

JUNIOR PLAYERS INFORMATION FOR SEASON 2024 **- FIRST JUNIOR TRAINING SESSION FRIDAY 8TH MARCH**

West's Bulldogs Rugby

Welcome to the 2024 rugby season! Western Districts Rugby Football Club Inc. is a not-for-profit community club. We provide boys & girls the opportunity to gain the experience, skills and enjoyment of rugby. We play in the Brisbane Junior Rugby Union (BJRU) competition.

INFORMATION/COMMUNICATION/REGISTRATION LINKS

- Junior Registration 2024 will be open from 31st January 2024
[https://myaccount.rugbyexplorer.com.au/choose-registration?name=West's Bulldogs Rugby \(Juniors\)](https://myaccount.rugbyexplorer.com.au/choose-registration?name=West's Bulldogs Rugby (Juniors))
- Registrations need to be received by 9 February to confirm a player's position in the same team as last season.
- Registrar email address is registrar@westsbulldogsrugby.com.au. Please respect that the registrar is a part-time position and may not respond to queries immediately.
- West's produces a weekly newsletter from March which has the latest information about training, games, and club matters.
- Further junior information can be found at the West's Juniors Team App site <https://westsbulldogsrugbyjuniors.teamapp.com>, which the club keeps regularly updated throughout the season with club news and dates.
- Follow us on Facebook [@westsbulldogstoowong](https://www.facebook.com/westsbulldogstoowong) and Instagram [@westsbulldogrugby](https://www.instagram.com/westsbulldogrugby) for updates.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

The age group eligibility is determined by what age a player is turning in that particular calendar year. For instance, if a player has turned 10 or is turning 10 in 2024, he/she will be an Under 10 player. Players may also play up one age group without requiring dispensation, for example a player that has turned 10 or is turning 10 in 2024 can also play Under 11s. Any players wishing to play down an age group or play up more than one age group must complete the dispensation process with an accredited assessing coach.

VOLUNTEERING

Junior sport cannot operate without our army of volunteers, so we ask you to help the kids and the Club wherever you can. All teams must provide a coach, a manager, and a field marshal; teams in unders 6 to 9 must also provide a referee. Coaches, managers, field marshals & referees are volunteers. Volunteering is both enjoyable and rewarding. If you feel like you can give 1 hour per week or more, please reach out. Send all expressions of interest to gm@westsbulldogsrugby.com.au or discuss with your age group coordinator.

All coaches and referees must be accredited and hold a valid Blue Card (Working with Children Card) which can be obtained as follows:

- Coaching courses are available via Rugby Australia's Learning Centre accessed via Rugby Explorer. The minimum required accreditation for junior rugby is "Smart Rugby" – an online course focused on ensuring appropriate safety awareness for volunteers that can typically be completed in a single session. West's will also run more formal training coaching courses for interested coaches through the season
- Applying for a Blue Card is a prompt and straightforward process done online that our registrar can assist with. Applications for blue cards for volunteer roles are free and typically require only a valid Queensland driver's licence.

REGISTRATION & PAYMENTS

All junior **registrations must be made online ONLY**, and payments are via credit/debit card only. The club does not register players in person. **Online registration will be available from January 31st, 2024.**

Registration Fees cover the player Insurance, BJRU Levy, QRU Levy, RA Levy, medics, referees from U10-U17, a jersey for under 6 to under 16, use of training equipment and social membership. Each player will receive a playing jersey, training shirt, water bottle, sticker, boot bag, and team photo. After you have registered online, please collect your registration pack at the clubhouse at any junior training.

Registration Fees for 2024 juniors are:

Puppy Pack	\$195
U6 and U7	\$355
U8 to U16	\$445
Junior Colts (Lightning Series)	\$250
Junior Girls	\$250
Modified Rugby Program	\$220

Junior colts players who wish to register for either senior rugby or are eligible to play U16 at the completion of the Lightning Series in April should contact the office for a discount code for their subsequent registration.

