

# Club Announcement: Refocusing on Junior Player Development – 2025/2026

## Introduction

Due to recent evaluations, we chose to discontinue our senior men's team for the 2025 and 2026 seasons. This significant change will enable our club to concentrate on the development and nurturing of our junior players, reinforcing our original mission and core strengths. It will also allow our club to put a plan in place to enter a true Colts age grade in 2026 from this years U18 grade.

## Background

Our club was initially established as a junior club, dedicated to developing and progressing the talents and sportsmanship of young players. Over the years, we have built a solid Junior base that focused and excelled in the recruitment and retention of all juniors choosing Rugby Union as their preferred sport and our club as their preferred base to do so. This focus has always been a cornerstone of our clubs on and off field success and community impact since its inception.

## Challenges with the Senior Men's Team

In recent seasons, the senior men's team has faced numerous challenges, including:

- Increased financial strain: The costs associated with maintaining the senior men's team have escalated, diverting resources from our junior base.
- Resource allocation: Significant club resources have been required to support the senior team, impacting our ability to manage and invest in junior player development.
- Performance inconsistencies: The senior men's grade has experienced fluctuating performance levels, further complicating our club overall goals and financial planning.

## Strategic Refocus

By refocusing our efforts on junior players, we aim to:

- Strengthen our development programs: Enhancing training, coaching, and facilities for junior players to ensure their growth and competitive edge.
- Optimise financial resources: Redirecting funds to support junior player development, ensuring sustainable club growth. This has been reflected in additional training equipment recently purchased and holding club player fees without increase for the last 5 years.
- Maintain our core mission: Upholding our identity as a junior club, dedicated to fostering young talent and contributing to the community.

## Future Plans

Moving forward, our strategic initiatives will include:

- Expanding our recruitment efforts: Actively seeking new junior players, ensuring diverse and talented intakes.
- Enhanced coaching programs: Investing in professional development for coaches to provide top-tier training for juniors.
- Community engagement: Strengthening ties with local schools and organizations to promote junior sports participation.

## Conclusion

We are confident that this refocus will bring long-term benefits to our club and community. By prioritizing the development of junior players, we are investing in the future of our sport and ensuring that our club remains a beacon of excellence and opportunity for young athletes.

Ean Drummond – President  
On behalf of the Committee  
WCRRUFC Inc.  
April 2025