



## ANNOUNCEMENT - UQ JUNIOR RUGBY

It is with great pleasure that we announce the formation of a joint venture between University of Queensland Rugby Football Club (UQRFC) and Taylor Bridge Rugby Club (TBRC).

UQRFC and TBRC have enjoyed a close and successful relationship for a number of years and have now deepened and formalised arrangements which will see a greater involvement by UQRFC in the junior club. This initiative will see UQ Rugby have a place in Brisbane junior rugby and enable it to directly invest, grow and develop the game at the grass roots level.

UQRFC and TBRC will now be better placed to achieve our shared goals which are to; -

- Increase the participation of girls in rugby
- Strengthen coaching resources at TBRC
- Build a genuine pathway from junior to senior rugby for boys and girls.

TBRC will continue to be administered, play and train at Graceville Memorial Park, be known as the UQ Junior Bull Sharks and wear the UQ maroon and blue colours.

Key goals for the 2018; -

- 1. Increase participation for girls** – Run a girl's touch competition in 2018
  - An initial small step at engaging girls with rugby, that will grow from touch to Sevens to 15 a side rugby.
- 2. Strengthen coaching support for TBRC**
  - UQRFC will provide coaching support to parent coaches for all teams U10 and above and also provide targeted support in younger age groups as required.
- 3. Build a genuine pathway to senior rugby** - Initiate the UQ Junior Bull Sharks brand and colours for U13 and above teams
  - UQRFC to provide a head coach and access to the UQ Rugby Academy for player development. This is a tangible step in providing a true pathway for TBRC plays into senior rugby at UQRFC.

UQRFC approached TBRC earlier this year as the club had formed the view that they needed to become more closely involved in developing the game at the junior level. "There are well documented challenges in Australian rugby resulting in limited grass roots investment from governing bodies." Says UQRFC President Mick Zaicek. "Premier clubs are be increasingly called on to grow the game, particularly through girls and women's rugby, juniors and sevens and this joint venture allows us to make significant steps in growing the game."

Incoming TBRC President Ed Hibberd said, "As the incoming President I couldn't be happier, our relationship with UQ Rugby and the support we receive is fantastic, but this takes it to another level. With the support of such a successful senior club we will be able to do so much more to grow and develop our players, the club and our game. I'm a little bias as my daughter plays at the club but I have been especially excited to hear UQ's thoughts and aspirations for growing girl's involvement in rugby"

The joint venture will see TBRC change it's traditional black and gold colours to the maroon and blue of University. There will be a transition period, with U13 and above changing from 2018 and the rest of the club following from 2019. "Taylor Bridge has a proud history in Graceville, and a decision to change colours and name is not something we have done lightly." said Ed. "At the end of the day our club vision is to make a positive contribution to our local community by enabling children to play rugby in a safe & fun environment. This JV allows us to better deliver on that vision. We are still TBRC, we are still based at Graceville, we are still the Bull Sharks, we respect where we have come from and are excited about the future."

## About Taylor Bridge Rugby Club

The club was founded in 1990 by a small group of locals who were passionate about rugby and what the game can offer young people. From humble beginnings, the club has grown and over the years thousands of kids and parents have been part of the Taylor Bridge community.

Taylor Bridge Rugby is located in Graceville Queensland and draws the majority of its players from the surrounding areas. Historically Taylor Bridge has been amongst the top Junior Rugby clubs in Brisbane for player numbers. Taylor Bridge has a rich background in providing the roots for players who have gone on to enjoy careers in pro Rugby, NRC and the NRL, and we cater for players aged 3-5 in our Puppies team and then steps up from U6-U17. [www.taylorbridgerugby.com.au](http://www.taylorbridgerugby.com.au)

## About University of Queensland Rugby Club

The University of Queensland Rugby Football Club, although recently incorporated, was founded in 1911. Since then the Club has seen several thousands of young men and women enjoy the game of Rugby and develop many friendships.

The Club is the most successful Brisbane Club having won 26 First Grade Premierships throughout its decorated past and has recently won its 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive Doughty Shield (Club championship across all grades).

The University of Queensland Rugby Club provides an environment where excellence and academic achievements are encouraged and extolled. Throughout the years, the Club has established a proud Rugby tradition of great camaraderie, mateship and enjoyment which has significantly contributed to its ongoing success both on and off the field.

Many of the Club's players have been rewarded with representative honours whilst others have further contributed to the game as coaches, managers or administrators. More than 210 University players have represented Queensland with 60 having been selected for Australia (ten as captain).

– Wallaby Captains: Stephen Moore, James Horwill, Nathan Sharpe, Michael Lynagh, Geoffrey Shaw, Mark Loane, Charles Wilson, Keith Winning, Vayro Wilson and James Clark.

In terms of elite coaches, the following have represented the Club at the highest level:

- Wallaby coaches: Bob Templeton and Jake Howard
- Queensland coaches: Mark McBain and Jeff Miller
- Other Super 15 coaches: David Nucifora and Nick Stiles

The Club is located on The University of Queensland St Lucia campus where it has its own Clubhouse and the use of three illuminated fields. The Club is administered by a committee of honorary members who are assisted by full time staff and coaches.

[www.uqrugby.com.au](http://www.uqrugby.com.au)



## TBRC & UQRFC - Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Does this mean Taylor Bridge is being merged into UQ Rugby?***

No, TBRC is an incorporated association as is UQRFC, from a legal and commercial standpoint they are and will remain as two separate entities with separate management committees. This is a formal agreement for both entities to work together.

### ***Will this mean Taylor Bridge will move and train and play at UQ?***

No, there is no intention to move the club. One of our greatest strengths is that we are a local community club and we would not wish to change that.

### ***How would I register?***

Players will continue to be registered with TBRC as they have been.

### ***What teams are part of the arrangement?***

All Taylor Bridge teams will be included. From 2018 all U13 and above teams will be known as UQ Junior Bull Sharks and play in UQ colours, the rest of the club will change in 2019.

For the avoidance of doubt the definition of a TBRC teams means the TBRC rugby union teams registered with Brisbane Junior Rugby Union each playing season by the TBRC regardless of their branding.

### ***Will this agreement have any effect on fees?***

No, fees will be set by the club in the normal manner, this agreement will not

### ***Will new sponsors from UQ now be used?***

TBRC is responsible for its own sponsors as are UQRFC. There will be opportunities to consider joint sponsors, but where there is an agreement in place it will be honoured. In the case of TBRC we have a formal agreement in place with our Platinum Sponsor Ray White Sherwood and this will continue for the agreed term.

### ***What about the club's history and colours?***

"Taylor Bridge has a proud history in Graceville, and a decision to change colours and name is not something that can be done lightly. TBRC's vision is to make a positive contribution to our local community by enabling children to play rugby in a safe & fun environment. This agreement with UQRFC allows us to deliver on that vision. We are still TBRC, we are still based at Graceville, we are still the Bullsharks, we respect where we have come from and are excited about the future.

