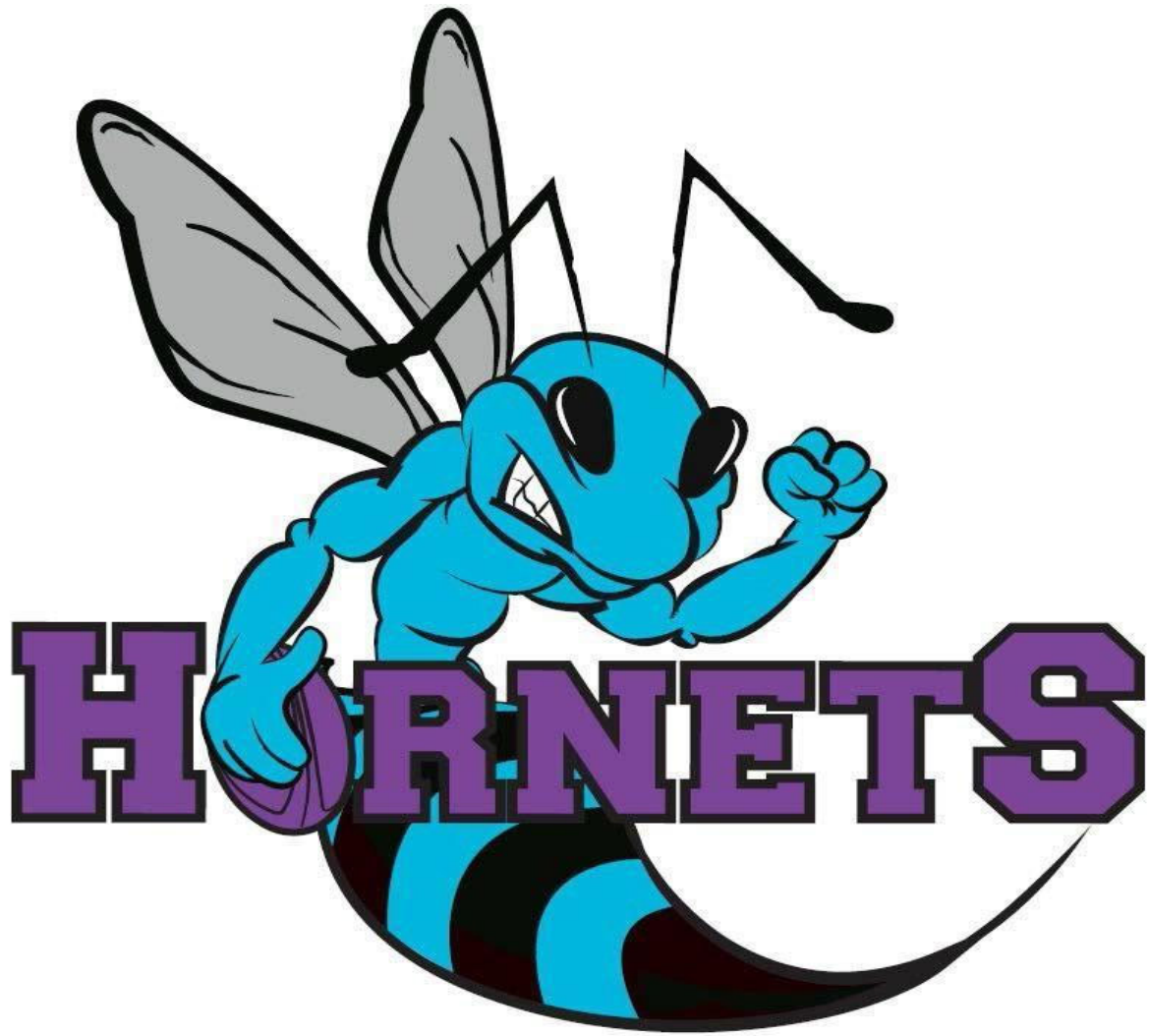




NSW Hornets Regional Touch

Covering Hunter & Western NSW



28th ANNUAL HUNTER

WESTERN HORNETS TOUCH

ASSOCIATION AGM 2025

NSW Hunter Western Hornets Touch Association Inc.

www.hornetstouch.com.au

ABN: 92 594 826 967 | Inc: INC9876207



#PWMC
#CCJC



#DGWJC
#HornetsChamps





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2025

Sunday – 28th September 2025 at 7.00pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome:
2. Apologies:
3. Registration of Attendance:
4. Minutes from Previous AGM: Supplied to all affiliates and interested parties. Moved:
Seconded:
5. Finance Report, Audit Report and Financial Statements: tabled by Rob. Moved:
Seconded:
6. Directors Annual Reports: Regional Directors report. Moved: Seconded:
7. Election of Officers:
 - a) Regional Director (2-year appointment) One nomination –
 - b) Technical Director (2-year appointment) One nomination –
 - c)
8. Committee Nominations: To be discussed at first board meeting.