DISCOUNTS FOR SIBLINGS

Discounts for families with 2 players \$40, 3 players \$100, 4 players \$200. These discounts will only apply when paying multiple registrations in 1 transaction.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The Queensland Government can assist families with \$150 vouchers for sporting fees. For information & to apply go to: www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/fairplay/apply

ONLINE REGISTRATION

The Rugby Xplorer app is available for download via the Apple Store or Google Play, or you can access it via computer or browser at <http://myaccount.rugbyexplorer.com.au>

- Login using your email and password
- Click **Register** in the menu options
- Click **Find a Club**
- When asked “*Who would you like to register?*” click on the correct profile
 - Each player will need to register separately
 - New players will need to click **Link a New Person**
- Search “*Wests Bulldogs Rugby*”
- Click Wests Bulldogs Rugby (Juniors)
- Follow the prompts and update personal details (if necessary)
- Update or fill in any additional details
- Note that details required include height and weight of the child being registered. **Please calculate these as accurately as possible.** Children whose height or weight are outside Rugby Australia’s Mandatory Assessment Guidelines will have their height and weight checked and may be required to undertake an assessment under the Age Grade Dispensation Procedure.¹
- Update or fill in any emergency contact details
- Please note that the registration will not be available if you haven’t completed all the personal information within your profile
- Tick “*I have read and agree to the National terms and conditions*” box
- Pay registration when prompted at the gateway by credit/debit card or Zip pay options
- Once complete, Registration Successful will pop up to confirm you registration. You will also receive a receipt to your nominated email address.
- If registering another player, when asked “*Would you like to add another registration?*” click **Next player profile** to register and follow the steps as per above.

U12 GRADING

All details for U12 grading explained in the grading policy document at the end of this document.

U14 – U16 REGISTRATION

It is common for players in the U14 – U16 age groups to have competing obligations, often involving school rugby commitments. Wests does not offer half season registrations in the U14-U16 age groups.

¹ For more information on the Age Grade Dispensation Procedure, visit <https://australia.rugby/about/codes-and-policies/safety-and-welfare/player-dispensation>

In order to ensure all U14-U16 players and the club can align their expectations for the season ahead of registering, the following process will apply for 2024. Players interested in playing for Wests in U14 – U16 are encouraged to attend training from the first training sessions (8 March for U14 / 13 March for U15/U16). Prior to the end of March, age group coordinators will communicate with interested players and their parents on:

- (a) the expected number of teams;
- (b) the number of players in each team;
- (c) the intended nominated division for each team; and
- (d) any other matters relevant for the season (e.g. potential that players may play out of position or inability to contest scrums).

After this communication, players will then be expected to commit to the season via registering or advise if they no longer wish to play with Wests for this season.

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship opportunities are now available. There are many ways to support our club. Sponsorship can be via team jerseys, precinct signage, equipment, webpage, newsletters, social functions, presentation day and many more. Join our high valued sponsors for 2024 by contacting gm@westsbulldogsrugby.com.au.

WET WEATHER

If it is raining or there has been substantial rain, go to our Facebook and Instagram sites for the latest information on training and/or games. Generally, the maximum rain our field can take is about 10mm. If we have considerable rain (*ie.* above 10mm) the day before games, the club will make as early a call as possible and try to relocate games. Our club now has 650 juniors and 350 senior players with only two fields. Our fields are a critical asset and so the club must ensure these assets are usable by all players for the whole season.

TRAINING TIMES

Junior Training (U6-U14) is Friday afternoon/evenings at Wests. Junior training for 2024 commences on 8 March 2023. Training times are as follows:

4:45 – 5:45pm: U6-U9

5:45 – 6:45pm: U10-U12

6:45 – 7:45pm: U13-U14

- U15-U16 will train on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30pm commencing 13 March 2024
- Junior Colts will train in preseason with the senior colts and then Wednesday evenings 6:00-7:30 pm from early February 2024. The precise date will be notified closer to the time.
- Junior Girls Rugby will train on Wednesday nights from 6pm commencing 22nd February 2023.

Times may vary depending on field availability. For safety reasons, all players must have a responsible adult/parent/guardian present at training. Food and drinks are available on Friday nights and all family members are welcome to come along and enjoy the start of the weekend at the club.

