



HUNTER VALLEY
FOOTBALL

ISSUE #2

11th of Feb, 2026

REGISTER FOR THE 2026 SEASON

See page 1 for more details



DEPLOY



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Have You Registered For The 2026 Season?



Registrations Are Now Open!

The countdown to the 2026 football season has begun, and now is the perfect time to secure your spot!

Hunter Valley football offers a wide range of competitions, including:

- Miniroos
- Youth
- All age men's and women's
- Over 30s women's
- Over 35s men's

With 26 clubs across the Hunter Valley, there's a team for everyone!

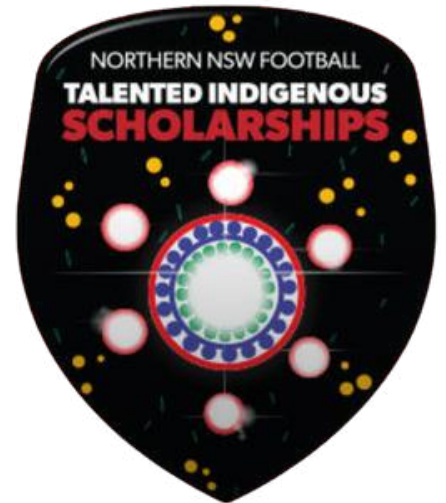
**CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER**

PLAY FOOTBALL

Celebrating Indigenous Scholarship Recipients

On 3 February, Northern NSW Football announced the 2026 Indigenous Scholarship Recipients, recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players, coaches, and referees as they progress along their football pathways.

The scholarship program provides recipients with support in their respective pathways, helping continue their development both on and off the field.



Of the 10 recipients selected, four proudly represent Hunter Valley football!

Congratulations to:

Player: Alysha Langford

Coach: Tallon Convery

Referees: Matthew Bates and Joshua Bates

We congratulate Alysha, Tallon, Matthew, and Joshua on this outstanding achievement, and extend our congratulations to all 2026 Indigenous Scholarship recipients.

Become a Referee in 2026!

The 2026 season is just around the corner, and we're calling on all emerging and returning referees to register and be part of another great year of sport.

Referees are essential to the game, bringing fairness, safety, and integrity to every match. Whether you're an experienced official or new to refereeing, your knowledge and commitment continue to make a real difference on and off the field.

By registering for the 2026 season, you'll:

- Stay connected to the game you love
- Receive ongoing support, training, and development opportunities
- Gain valuable skills and confidence while helping games run smoothly

If you're ready to be involved, now is the time to register and start preparing for the season ahead. Your contribution matters, and we'd love to see you back out there in 2026.

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**EXPRESSION OF
INTEREST**



Understanding Refereeing

Every referee on the field is trained to enforce the Laws of the Game, not the name on a team sheet. Decisions are made in real time, from one angle, under pressure, and often with limited information. Just like players making split-second decisions, referees can and are fully entitled to make mistakes. Sometimes players do not execute their decisions correctly. A player might not be in position to receive a pass, or a tackle is unsuccessful. Sometimes referees do the same. Their positioning sometimes isn't great, sometimes they didn't anticipate the play.



What can feel like bias is usually one of three things:

- **Perspective:** Players and coaches see the game from the sideline or inside the contest; referees see it from where the incident actually occurs.
- **Consistency, not symmetry:** A referee aims to apply the same standard all game. That doesn't always mean each team gets the same number of free kicks.
- **Human error:** Referees are human. They get decisions wrong at times, just like missed shots, poor passing completion, or losing possession of the ball while in a 1v1 situation.

Myth:

Referees favour one team.

Reality:

Referees apply the same Laws to both teams. Mistakes aren't bias, they're human.

Here's the key thing. Referees don't turn up to win or lose games. They turn up to manage them fairly. Referees have the right to be in a safe environment without fear of ridicule, or abuse.

Most referees are local people. Referees are students, parents, and former and current players who want football to happen on the weekend. Without them, there is no game.

Next time a call doesn't go your team's way, ask this instead of yelling:

"Has every player and coach carried out their tasks to perfection?"

That question gets us much closer to the truth.



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UPCOMING COACHING COURSE MARCH



COLES MINIROOS

10TH - MAITLAND

15TH - CLARENCE TOWN

26TH - BRANXTON

29TH - SINGLETON

12TH - KURRI KURRI

24TH - WESTON

28TH - RUTHERFORD

31ST - SCONE

SKILL TRAINING

7TH - KURRI KURRI

14TH - MUSWELLBROOK

8TH - MAITLAND

29TH - SINGLETON

FOUNDATION OF FOOTBALL

21ST - BRANXTON

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

What is the Skill Training Course?

Who it is for?

The Skill Training Course is a Northern NSW Football recognised course, suitable for new and developing coaches working with players aged 5–11, and is most relevant for those coaching 8–11 year olds at the advanced beginner stages of football.

What is it?

It is a 4-hour course that builds on the content learned in the MiniRoos Certificate, further exploring how to use and adapt a games-based approach to maximise opportunities for players to play in an enjoyable environment. Coaches will consider the role of the coach and how the coach can create a positive environment allowing players to achieve their personal objectives. The four core techniques for skill acquisition that make up the majority of footballing actions will be introduced in this course. Coaches are guided through session structure, adapting practices to achieve the desired outcomes, and review match day processes in more detail than the MiniRoos Certificate whilst ensuring that enjoyment and fun underpin learning.

Why it is useful?

The course provides coaches with more knowledge and experience how to deliver fun, engaging and age-appropriate sessions using a games-based model to provide opportunity for players to practice the four core techniques. It demonstrates the importance of session design and flow, the ability to adjust activities to suit player needs, and effectively manage match day environments to maximise learning and create positive training and playing environments.



Get to Know Your Players

It is important to know your players before you can truly coach your players. Ask players about their day and get to know about their hobbies and interests outside of football.

This demonstrates you are invested in them and they will likely reciprocate when you are coaching. This will also allow you to better understand the "why" they play football and also their motivation for training on a particular day.

For example, if you ask about their day and they say they had an athletics carnival or school sports day on the same day as training, you may need to be aware that fatigue and concentration levels may be a factor from the day's events.



Join Our Player Development Program!

Following recent player movement, we are inviting players to express their interest in joining the following **Hunter Hawks Player Development Program squads** in 2026:

Positions Available

- Under 15/16 Boys
- Under 12 Girls
- Under 13 Girls
- Under 14 Girls
- Under 15 Girls



About the Program

Our program is focused on creating a supportive, development-driven environment where players can accelerate their growth. Sessions are built around purposeful practice, positive coaching, and attention to player's technical and tactical progression, helping them become more confident, skilful, and game-ready.

Interested in Trialling?

[CLICK HERE TO FILL OUT EOI](#)



Football Club Inc.



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