Coaching Director –

Director of Selectors –

Referee Director –

Player rep/child protection officer –

Junior Coordinator –

General Committee –

9. Appointment of Life Membership: No nominations received.

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10. Special Resolutions: No special resolutions received.
11. Notice of Motions: No notice of motions received.
12. Appointment of Auditor: Rob White suggests we remain with current auditors - DW
accountants. Moved: Seconded:
13. Appointment of Public Officer: Moved: Seconded:
14. General Business: Nil general business tabled.
15. Meeting Closed: pm





5. FINANCE REPORT

Cash at Bank:

As at 30 June 2025, Hornets holds the following funds in various bank accounts:

- Working account = \$138,522. Bank statement 918
- Debit Card = \$1,555. Bank statement 17.
- Term Deposit = \$100,000. Interest rate of 4.10%, maturing in Feb 2026.
- Term Deposit = \$50,000. Interest rate of 4.97%, maturing in November 2025.
- Total funds held = \$290,077

The term deposits are set on a rolling basis such that they are rolled over each 6 months, giving access to additional funds if required. Going forward the term deposits will continue earning approximately \$6,500 per annum, that can be utilised to pay for various administrative costs such as storage shed hire, honorariums etc, reducing the overheads needing to be covered from our events and/or development grant.

Year to date profit:

For the 2024/25 financial year we have an accumulated profit of \$38,455 for the year to date. This is mainly driven by:

- Profit from PPMC (\$73k)
- Profit from Hornets Champs (\$20k)
- Profit from DGWJC (\$15k)
- Profit from CC Minis (\$4k)

Offset by:

- Investment in NYC (\$20k).
- Investment in NTL (\$20k)
- Investment in JR (\$15k)
- Admin Expenses (\$19k) – includes honorariums, audit fees etc

Unpresented Cheques:

There are no unpresented cheques.

Outstanding Invoices (Accounts Receivable):

There is currently just the one player listed as un-financial with Hornets Touch, NSW Touch and their home affiliates. No progress has occurred on this.

Name	Event	Amount	Home Affiliate	Comments
Luke Gosset	2018 NTL	\$290	Central Coast	Overseas - still chasing

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Outstanding Payments (Accounts Payable):

The outstanding payments (\$2,137) mainly relate to subsidy payments for coaches at NTL that were not claimed, most have now been paid during July.

Financial Audit:

The 2024/25 audit is underway and will be distributed once received.

Prior Period Comparatives:

Revenue for 2024/25 is up approximately \$14k compared to 2023/24, due to changes to the following events:

- HC (\$7k) - additional 5 teams entered and \$5 increase to per player levy
- DGWJC (\$7k) - additional 6 teams entered, \$5 increase to per player levy
- CCM (\$4k) - re-introduction of the event, after being cancelled the prior year due to heat.

Other items that increased revenues include:

- NTL (\$3k) - increase of 3 teams, no change to per player levy.

Offset by:

- PWMC (\$4k) - down 6 team entries, offset by \$2 increase to per player levy
- JR (\$0k) - no change to player plevy
- NYC (\$2k) - no change to player levy but one less team entered (18G) due to loss of players.

Expenses for the same period were up approximately \$34k, mainly due to increased cost at the following events we ran:

- HC (\$10k) - mainly as a result of the increased number of teams, hence number meals for referees increased, as well as an increase to prize money awarded to winners and runners up DGWJC (\$5k) - increased accommodation and meal expenses due to higher number of committee and referees in attendance.
- PWMC (\$8k) - increases in a number of costs relating to higher number of teams entered, as well as higher number of western based affiliate teams travelling from our western affiliates that are refunded 10% of tournament levies, as well as a sports council levy that was introduced this year (\$2 per player)
- DGWJC (\$5k) - mainly due to significant increase in the number of coastal teams travelling across for the event that receive a small rebate on player registration fees for making the effort to support our event.
- CCM (\$1k) - re-introduction of the event, after being cancelled the prior year due to heat.