PUPPY PACK

On Friday night from 5.00 to 6.00pm we invite families with 3 to 5 year olds to join our “Puppy Pack”. Puppy Pack will assist the younger kid’s introduction to Wests. We aim to develop ball skills, promote fun and create friendships. The cost is \$195 for the season. This includes training shirt, water bottle, sticker and medal. For more details go to our [“Puppy Pack Information Sheet”](#).

GEAR AND MERCHANDISE

- All players must wear club socks, club shorts. They are on sale at the club: shorts cost \$35 and socks cost \$15
- For under 6 to under 14, jerseys are distributed for players to keep for the season. All under 15 to Junior Colts jerseys must be returned at the end of each week and may be distributed to the players at the end of the season.
- All players are to wear a mouth guard.
- All players must have a water bottle at training and games (filled with water).
- Players in Under 6 to Under 9 plays in sports shoes (joggers/runners), moulded football boots or blades. Steel tag boots are not permitted.

- Players in Under 10 and above play in conventional football boots with tags no longer than 18mm.
- Referees may check boots to ensure no sharp edges exist.
- Headgear (if worn) must bear the “World Rugby Approved” label. (West's headgear is available at the club for sale)
- Parents should ensure that players’ uniforms and personal items are clearly marked with their name.

TEAMS

Team allocations are guided by the principle of club first. Draft teams will be determined on or before the first training night and be advised by Age Group Coordinators. These draft teams may change. Players in under 6 to under 11 are allocated into a team by Age Group Coordinators based on the balance of players. Grading is not allowed for the U6-U11 age groups. Players from under 12 and above will be graded into teams when player registrations support West's having more than one team. Age group grading will be done in accordance with the grading guidelines.

Parents/Coaches/Managers are not allowed to create their own teams. Please refer to our Junior Club Policies.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Our club has zero tolerance of poor sideline behaviour from parents. All players, coaches, officials, parents/guardians, spectators, or any other club affiliate is bound by Rugby Australia’s Code of Conduct and shall not at any time act in a manner detrimental towards the game or spirit of rugby. Penalties apply for anyone breaking these rules. More information on Rugby Australia’s Code of Conduct can be found at <https://australia.rugby/about/codes-and-policies/integrity/code-of-conduct>.

GAME and TEAM INFORMATION

Day	Age	Start Time	Each Half (mins)	Half Time (mins)	Ball Size	Number Players on Field	Max Players per Team
Saturday	Under 6	8.20 am	15	5	2	7	10
	Under 7	9.10 am	15	5	2	7	10
	Under 8	10.00 am	15	5	3	7	12
	Under 9	10.50 am	20	5	3	10	16
Sunday	Under 10	8.30 am	20	5	4	12	18
	Under 11	9.20 am	20	5	4	12	18
	Under 12	10.20 am	25	5	4	15	23
	Under 13	11.20 am	25	5	5	15	23
	Under 14	12.20 pm	25	5	5	15	23
	Under 15	1.20 pm	25	5	5	15	23
	Under 16	2.20 pm	30	5	5	15	23

- Players should arrive at least 30 minutes before the game start time

COMPLAINTS

All complaints need to be officially recorded in order to be processed. Complaints are made via the Rugby Australia website who will then allocate the correct level for the complaint to be addressed. Please go to <https://australia.rugby/about/codes-and-policies/reporting-a-concern>.

INSURANCE

Insurance for participants is covered via Rugby Australia's National Risk Management and Insurance Programme. The programme covers four key areas for members of community rugby: personal injury, professional indemnity policy, public & products liability policy and club management liability. Parents and players are encouraged to visit <https://ra.aon.com.au/what-is-covered> or for frequently asked questions please visit <https://australia.rugby/participate/rugby-administration/insurance/insurance-faqs>.

