

BUILDING FUTURE JETS



This document outlines the Ipswich Jets' approach to strengthening our pathways through a clear focus on talent identification, player and coach development, and community engagement.

The information presented has been created through consultation with club staff, players, parents, and stakeholders through both structured reviews and informal discussions. These perspectives have highlighted the challenges we must address as well as the opportunities available to us going forward.

To achieve consistent excellence, we are establishing a unified and deliberate system that identifies talent, develops players and coaches, and engages meaningfully with our community. This alignment will ensure our pathways are strong, sustainable, and reflective of the character of our Ipswich region.

The revival of our Hostplus Cup side and the establishment of our inaugural BMD Premiership team have reconnected the club with its community and junior base. Recruiting individuals with genuine ties to Ipswich and our values has laid the foundation for a renewed and sustainable future.

Our task now is to expand on this momentum and continue to **Build Future Jets.**

Blake Mara
Pathways & Programs Manager
Ipswich Jets



BUILDING FUTURE JETS

TALENT IDENTIFICATION

In order to have an effective talent identification system, you need to understand your identity. Below we have outlined what an Ipswich Jets person, team and club is.

01. PERSON

An Ipswich Jets person is someone you can trust:

- to do their job
- to put the team first
- to represent the club

02. TEAM

An Ipswich Jets team is one that:

- always competes
- prepares to win
- values fundamentals

03. CLUB

As a club the Ipswich Jets want to be a source of hope for our community. This can only be achieved if we refuse to accept mediocrity. In order to become a consistently successful club we need to **look** like one, we need **feel** like one and we need to **act** like one.

Look - Feel - Act

Identification Process

Our identification process is designed to ensure the right people wear the Jets jersey; athletes with both the ability and character to succeed. The entry point begins at Under 13s with the Jet's Cadets Academy, aligned with the QRL age-appropriate framework, though players can enter the system at any stage up to 18.

Players will be identified through schools and Rugby League Ipswich clubs, with selection based on performance and potential observed in games and training. Identified players will be reference-checked through their school or club before being invited to any of the clubs programs.

To cater for varying levels of ability, the club will continue to expand the pathway with a range of academy and development programs.

All players in our pathway will complete the standard QRL testing (1.2km time trial, medicine ball throw, broad jump) along with the Jets' Footy IQ Test, which assesses game understanding and decision-making.

By building out a player data base, it will:

- Enable the club to make more informed decisions around squad selection
- Highlight trends amongst our talent-base allowing us to adjust our programming accordingly
- Create a deeper pool of talent, allowing us to establish more development programs and opportunities. This added layer of competition will create a more competitive environment, driving excellence.