Other expenses that were higher included:

- NTL (\$8k) - increase in coach/manager uniforms being purchased, mainly due to higher number of teams (extra 5 teams), which also lead to higher expenditure on referees assisting at training sessions, and a larger marquee with flooring at the tournament.
- JR (\$4k) - mainly due to a significant increase in the number of players selected from the western affiliates of our region that are provided a modest subsidy to help reduce the financial burden of travelling across for training sessions held on the coast.
- Admin (3k) - mainly due to small increases in the cost of various administrative items, including the committee attending NSW Touch Awards night, hire of storage shed for equipment, training courses, additional depreciation of assets purchased, committee uniforms and honorariums etc. As well as a \$200 per person World Cup Subsidy.



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Offset by lower costs in the following:

- NYC (\$5k) - mainly due to change of location for the event to Coffs Harbour, so no longer an interstate event that we previously provided a \$200 per person travel subsidy to coaches, managers, referees and support staff..

Net Profit for 2024/25 was therefore \$20k lower than the same time last year, as a result of the above changes to revenue and expenditure. (2024/25 = \$38k profit, 2023/24 = \$58k profit).

Financial Position:

Hornets remain in a strong financial position with \$305k in retained earnings due to the running of our own events for both seniors and juniors (net profit approx. \$112k in 2024/25). This allows us to heavily subsidise the cost of all Hornets players and officials attending state and national events.

For 2024/25 Hornets subsidised participants at National Youth Championships (\$20k) and National Touch League (\$20k), and NSW Junior Regionals (\$15k), a total of \$55k invested back into our representative pathways.

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NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC

ABN92594826967

Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2025

DW ACCOUNTANTS
45 Joslin Street
Kotara 2289

Phone: 02 4952 3472
Email: mail@dwaccountants.com.au

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC
ABN 92 594 826 967

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NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC

ABN 92 594 826 967

Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Income		
Grants Received	14,533.21	16,154.86
Uniforms & Merchandise Sales	864.39	618.69
Player Levies	284,873.01	268,128.11
Sponsorship		4,640.00
Interest received	6,548.04	2,772.19
Other income		593.95
Total income	<u>306,818.65</u>	<u>292,907.80</u>
Expenses		
Xero Fees	655.00	589.99
Accommodation Expenses	69,320.97	63,553.07
Advertising & promotion		901.36
Audit fees	1,909.09	2,400.00
Bank fees & charges	224.75	1,038.27
Cleaning & rubbish removal	233.77	664.00
Computer Expenses	2,585.27	900.00
Depreciation - Plant	2,063.11	1,903.34
Hire/Rent of plant & equipment	36,063.00	26,218.08
Meals & Catering	23,236.97	22,114.61
Medical & Massage Expenses	11,823.36	10,661.21
NSW Touch & TFA Entry Levies	8,000.00	8,000.00
Postage		270.30
Office Supplies	1,185.14	288.73
Prizes & Trophies	24,040.57	20,160.79
Security	3,744.00	1,200.00
Staff training	513.64	559.09
Subsidies & Discounts	57,647.50	38,150.23
Sundry expenses	125.04	327.91
Telephone & Internet	520.00	390.00
Training Equipment	11,363.26	10,762.94
Travel Expenses	4,188.11	11,126.00
Uniform & Merchandise Expenses	9,034.90	10,531.50
Videography/Photography		2,998.00
Total expenses	<u>268,477.45</u>	<u>235,709.42</u>
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax	38,341.20	57,198.38
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC

ABN 92 594 826 967

Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Net profit attributable to the association	38,341.20	57,198.38
Total changes in equity of the association	38,341.20	57,198.38
Opening retained profits	267,348.38	210,150.00
Net profit attributable to the association	38,341.20	57,198.38
Closing retained profits	305,689.58	267,348.38

