

JUNIOR RUGBY REPRESENTATIVE PATHWAYS

All junior rugby players across NSW that are keen to progress their rugby to a higher level have access to a “Representative Pathway” through their various associations. Dependent upon the age group these higher levels can be anywhere from a district/zone team, to a Sydney or Country team, or a schools association team (CHS, CCC, GPS etc) or to a NSW team.

As a rule most of these Representative Pathways do not clash or interfere with each other but there are some unique age groups where players whom are playing both at school and club rugby could be eligible for different Representative teams.

This document is to clarify these particular pathways so as to define the selection process and pathways for players to higher honours is explained.

The two age groups where this occurs are the Under 16s and the U18s (Opens).

The U16 Pathway

The Under 16s process is quite simple as the club teams and schools teams are all selected and announced at the same time of year. The teams are selected independently and lodged with NSW Rugby - any players whom are selected in more than one side then go into the draft and various associations will meet and go pick for pick (with each getting 1st selection on alternate years). This process has worked well for a number of years..

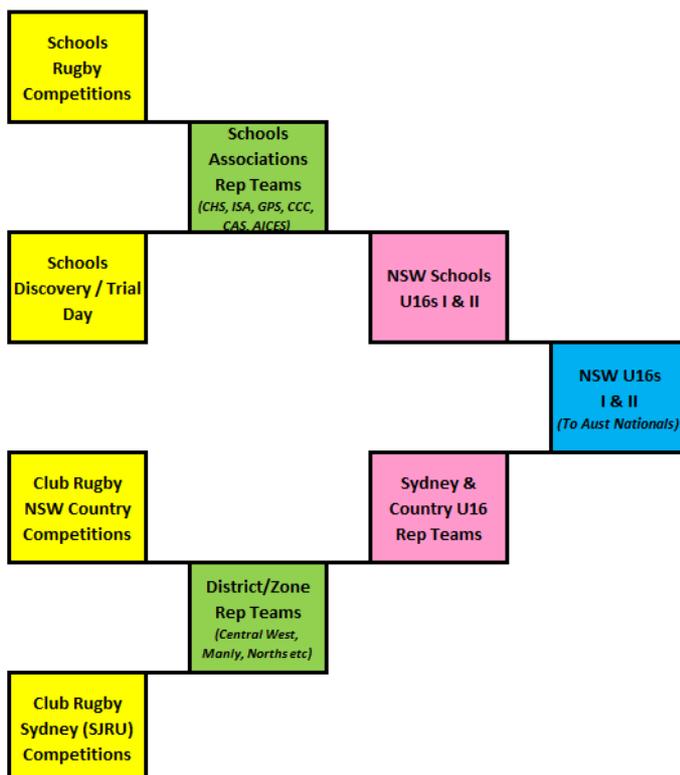


Chart key

Players are able play in both club and schools competitions. (Yellow).

Players are able to be selected to schools associations Rep teams as well as Club rugby District / Zone Rep teams (Green).

Dual selected players will be subject to a draft selection to either NSW Schools U16s (I or II) or Sydney (SJRU) U16s or NSW Country U16s (Red).

NSW Rugby will independently select the two teams to contest the Australian Nationals (Blue).

The U18 Pathway

The Under 18s pathway is a little more tricky to navigate due to the different natures of the various competitions across both schools and club rugby in this age group. Teams are trialing and selected at different times of year which can sometimes lead to players whom are across both schools and club rugby gaining selection in more than one representative team.

Both the schools and clubs associations have been working closely together to clarify this pathway structure and to provide better communications to the rugby community on how this works.

In essence there are two representative pathways – the traditional schools representative pathway and the NSW Juniors club representative pathway.

Schools Pathway

The traditional Schools representative pathway is available to all school students in NSW to progress from their schools rugby competitions or discovery / trial days through to their association representative teams (GPS, CAS, ISA, CHS, CCC & AICES). These Representative teams will compete at the NSW Open Trials for the chance to be selected in either the NSW I, NSW II or Combined States teams. These teams will compete at the ASRU Div 1 Championships and from there possibly be selected into the Australian Schoolboys or Australian Barbarians teams.

It is important to note for our aspiration players that this is the ONLY pathway that enables players the opportunity to make a team in the ASRU Div 1 Championships or the Australian Schoolboys teams.

Club (NSW Juniors) Pathway

The NSW Juniors representative pathway is designed for the aspirational club rugby players to be able to further their rugby at a higher level.

Whilst it is acknowledged that there may be a lot of these club rugby players also still at school and eligible for the Schools pathway – there is a great number of Under 18 club rugby players that have left school young, are pursuing a trade, attending TAFE (or similar) or for various reasons they miss out on trialing for their schools teams.

This pathway gives these players the opportunity to progress to represent NSW Country or Sydney U18s and play some feature matches before selection to the NSW Juniors U18s which will compete in the Div 2 Nationals.

Once again it is important to note that players in this pathway cannot be selected for higher ASRU honours – players must be in the schools pathway for that. Rather the carrot for higher honours in the NSW Juniors pathway will come from the opportunity to play these games in front of the Gen Blue talent scouts for possible inclusion in the following years U19 Gen Blue squad.