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

Any player who has sustained a head injury (as established by the medical staff) must follow the club and Rugby Australia Return to Play protocol. They are not to return to play on the day of injury under any circumstances. RECOGNISE > REMOVE > REFER > REST > RECOVER > RETURN. A player who sustains a concussion will be contacted by the Registrar who will explain the process and documentation necessary to return to play. Players must comply with this process before returning to training or playing. A general overview of the steps in this process are as follows:

CONCUSSION RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

1. Player gets concussed (sees medical officer at the ground)
2. Player given Concussion Referral form
3. Parent/Guardian to ensure the player sees a GP or doctor 24-48 hours after the event
4. Once symptoms of concussion have ceased, player must have a doctor sign Return to Play Form to commence Graduated Return to Play process (if not already signed in step 3)
5. Player to adhere to required rest period and Graduated Return to Play procedure
6. Player to attend follow up with doctor after completing Graduated Return to Play process (typically 19 days after cessation of concussion symptoms) for clearance to return to play
7. Parent/Guardian to send signed Return to Play form to Registrar
8. Registrar to forward completed Return to Play form onto the BJRU
9. Player cleared in system and OK to play

U12 GRADING PROCESS – 2024

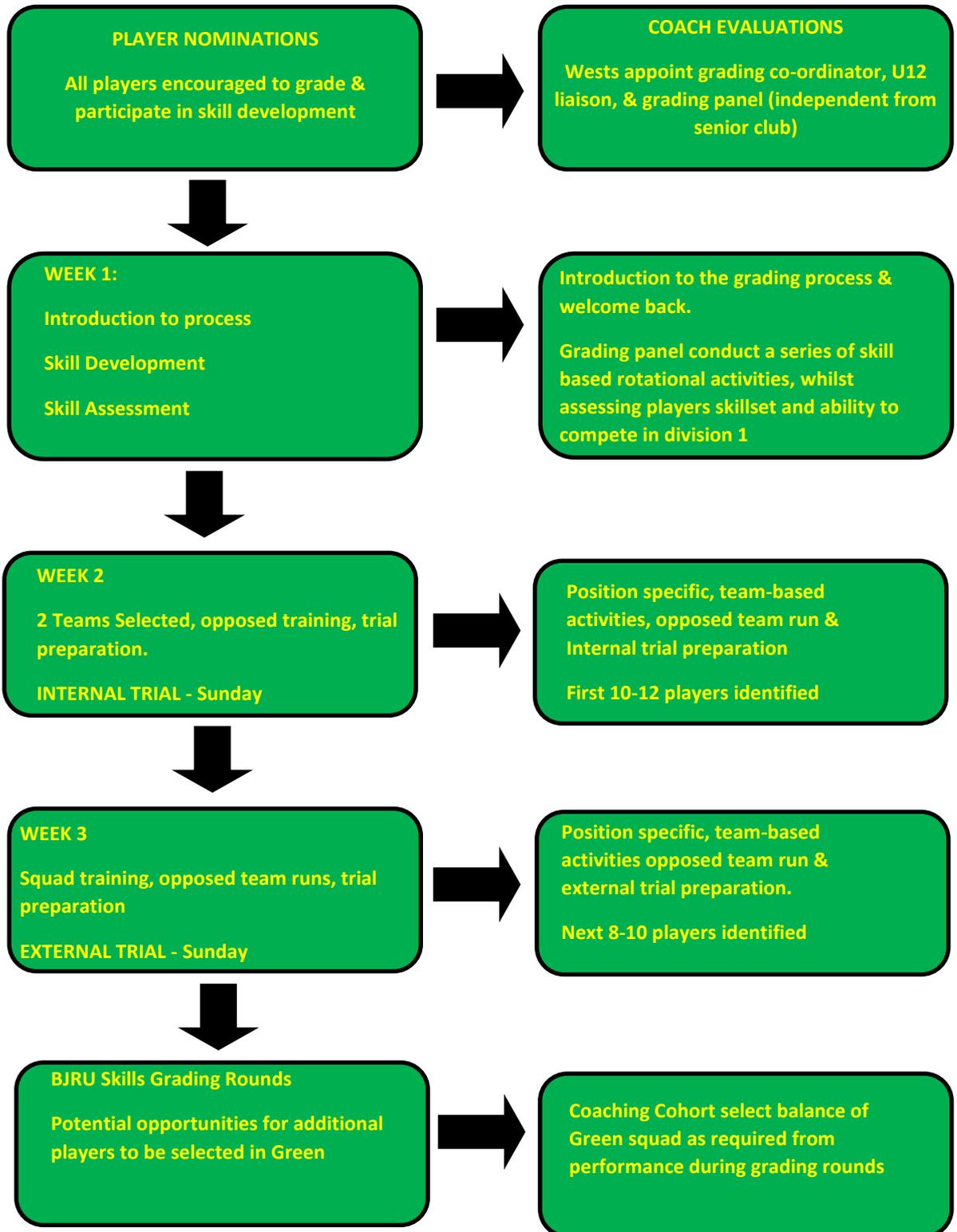
U12's FORECAST FOR 2023

- Typically, 3 x U11 teams in a season become 2 teams the following season (2023 U11 numbers = 43).
- Teams would be Green (which must be nominated for Division 1 per BJRU Competition Rules) & Gold (nominated for a lower division).
- We will be aiming for 46 players in U12 in 2024
- We will apply a cut off once 46 players are registered. We will then hold a waiting list until we reach 60 total and then consider opening a third team.
- Regardless of what division the players end up in the U12 teams will train for the season as a squad where possible

GRADING PROCESS

- All eligible players are to nominate to grade (if no nomination is received, they will automatically be placed in the Gold team). All players are encouraged to take part in the grading process as it will include skill development.
- 2023 under 11 coaches to provide an assessment of those players, this will consider ability to be able to play Div. 1, Div. 2, Div. 3 or lower, it will also consider physical maturity, emotional maturity, and things like decision making under pressure. There will be a simple rating matrix with a variety of skills and rugby qualities