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC

ABN 92 594 826 967

Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current Assets			
Cash Assets			
Cash at bank - CBA Account		138,521.98	106,576.71
CBA Term Deposit		150,000.00	150,000.00
Debit Card		1,555.05	870.00
		<u>290,077.03</u>	<u>257,446.71</u>
Receivables			
Trade debtors		395.16	395.16
Stock on Hand - Uniforms		5,678.33	4,686.66
Stock on Hand - Footballs		9,885.37	20,966.55
		<u>15,958.86</u>	<u>26,048.37</u>
Other			
Prepayments		235.00	235.00
		<u>235.00</u>	<u>235.00</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>306,270.89</u>	<u>283,730.08</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment			
Plant & equipment (cost)		7,834.59	6,358.33
Less: Accumulated depreciation		<u>(5,463.31)</u>	<u>(3,930.56)</u>
		<u>2,371.28</u>	<u>2,427.77</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>2,371.28</u>	<u>2,427.77</u>
Total Assets		<u>308,642.17</u>	<u>286,157.85</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC

ABN 92 594 826 967

Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current Liabilities			
Payables			
Unsecured:			
Trade creditors		2,137.00	19,535.00
Other creditors		318.82	1.38
		<u>2,455.82</u>	<u>19,536.38</u>
Current Tax Liabilities			
GST payable control account		496.77	(726.91)
		<u>496.77</u>	<u>(726.91)</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>2,952.59</u>	<u>18,809.47</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>2,952.59</u>	<u>18,809.47</u>
Net Assets		<u>305,689.58</u>	<u>267,348.38</u>
Members' Funds			
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		305,689.58	267,348.38
Total Members' Funds		<u>305,689.58</u>	<u>267,348.38</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC

ABN 92 594 826 967

Statement by Members of the Committee

For the year ended 30 June 2025

The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC as at 30 June 2025 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Rob White - Finance Director

Anne Tolhurst - Administration Director

Signed on:

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC

ABN 92 594 826 967

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025, a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2025 and [of] its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Act 1991. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

NSW TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS INC

ABN 92 594 826 967

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Signed on : 1.8.2025



Danielle Wilson
DW Accountants Pty Ltd
45 Joslin Street, Kotara NSW 2289



6. DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORTS

Regional Directors Report:

Another busy and productive year for the Hunter Western Hornets has passed. A few changes along the way with people taking other opportunities or having less time available.

This year saw HW Hornets again work extremely hard in attending NYC, running tournaments, junior development days, selections both senior and junior attending the newly formatted NTLS and Junior Regionals.

Across the board, we have seen improvements in all technical arms as well in our administration, communication and finance areas. We continue to grow and take opportunities to strengthen our committee and policies.

The generous time that the board and respective committee members volunteer to the Region has seen us go from strength to strength which culminated in us taking the title of Regional Champions at the 2024 Junior Regionals after 13 years and equal first in the golden boot at The Championship only to lose on countback.

Representative Honours and Awards:

9 Hunter Western Hornets players were selected for International duty for the TFA Emus for the 2025 Open Trans-Tasman Series that was won by Australia.

15 Hunter Western Hornets youth players were selected for the Australian Emus in the APYTC tournament held in Redcliffe in May. Australia was crowned champion nation.

The Hunter Western Hornets region had an impressive 88 players represent NSWTA in the recent 2025 State of Origin Series. NSW retained the overall shield by drawing the series 9 division all with Qld.

Congratulations to Hunter Western Hornets State of Origin representatives who won their respective players of the series awards: Chris Lennon (Men's Open) Luke Cain (Mixed Open) Les Smith (Men's 45s).

In a reflection of the coaching depth and quality in our region, 10 Coaches - 3 head coaches and 7 assistant coaches', and 2 managers were a part of the victorious 2025 Team NSW staff.

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Congratulations to:

Karley Banks – Head Coach Men’s Open
Cameron Maxwell – Assistant Coach Mixed Open
John Dalton -Assistant Coach Men’s 20s
Paul Farrah – Assistant Coach Men’s 20s
Jay Miller – Head Coach Senior Mixed
Matt Richards – Assistant Coach Senior Mixed
Natalie Little – Head Coach Women’s 40s
Craig Harris – Assistant Coach Men’s 35s
Mitch Walkaden – Assistant Coach Men’s 45s
Steve Hepburn – Assistant Coach Women’s 50s
Georgia Marshall – Manager Women’s 40s
Jo O’Connell – Manager Women’s 50s.

Hunter Western Hornets representatives Jarrad Rotumah, Riley Jones, Zali Chippendale, Taimana Elers, Floyd Tighe, and Karley Banks (Coach) represented the TFA NRL Indigenous All Stars in February 2025.

