team were undefeated in the 5 games against Scots College (Sydney), St Josephs College (Brisbane), The Southport School (Gold Coast), Brisbane Church of England Grammar School (Churchie) (Brisbane) and a Gold Coast Development Team. NSW Country was the competition winners. Scored over 200 points for and only had 1 tried scored against them.

- The team had 2 free days on the Gold Coast which they spent 1 of at Dream world and the other shopping.
- After the city v country game on August 2nd the team will end the programme with a game against the Queensland state championship winning team (yet to be determined). This game will be played in Balina on the October long weekend

Under 15's

Players

Ben Robinson (Shamrocks), Blake Holmes (Shamrocks), Liam Faughlin (Tech/ Waratahs).

Programme

- 2 teams originally selected (country gold, country black)
- **Final team selection came after both teams competed at the Sydney Juniors Regional Carnival last weekend. The teams faired well beating Sydney West Zone and Sydney South Zone. Narrow loses to Sydney North.**
- **City v country 2nd August**
- **Team plays ACT in Bundanoon on July 26th**
- **Team travels to The Cook Islands and New Zealand in the October school holidays**

Under 16's

Players

Will Miller (Shoalhaven), Paul Asquith (Kiama), Jacob Woolley (Shamrocks), James Knight (Shoalhaven).

Programme

- 2 teams originally selected (Country gold, country black)
- Teams played CHS (combined high school) 3'S In Newcastle going down 3 tries to 1.
- **Final team selection came after both teams competed at the Sydney Juniors Regional Carnival last weekend. The teams had performed well by defeating Sydney West Zone and Sydney North Zone but went down to Sydney South and the Barbarians team.**
- **City v country 2nd August**
- **Team plays ACT in Bundanoon on July 26th**
- Team competes in the National under 16's titles being held at Riverview from the 3rd – 9th October. From this event an Australian under 16's merit team will be named.

Under 17's

Players

John Shadow – Posar (Camden), Micheal Tonna (Camden), Nathan Trindall (Kiama), Rory Waterfall (Shamrocks), Hagan Butler(Shoalhaven).

Programme

- 1 team originally selected
- Team played CHS 2's in Newcastle. Country 17's won 4 tries to 3
- Team played in the open division of the Gold Coast carnival. The tournament hosted over 50 Rugby teams from all over Australia and New Zealand. They lost the first game to the host School, The Southport School but then went on win the competition
- City v Country 2nd August
- NSW team selected

Under 18's

Players

Caleb Rae (Vikings), Heath Mercer (Shamrocks)

Programme

- Played CHS 1st. Drew 22 – 22
- Will play Oakhill College in Bundanoon 26th July
- City v Country August 2nd will play Eastern Suburbs 1st Grade Colts.
- NSW Country 18's then tour Hong Kong in November

Summary

Junior Rugby Union in the Illawarra offers great opportunities for all players in the region. The opportunities the players have today are far greater now than ever before. This is largely due to the generosity of all the sponsors and the dedication of its large volunteer family. With our 13's age group tour to New Zealand now established and a clear pathway to the highest level available to all our players through NSW Country, Rugby Union in the Illawarra looks brighter than ever.