- Wests Director of Rugby, Phil Mooney will act as the independent grading co-ordinator. The co-ordinator will utilize resources from within the club (Seniors/Colts /Senior Officials) to conduct the grading process. There is to be no conflict of interest from anyone assisting the co-ordinator (e.g., siblings or connections from anyone that is participating in the grading process).
- Wests will appoint an U12 liaison for co-ordination of activities such as communications regarding dates & times etc.
- Assessments to take place over a 3-week block
 - Week 1 Friday night (8 March) 1st Training Introduction to the process (skill development)
 - Week 1 Sunday morning (10 March) (skills assessment)
 - Start formulating 2 x teams to play each other the following weekend this will not be a probable & possible scenario this will be two even teams based on skillset i.e., spread the talent
 - Week 2 Friday night (15 March) (training in 2x selected teams)
 - 2 teams will train together and opposed to get ready for trial on Sunday, the coaching cohort can run training.
 - Week 2 Sunday (17 March) (Internal Trial)
 - Sunday – Internal trial run by the coaching cohort, reviewed by assessors
 - Confirm 10-12 players that are selected into division 1 squad (players will not be advised at this stage)
 - Week 3 Friday night training (22 March)
 - Train as a squad, skill development and break into teams for opposed team run
 - Week 3 Sunday (24 March) (External Trial)
 - Sunday External trial run by the coaching cohort, reviewed by assessors
 - Already selected 10-12 players to play restricted time only allowing the other players to highlight their ability
 - Another 8-10 players are selected into the Green squad
 - BJRU Skills Grading Rounds
 - These Skills Development Rounds will allow further opportunities for selection of any additional squad members to be added to the Green team based on performances during these rounds.

U12 GRADING PROCESS 2024



JUNIOR RUGBY AT WESTS BULLDOGS

PUPPY PACK:

Season Fees: **\$195 + transaction fee**

Boys and Girls born in 2019, 2020, 2021 (Ages 3-5)

TRAINING: Friday 5:00-6:00pm

FIELD MAP: Training Area "D"

Season registration fees include

- Insurance Levies
- Training shirt, water bottle, boot bag and sticker
- Coaching fees
- End of season presentation day
- Club administration

XV's Juniors (U6-U7):

Season Fees: **\$355 + transaction fee**

U6 Rugby: Boys and Girls born in 2018

U7 Rugby: Boys and Girls born in 2017

TRAINING: Friday 4:45-5:45pm

FIELD MAP: U6's Training Area "C", U7's Training Area "B"

SEASON INFORMATION: Games on Saturdays (14 rounds). Non-contact, 2 hand tag games (7-a-side) in the BJRU competition, max 10 players per team.