At the Sport NSW Community Sports Awards in June, Karley Banks was named Sport NSW Community Coach of the Year.

Other notable achievements

- Junior Regional Club Champions
- 2nd in Champion Region at “The Championships” (NTL) (equal first but second on count-back)
- 12 coaches and managers successful in the NSW state of Origin campaign for 2025
- 141 teams attending PPMC 2025
- 12 Hornets referees officiating Grand Finals at The Championships
- 9 Hornets players representing Australia at the Opens Trans Tasman in NZ
- Kim Skelly representing Australia at the Opens Trans Tasman in NZ
- 15 Hornets referees representing Australia at the Asia Pacific Youth Touch Championships in Redcliffe
- 3 Hornets referees representing Australia at the Asia Pacific Youth Touch Championships in Redcliffe

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Coaching:

The last 12 months has been a time of great industry, investment, growth and achievement for the coaching groups and arm of the Hunter Western Hornets Region.

Mentoring assistance and peer coaching support for coaches and players has been provided in the leadup and during the National Youth Championships (NYC), “The Championships” (NTL), NSW Junior Regionals, NSW Country Championships, Hornets Junior and Senior Regional Championships, and the NSWTA State Cup.

Providing coaching opportunities for keen and eager people in junior development teams allows Hornets to foster the development of these coaches in an environment where they are supported by a strong core coaching group who are willing to work together and share their expertise.

Appreciations:

Congratulations to all the coaches across the Hunter Western Hornets region who largely operate in volunteer capacities and have worked tirelessly to achieve such fantastic results at affiliate, regional, state, national, and International level. The mentorship and collaborative coaching across the region and affiliates allows our teams and coaches opportunities to share and consolidate learning and experiences for the greater good and our results are a strong reflection of the talent, passion, and dedication of our volunteer coach/management staff.

A big thank you to facilitators and coaching course presenters who conducted Foundation and Talent coaching courses across the region in our affiliates over the last 12 months.

Thank you also to NSWTA High Performance and Coaching Director Tony Trad and the NSWTA board and staff for their guidance, advice and support around coaching activities and initiatives It’s been a very full, but positive 12 months and the region can look to the future with confidence that the technical arms are making commendable progress and that the coaching arm is providing development opportunities for growth and progression at the various levels of participation for all our members.

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Selections:

The Hunter Western Hornets selection team were busy over the last 12 months selecting teams across both senior and junior divisions.

Our selection process for opens teams were conducted over a Friday night and Saturday which allowed us to select our Tier 1 teams (MO and WO) and allowed those that missed selection to then trial for our mixed opens and 20s divisions.

Our senior team selections commenced with identification of players at Hornets Championships. Selectors attended the Country Championships to finalise our NTL teams.

Our junior team selections commenced in November at the DGWJC and continued through January at our selection/development camp, PWMC, our squad selections and was finalised at the NSW touch Junior State Cup.

Unfortunately, due to the large amount of work, The Director of Selectors resigned from the position after the junior state cup. However we have had another Director of Selectors be appointed and we are working strongly towards reinvigorating our selection members and processes. We have decided to work from the ground up in developing a strong team of selectors to oversee our selections. We are providing mentoring and coaching in these areas and are working strongly with the technical arm to educate on all areas of the game.

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Referees:

Kim Skelly had a huge Year being named in the Australian Team for his 6th Trans-Tasman Series and named joint Ian Matthew Award winner.

Hornets had another very successful season with a number of referees being elevated to the National Referee Squad – Savannah Draper, Thomas Donehue and Caleb Walz who joined Kim Skelly and Alec Clark. Cooper Jones was selected in the National Academy Squad and Sam Clark has remained as a coach in the NRS. Out of the 20 members of the NRS – 5 are Hornets.

Hornets were well represented at 2024 World cup with Alec & John Clark, Mason Colwell, Jason Whitney, John Frost, Amanda and Savannah Draper, Cooper Jones, Barry Nichols, Dave McGee, Beth Monk, Ben Harris, Kim Skelly, Caleb Walz and Pat Moran. There were many outstanding achievements with the most outstanding being John Clark was named number 1 Senior referee in the world.

In September we had NYC with Caleb Walz being awarded Girls 18's, Cooper Jones Boys 16's and Tom Donehue awarded girls 14's grand finals.