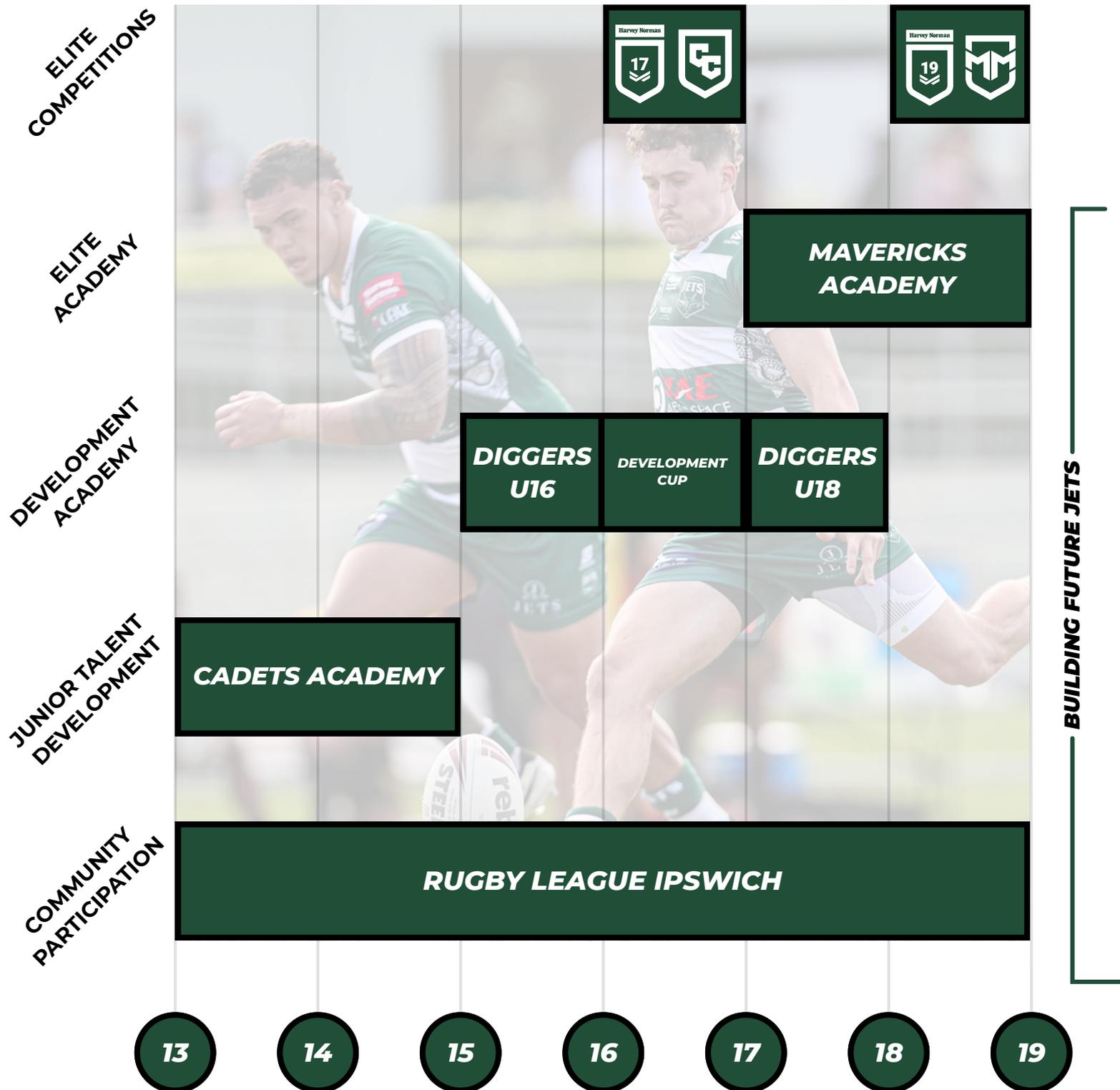
Jets Player Database

Our Jets Player Database will include the following:

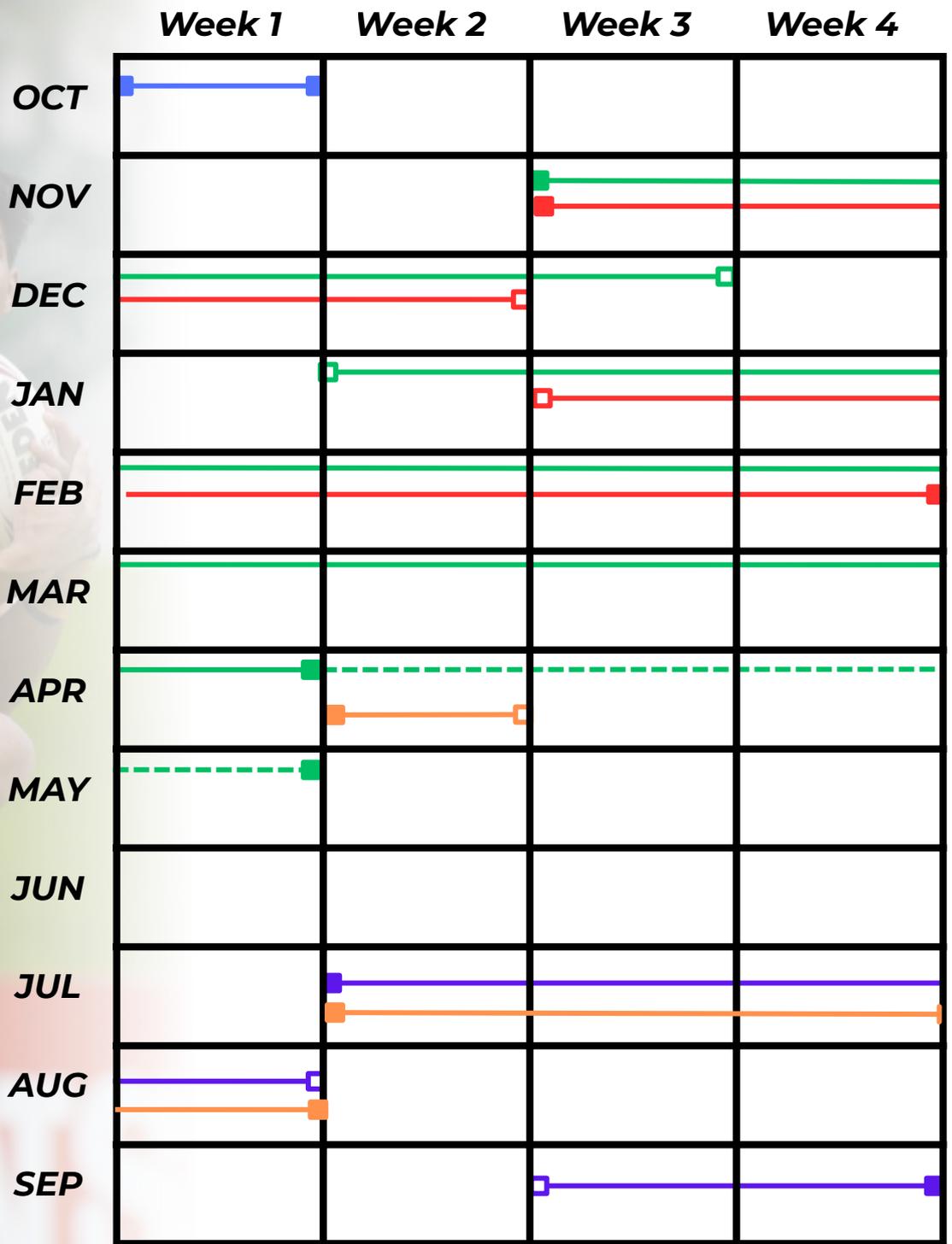
- First Name
- Last Name
- Year of Birth
- Position 1
- Position 2
- School
- Club/Work
- 1.2km
- Broad Jump
- Medicine Ball Throw
- Football IQ
- Character Assessment



PATHWAY OVERVIEW



DELIVERY TIMELINE



Diggers Academy ———

Invitational Trial ———

Development Cup ———

CC17, HN17, HN19 ———

MM19 - - - - -

Cadets Academy ———

**BUILDING
FUTURE JETS**

FUTURE JETS

ACADEMY SYSTEM

Cadets Academy | U13-U15s

Junior Talent Development Program

Our Cadet's Academy is for U13-U15 players. In alignment with the player development framework, it will focus on the following:

- Developing core skills and basic game awareness
- Off-field wellbeing and education (Life-Fit)
- QRL Physical Baseline Testing & Introduction to S&C
- Providing coaches with a nationally-recognised coaching accreditation

The program will be run in two stages:

Open Development Session - April - 1 Session

Each RLI Club will be allocated spots to invite players based on their registration numbers in U13 & U14 age groups for an Open Development Session in the April school holidays.

Cadets Academy Program - July-August - 5 Sessions

Each age group's squad size will be in alignment with our catchment area's requirements with positions allocated to our local clubs.



BUILDING FUTURE JETS



Diggers Academy | U16s & U18s

Development Academy

Our Digger's Academy is for the U16 & U18 Age Groups. Players will be invited by the Jets Talent ID Network in consultation with RLI and its clubs. This program will be used as a player development tool for local players with aspirations of making our QRL Pathway teams. Players invited to our Maverick's Academy (elite academy) will not be considered for selection.

Diggers Academy Program - July-September- 4 Sessions; 1 Game

Each age group will have 30 players invited and of the 30 players, 19 will be invited for the game. The game will take place in September after the RLI grand final.

Mavericks Academy | U16-U19

Elite Academy

Our Mavericks Academy is for the U16-U19 Players who display elite talent and character. This Academy will train alongside our HPC & BMD programs sporadically through out the year once our Pathways teams have completed their respective seasons.

Mavericks Academy Program - May-September- Sporadic Sessions

This academy will train sporadically throughout the year working around player workloads and schedules, tying into our HPC and BMD programs on a regular basis.



DEVELOPMENT CUP



This year we created the South-West Development Cup for U17 males. The Development Cup was for U17 aspirational male players who were not selected for Cyril Connell Cup fixtures. The competition was used to both grow the talent pool of the area by increasing participation but also to allow players who had missed Cyril Connell Cup selection to maintain match fitness. Apart from the weather, the concept was hugely successful.