SEASON DATES:

First round: Saturday, 20 April

Final round: Saturday, 10 August (season breaks for school holidays)

Season registration fees include

- Rugby Australia, Queensland Rugby Union and Brisbane Junior Rugby Union Levies
- Player Insurance
- Training shirt, water bottle, boot bag and sticker
- Team Jersey
- Medical support on home games
- End of season presentation day
- Field maintenance
- Club administration

TEAMS NEED TO PROVIDE (PARENT VOLUNTEERS): Coach, manager, field marshal, referee, touch judge

XV's Juniors (U8-U9):

Season Fees: **\$445 + transaction fee**

U8 Rugby: Boys and Girls born in 2016

U9 Rugby: Boys and Girls born in 2015

TRAINING: Friday 4:45-5:45pm

FIELD MAP: U8's Training Area "A", U9's Training Area "E"

SEASON INFORMATION: Games on Saturdays (14 rounds).

U8: 7-a-side tackle in the Brisbane Junior Rugby Competition with max 12 players per team.

U9: 10-a-side tackle in the Brisbane Junior Rugby Competition with max 16 players per team.

SEASON DATES:

First round: Saturday, 20 April

Final round: Saturday, 10 August (season breaks for school holidays)

Season registration fees include

- Rugby Australia, Queensland Rugby Union and Brisbane Junior Rugby Union Levies
- Player Insurance
- Training shirt, water bottle, boot bag and sticker
- Team Jersey
- Medical support on home games
- End of season presentation day
- Field maintenance
- Club administration

TEAMS NEED TO PROVIDE (PARENT VOLUNTEERS): Coach, manager, field marshal, referee, touch judge

XV's Juniors (U10-U11):

Season Fees: **\$445 + transaction fee**

U10 Rugby: Boys and Girls born in 2014

U11 Rugby: Boys and Girls born in 2013

TRAINING: Friday 5:45-6:45pm

FIELD MAP: U10's Training Area's "B&C", U11's Training Area "E&F"

SEASON INFORMATION: Games on Sundays (4 matches of Skills Development followed by 10 competition matches).

SEASON DATES:

Skills Development Rounds: 21st April – 12th May

Competition Rounds: 19th May – 11th August (season breaks for school holidays)

U10/U11: 12-a-side tackle in the Brisbane Junior Rugby Union Competition, max 18 players per team.

Season registration fees include

- Rugby Australia, Queensland Rugby Union and Brisbane Junior Rugby Union Levies
- Player Insurance
- Referee and match fees
- Training shirt, water bottle, boot bag and sticker
- Team Jersey
- Medical support on home games
- End of season presentation day
- Field maintenance
- Club administration

TEAMS NEED TO PROVIDE (PARENT VOLUNTEERS): Coach, manager, field marshal, touch judge

XV's Juniors (U12-U14):

Season Fees: **\$445 + transaction fee**

U12 Rugby: Boys born in 2012 - TRAINING: Friday 5:45-6:45pm

U13 Rugby: Boys born in 2011 - TRAINING: Friday 6:45-7:45pm

U14 Rugby: Boys born in 2010 - TRAINING: Friday 6:45-7:45pm

FIELD MAP: U12's Training Area "A", U13's Training Area "B, C&D", U14's Training Area "A"

SEASON INFORMATION: Games on Sundays. (4 matches of Skills Development followed by 10 competition matches, U13/U14 have semi-finals and grand finals for teams that qualify).

SEASON DATES:

Skills Development Rounds: 21st April – 12th May

Competition Rounds: 19th May – 18th August (season breaks for school holidays)

Semi-Finals/Finals (U13/U14 only): 25th August– 1st September

U12/U13/U14: 2 full terms of 15-a-side tackle in the Brisbane Junior Rugby Union Competition, max 23 players per team.