Hornets Championships and Don Green were two more successful tournaments.

Senior State Cup saw another ton of grand finals being awarded to Hornets. Kim Skelly awarded leading male referee, Savannah Draper leading female referee, Jason Whitney Leading Senior and Amanda Crowley leading Senior female. Jason Whitney being awarded Senior referee of the tournament.

Peter Wilson saw another huge tournament with our highest referee contingent and another very successful tournament.

- Girl's 12 – Steve Gallagher, Kaelen Fean and Isabelle Doherty
- Girls 14 – Beth Monk, Tony Bradley, Andrew Holliday
- Girls 16's Johnnie Luther, Amanda and Drew Crowley
- Girls 18's Felix Tebbutt and Adam Dangel
- Boys 12's, Adam West
- Boys's 16 - Cooper Jones, Savannah Draper and Paul George
- Boy's 18 Caleb Walz, Tom Donehue
- 19 referees achieved their level 2 upgrade.

Junior regionals team: Andrew Burrows (14G GF), Tyrone Clark, Mason Cowell (18B GF), Ben Harris (14B GF), Cooper Jones (16B GF), Krystal Laughton (14G GF), Isaac Luther, Johnnie Luther (12B GF) and Tim McDougall (14G GF).

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30 Hornets Referees attended National Championships in Coffs Harbour – with WO GF Alec Clark, M20 GF Caleb Walz, W20 Savannah Draper, M30 Cooper Jones, M40 John Clark (leading senior referee of the tournament), M50 Jason Whitney, MMX John Frost, M65 Barry Nichols. Open National badge Tom Donehue and Snr National Badge Amanda Crowley. Referees Referee of the tournament John Frost.

State of Origin – 11 referees with Sam Clark as the referee coach.

A range of other achievements listed below in the achievements section.

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Juniors:

2024–2025 has been a strong year for junior development across the Hunter Western Hornets region, with increased participation, higher skill levels, and expanded representative opportunities.

Our two major tournaments, DGWJC and PWMC, experienced significant growth this year, not only in player and spectator attendance, but also in the overall standard of play. The skill level on display was noticeably higher, reflecting the ongoing development and depth of talent within our region.

Unfortunately, due to heavy rainfall in the Hunter region, our Junior Development Camp was cancelled this year. In the absence of the camp, we undertook additional administrative measures to ensure a comprehensive selection process. This included identifying players who have previously represented Hornets, as well as tracking athletes currently competing in our 16s and 18s divisions who were participating in our 20s program at TFA 2025 The Championships. As a result, our junior squad selections were based on performances observed at our three junior TID events, PWMC, DGWJC and finally JSC.

Following PWMC, our selection trials were held where invited squad players were given the opportunity to showcase their skills against the strongest competition in their age groups. The day provided a valuable platform for players to demonstrate their development, competitiveness & teamwork in a high-performance environment. Based on these performances, our representative teams were selected for JR.

All eight Hunter Western Hornets teams progressed to the semi-finals at the 2025 Junior Regionals, held at the outstanding Mudgee facility. Three teams, 14 Boys, 16 Boys, and 18 Girls, went on to win their respective divisions. The 12 Girls were unlucky to narrowly lose in a drop-off that lasted nearly 10 minutes, demonstrating remarkable resilience. Overall, the

Hornets finished second across all regions, capping off a strong and consistent performance at the tournament.

Following PWMC and our selection day, we recognised the talent and potential of junior players in our region, particularly among the boys in the 12s, 14s, and 16s age groups, as indicated by the strong response to the Expressions of Interest (EOI) for our junior representative teams. Our aim was not simply to form participation teams, but to create a positive, structured environment where players could build their skills, confidence, and understanding of the game, with the long-term goal of progressing into top teams next year.

Acknowledging the extra workload involved, we were confident we had the right people and motivation to make it happen.

NSW Hunter Western Hornets Touch Association Inc.

www.hornetstouch.com.au

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#PWMC
#CCJC



#DGWJC
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We first reached out to our Hornets affiliates to identify coaches who were both capable and passionate about the opportunity. After confirming coach interest, we opened EOIs more broadly and were thrilled to receive 20 applications, finding a role for everyone. Each coach was given a set of development expectations to ensure players not only improved as touch players but also grew into more confident, disciplined young athletes. Following this, we received over 200 player EOIs across five divisions. To support the selection process, we took extra administrative steps to identify players who had previously represented Hornets and referred to notes from PWMC, DGWJC, and our selection day.