In 2026 we are expanding the concept into both the U17 Males and Females, however, instead of splitting players geographically, we will be splitting players via a draft system. This will create more evenly matched teams and therefore, better competition.

This concept will also be used to wrestle back the player exodus into Brisbane. By providing Rugby League Ipswich players and coaches more opportunities to play the game during the junior representative season, it incentivises them to stay local. A better local competition, creates stronger Ipswich Jets sides.

Scan me



PATHWAYS SELECTION PROCESS



In 2026 we will continue to improve our selection process. We have already as a club made the decision to alter our open trial process and move towards a more rigid selection process that involves more touching points with potential players along the way.

The process (outlined below) will involve a multi-faceted approach which will cater to the following:

Pre-Identified Talent

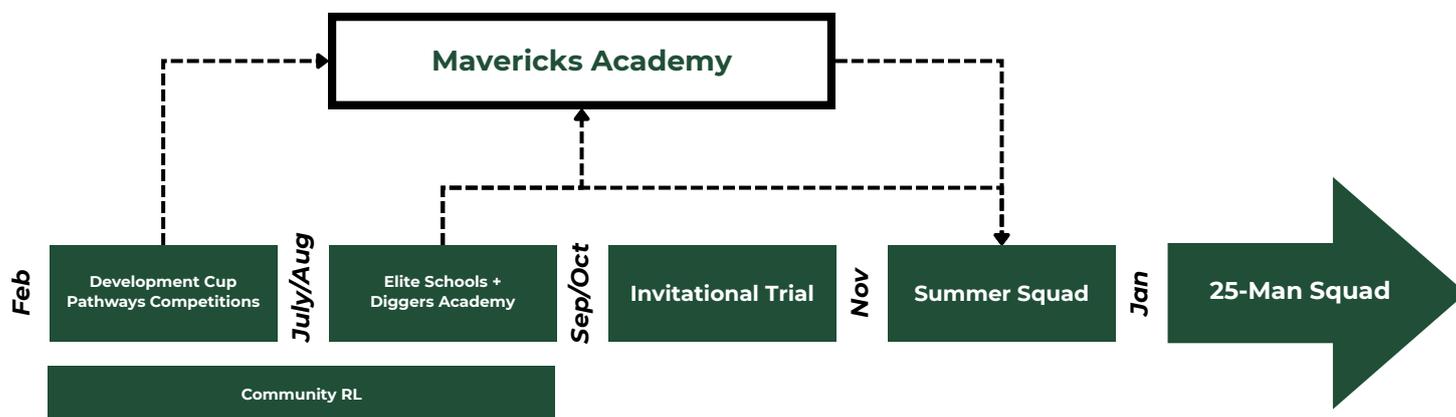
Players who are pre-identified to start pre-season in our summer squads. These players will be invited to complete training sporadically with our Mavericks Academy.

Developing Players

Players identified locally that have potential. These players will complete a 4-session program (Diggers Academy). These players will then have the opportunity to participate in a game after the Rugby League Ipswich grand final against a rival competition. (TBC)

Invitational Trial

In 2026, we will run an invitational trial for players to stake their case for the chance to be part of our pre-season summer squads. Players will have the opportunity to express their interest in this trial.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Ipswich thrives on rugby league. It has a local competition and school sport system that plays a prevalent role within the region. The **JETS** as the region's representative in state-wide competitions for rugby league, therefore, aim to have positive and mutually beneficial relationships with all stakeholders. Some of our goals in the community engagement space are:

Coach Education, Club Support & Local Presence

- Local League Game Day Attendance
 - The Jet's will again be seen attending local game days.
- Annual Coach Workshop
 - The Ipswich Jet's will again be running a coach workshop in 2026 open to all community coaches.
- Club Visits
 - The Jet's aim to attend each club once in 2026.
- School support
 - In 2025 the Jet's attended numerous schools supporting them both on and off the field.
 - In 2026 we will once again be out and about supporting our school community.

Coach/Player Online Resources

In 2026 the Jets are aiming to bring the community and online resource for both players and coaches who are looking for extra support. Some of those resources will be:

- Jet's Player Position Guide
- Jet's Drills and Games Guide



Here's to *building future jets.*

