

Media Release:

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NTIS Rugby Union Scholarships

Young elite athletes aspiring to play professional Rugby Union are being encouraged to apply for a coveted scholarship with the Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS).

NTIS Director Dr Ian Ford said a scholarship through the institute would help talented junior athletes forge a pathway towards playing rugby at national and international levels.

“The NTIS is about helping young Territorians make that transition from being just another talented junior athlete to becoming a professional elite athlete” Dr Ford said.

“Michael Scaturchio, a former NTIS athlete, now shares his time between Darwin and Italy where he has been playing professional rugby union since 2004.

“Michael believes that the NTIS is one of the best institutes in Australia and that his time here certainly helped him to develop his talent and took him a step closer to becoming a professional athlete.”

Dr Ford said the NTIS is the Northern Territory Government’s centre of sporting excellence for the identification, development and support for the Territory’s talented athletes.

“Winning a scholarship here means access to the best facilities, coaching and support services including sports science and sports medicine,” Dr Ford said.

“The Northern Territory Government, through the NTIS contributes more than \$200,000 a year to run squad scholarship programs which includes Rugby Union.

“The rugby union scholarships are open to players aged between 15 and 17 years and applicants must be eligible to play Northern Territory Schoolboys Rugby in 2009 and/or 2010.”

Applications close Friday 7 November and application forms can be downloaded from www.nt.gov.au/ntis, for more information contact Tony Bundock on 8922 6806.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Dr Ian Ford on 8922 6820

Image – Former NTIS athlete Michael Scaturchio

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