

2026 RUGBY SEVENS WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIP
Stellenbosch, South Africa from 4-6 September 2026

ATHLETE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

UniSport Australia (UniSport) is now seeking expressions of interest from athletes for the 2026 FISU World University Championship Rugby Sevens being held in Stellenbosch, South Africa from 4-6 September 2026.

Participation in the World University Championship Rugby Sevens is self-funded. The participation fee including participation fees, technical fees, accreditation, accommodation and meals, ground transport, dress uniforms and will be approximately **\$3000** (*this does not include flights to South Africa*).

1. Eligibility

All athletes must:

- a) Be an Australian passport holder
- b) Be born between 1 January 2001 and 31 December 2008
- c) Be currently enrolled and proceeding towards a diploma or higher at a high education institution recognised by the appropriate national academic authority; or former students of the institutions mentioned above who have graduated in the year preceding the event.

2. Entry

- a) The Rugby Sevens tournaments shall be played under the Laws and Regulations of the Game on the World Rugby website (www.world.rugby)
- b) The competitions shall last three days and include one men's tournament and one women's tournament
- c) For both men's and women's tournaments, a maximum of 16 teams and a minimum of 8 teams from at least 4 different countries and 2 different continents per tournament are required.
- d) Each team selected is authorised to enter a maximum of 16 persons: up to 12 competitors and up to 4 officials per team

3. Competition format

The FISU World University Championship Rugby Sevens is a full ranking event (teams will compete for every position in the final standing).

Teams will be placed into pools based on their final seedings. The pools will be drawn in accordance with the FISU regulations. Teams will play each other in each pool on a round robin basis. At the conclusion of the pool phase, the teams will be ranked one through four based on their cumulative match points and the top two teams will progress to knock out finals.

The Organising Committee may change the format, terminate or eliminate any round when conditions do not permit the completion of the intended format.



4. Country Selection

UniSport Australia as the national university sports federation and member of FISU has the authority to enter a maximum of one men's team and one women's team. UniSport will work with Rugby Australia to finalise the selection and nomination of teams. UniSport reserves the right to determine if and how many teams will be selected.

Please note, FISU shall determine the teams who will take part in the event, in consideration of past results and ranking at FISU Rugby Sevens Championships and World Rugby ranking. Continental distribution shall also be taken into account.

5. Nomination Process

Athletes wishing to be considered for selection must complete the EOI form by Wednesday 29 April. As part of the EOI, athletes will be required to provide the following information:

- Current club and grade of competition
- Primary and secondary playing positions
- Relevant representative experience (where applicable)
- University, degree and expected graduation date
- Confirmation of age and nationality eligibility criteria

Please note submission of an EOI does not guarantee selection.

Following the close of EOIs, athlete performances will be observed and assessed over a 4–6 week period through club competition and/or any relevant tournaments. Performances during this period will form a key component of the selection process.

If deemed necessary, state-based trials may be conducted following the observation period. This may occur where there is a high number of nominations for specific positions or squads. In such instances, athletes will be contacted directly with further information regarding trial arrangements.

All selection decisions will be made at the discretion of the Selectors and will be based primarily on:

- Potential for success at the World University Championship
- Demonstrated performance during the observation period
- Positional requirements and team balance
- Physical readiness and availability

Selection decisions are final.

The above information must be read in conjunction with the [Selection of High Performance Teams Guideline - UniRoos](#)

To express interest in selection, please complete the [Athlete EOI form](#) by **Friday 15 May 2026**.