GRADING: Grading is an optional process for all players, however players who do not participate in the grading process outlined by the club will not be considered for the higher team. Please discuss grading arrangement with your age group coordinator.

Season registration fees include

- Rugby Australia, Queensland Rugby Union and Brisbane Junior Rugby Union Levies
- Player Insurance
- Referee and match fees
- Training shirt, water bottle, boot bag and sticker
- Team Jersey
- Medical support on home games
- End of season presentation day
- Field maintenance
- Club administration

TEAMS NEED TO PROVIDE (PARENT VOLUNTEERS): Coach, manager, field marshal, touch judge

XV's Juniors (U15-U16):

Season Fees: **\$445 + transaction fee**

U15 Rugby: Boys born in 2009 - TRAINING: Wednesday 5:30-6:30pm

U16 Rugby: Boys born in 2008 - TRAINING: Wednesday 5:30-6:30pm

FIELD MAP: U15's Training Area "E", U16's Training Area "F"

SEASON INFORMATION: Games on Sundays. (4 matches of Skills Development followed by 10 competition matches, semi-finals and grand finals for teams that qualify).

SEASON DATES:

Skills Development Rounds: 21st April – 12th May

Competition Rounds: 19th May – 18th August (season breaks for school holidays)

Semi-Finals/Finals: 25th August – 1st September

U15/U16: 2 full terms of 15-a-side tackle in the Brisbane Junior Rugby Union Competition, max 23 players per team.

Season registration fees include

- Rugby Australia, Queensland Rugby Union and Brisbane Junior Rugby Union Levies
- Player Insurance
- Referee and match fees
- Training shirt, water bottle, boot bag and sticker
- Team Jersey
- Medical support on home games
- End of season presentation day
- Field maintenance
- Club administration

TEAMS NEED TO PROVIDE (PARENT VOLUNTEERS): Coach, manager, field marshal, touch judge

Junior Colts (U17-U18) Lightning Series:

Season Fees: **\$250 + transaction fee**

Junior Colts: Boys born in 2008, 2007, 2006 - TRAINING: Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm

FIELD MAP: Junior Colts Training Area "E"

SEASON INFORMATION: Two games on Sundays.

Junior Colts: 15-a-side tackle in the Brisbane Junior Rugby Union Competition, max 23 players per team.

Term 1: Lightning Round – 6 week competition 18th February – 24th March 2023

Season registration fees include

- Rugby Australia, Queensland Rugby Union and Brisbane Junior Rugby Union Levies
- Player Insurance
- Referee and match fees
- Training shirt, water bottle, boot bag and sticker
- Team Jersey
- Medical support on home games
- End of season presentation day
- Field maintenance
- Club administration

Junior Girls (U11-U17):

Season Fees: **\$250 + transaction fee**

U11-U18 Rugby: Girls born in 2005-2012 - TRAINING: Wednesday 6:00-7:30pm

FIELD MAP: Training Area "B, C & D"

SEASON INFORMATION: Games on Sundays. All players to register to the XV's Junior Girls registration, a further \$18 insurance levy will apply once the 7's competition commences in term 3.

Term 1 Girls Emerging Development Program – XV's Competition

- 3rd March - 24th March 2024
- 4 week Gem Series Skill Development Program for females aged 11-18 years
- All players regardless of skill or prior participation
- Good for anyone interested in playing 7's or XV's

Term 2 XV's Competition – Barbarian Style

- 21st April - 2nd June 2024
- Gem Series Competition
- Representative selection to U15 Qld Country Championships or U16-U18 NSW State Championships

Term 3 7's Competition (*extra \$18 insurance levy applies*)

- 14th July - 1st September 2024
- 7-a-side, full tackle, 7 week competition, gala format plus finals
- Operates in a 2 year window U12, U14, U16, U18

Season registration fees include

- Rugby Australia, Queensland Rugby Union and Brisbane Junior Rugby Union Levies
- Player Insurance
- Referee and match fees
- Training shirt, playing shorts & socks, water bottle, boot bag and sticker
- Team Jersey
- Medical support on home games
- End of season presentation day
- Field maintenance
- Club administration