All eligible players were invited to trial, and selectors faced tough decisions due to both the volume and quality of talent. Ultimately, we named five development teams: 12 Boys, 12 Girls, 14 Boys, 14 Girls, and 16 Boys. This brings the total number of Hornets teams heading to NYC to 13, with development and A team coaches collaborating on game plans and, in most cases, training together, an added benefit to the program. Training has now commenced, and we are excited to see both the results and the growth of all our teams and players at NYC.

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Events:

Once again, the Hornets Tournaments crew and the rest of the committee worked hard on running tournaments for its members during the year. Without the time and effort of this group of people the opportunity we provide would not be possible. Thank you to all that helped in any of the tournaments below.

The Peter Wilson Memorial Championships was held on the 1st & 2nd February 2025 at Nelson Bay which attracted 141 teams across 10s-18s. The Club Championship went to the Nelson Bay on 96 pts With Maitland runners up on 94 pts and Dubbo 3rd on 91 pts

Our Don Green Western Junior Championships was held on the 24rd & 24th November 2024 at Glen Willow Stadium in Mudgee 60 teams across 10s-18s attended with the home affiliate Dubbo on 125 pts. Taking out the club championships closely followed by Dubbo 110 pts and Newcastle 110 pts.

The Hornets Senior Champs was held on the 26th & 27th October 2024 at the Mallabula Sporting Complex and witnessed 53 teams attend across our senior divisions.

The Central Coast Minis tournament made a comeback in 2024, after being cancelled in 2023 due to extreme heat. We had 22 mini teams converge on the Doyalson RSL playing fields for what is always our favourite event of the year. With sprint races, plenty of smiling faces and the ever impressive touch skills on show!

Tournaments

2024 National Youth Championships:

In 2024 our 12 Years Girls team made the National Youth Championships grand final with the 14 Boys winning the NYC title in a polished performance in their grand final in atrocious weather conditions. The 12 Boys, 14 Girls, and 16 Girls were all semi-finalists, and the 16 Boys and 18 Boys made the quarter finals.

In an exciting development for the region, we will field 5 development teams in addition to our “A” teams, at the 2025 TFA NYC – 12 Boys and Girls, 14 Boys and Girls, and a 16 Boys team. This initiative will allow 70 players and 15 additional “rookie” coach and management staff an opportunity to compete in the most prestigious junior event on the touch football calendar, giving the region added depth in both the playing and coach/management ranks for years to come.

2025 NSWTA Junior Regional Championships:

After a thorough selection process that included Junior representative squad training and trial days, Hunter Western Hornets junior representative teams were selected to compete in the NSWTA Junior Regional Championships at Mudgee in April 2025.

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in our defense of the overall champion NSWTA Junior Region title that we annexed in 2024, but every team from U12 – U18s in boys’ and girls’ divisions made the semi-final stage of the event with 4 of our 8 teams making grand finals. The 12 Girls lost their grand final but our 14 Years Boys, 16 Years Boys and the 18 Years Girls teams were crowned State Champions in 2025.

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32 Hunter Western Hornets Players were then named in NSWTA Junior Regionals State Merit Teams.

Inclement weather affected the lead in for our teams to the 2025 event, but the selected teams laid the foundation for what promises to be strong showings at the TFA NYC later in the year in Coffs Harbour.

2025 The Championships (NTL)

In 2025 The Hunter Western Hornets had 18 teams competing at TFA's "The Championships" (NTL) and finished in second place overall – losing the "Golden Boot" as champion region on a countback to the SQBD Sharks. This has been our most successful result in the region's history in NTL competition.

In what was an extremely strong showing from the region, 17 of our 18 teams made it to the quarter final stage or better of the NTL with our Mixed Open, Mixed Masters, Women's 40s, and Women's 45s teams making it through to their respective grand finals. The standout results were back to back win for the Men's Open Team in their division, and a maiden title win for the region in the Men's 20s division.

Hornets fielded both a Men's and Women's 20s B team at the event, reflecting the depth of talent in the region.

Chris Lennon was named Men's Open Player of Series and Final, whilst Chelsea Hindmarsh was named the Women's Open Player of the Series. Taimana Elers was named Player of the Final in the Men's 20s decider.

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#PWMC
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