Selection Policy

The various schools and club associations have worked together closely to design these pathways enabling ALL rugby players across NSW to have access to a substantial and meaningful representative pathway.

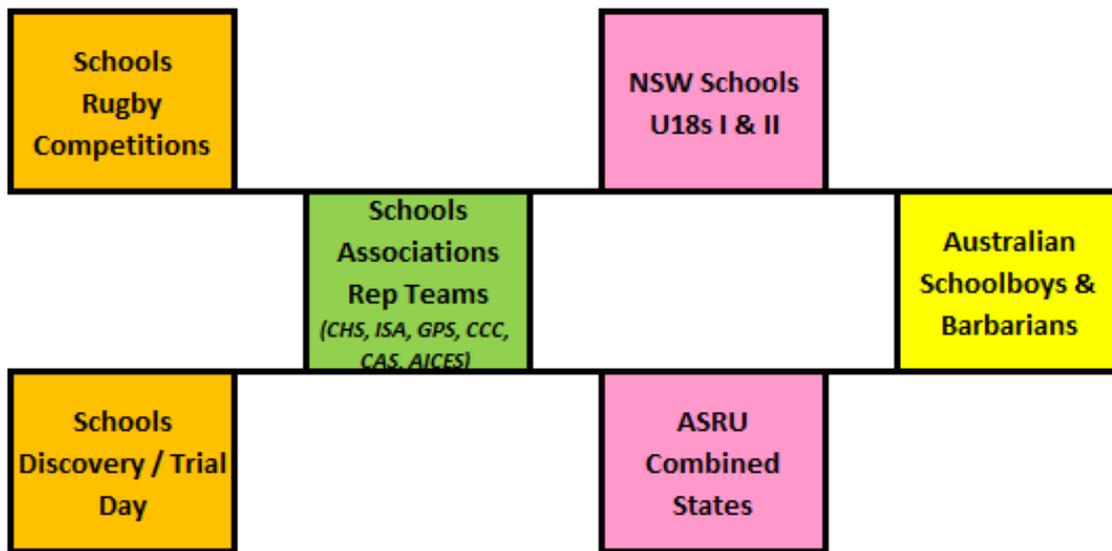
That being said the Schools pathway should be considered the premier pathway as it does offer the players the chance for higher honours via the ASRU Australian Schoolboys teams.

We have also collaborated to ensure that selection policies are clear, transparent and consistent across both pathways.

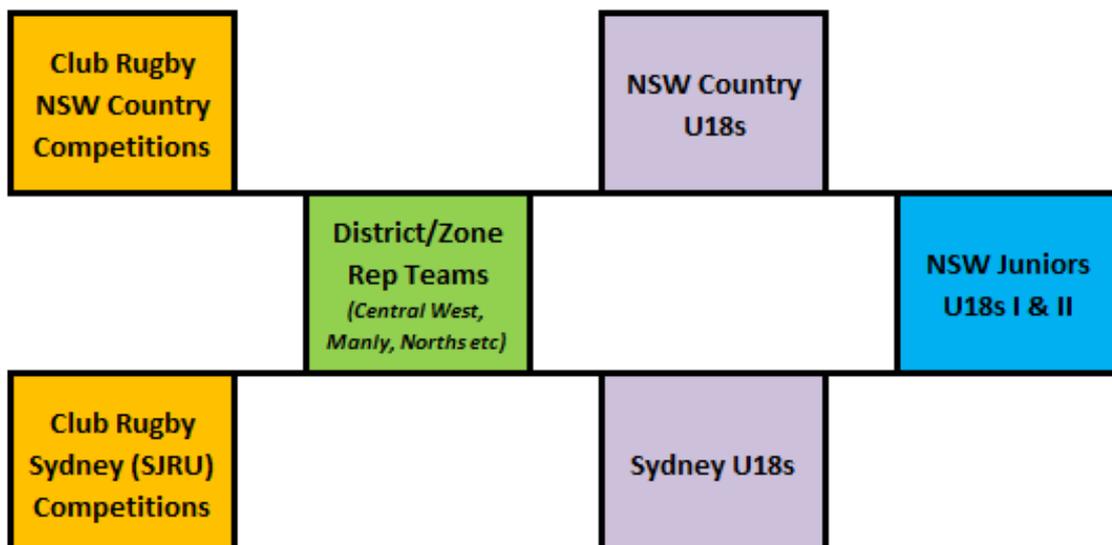
Any players that are playing both club and schools rugby may be eligible for selection in either pathway. And this is often accentuated due to the different timing of team selections.

As such the policy around any players whom are selected in a NSW Country or Sydney U18s team and also in a CHS or CCC representative team is that they should proceed along the schools pathway and the NSW Country or Sydney U18s team shall pull in another player from their shadow squad. This gives the dual selected player the opportunity to follow the premier pathway (hopefully to Aust schoolboys) and the NSW Juniors pathway team can give another lad the opportunity to represent at a higher level.

NSW Schools Pathway



NSW Juniors (Club) Pathway





Should you have any further queries on the pathways, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Ben Gregory

President NSW Junior Rugby Union
Youth Director on NSW Rugby Board

