

KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT FEBRUARY 2018



1. LONDON YOUTH GAMES

Volunteering Opportunity

Thursday March 15th is the date of London Youth Games 2018 – should you have any volunteer coaches, referees or Young Rugby Ambassadors who would like to be involved on the day, please contact, mikehollis@rfu.com

For an overview of the day itself, if you are involved as a volunteer, you would be supporting either:

- The U13/U15 Girls events, involved in refereeing a series of round-robin/knock-out fixtures.
- The MegaFest for Yrs 5 & 6 pupils, involved in coaching Tag Rugby activities and refereeing Tag Rugby matches.

Whichever event you are involved with, you will be working alongside the RFU Community Rugby Coaches as well as London Youth Games staff.

The timings of the event are yet to be confirmed, but it will be around a 9 am arrival time with a 4 pm finish, with the venue being Barn Elms Sports Centre, SW13 9SA.

2. AN INTRODUCTION TO GMS FOR NEW USERS



If you are yet to use the Game Management System (GMS), here's a little introduction on what the system is about, along with the help and support available to you, as a user.

All of this information can be found on the GMS Hub, with an easy to remember web address of : www.englishrugby.com/gms.

Below are links that will take you straight to parts of the hub you may be most interested in. These are:

- To find out what GMS is, and discover what the system is about, click [here](#).
- To discover what's new in GMS, and to hear about how other clubs are using the system, click [here](#).
- To access a wealth of training and support material, click [here](#).
- To find out what's upcoming, and what might be included in future system improvements, take a look [here](#).
- To get started, and to login to the system, visit [here](#).
- In addition to the online support, we have a staffed help desk available to support you. To contact them, you can either email gms@therfu.com or call 020 8831 6651 (Monday-Friday 09:00-13:30 and 14.30-17.00)

3. MATCH OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT CLUSTER DAY

On Sunday 20th May there will be a Continuous Match Official Development Cluster Day taking place within Metropolitan Kent, offering an opportunity for individuals to attend 2 different CMOD's.

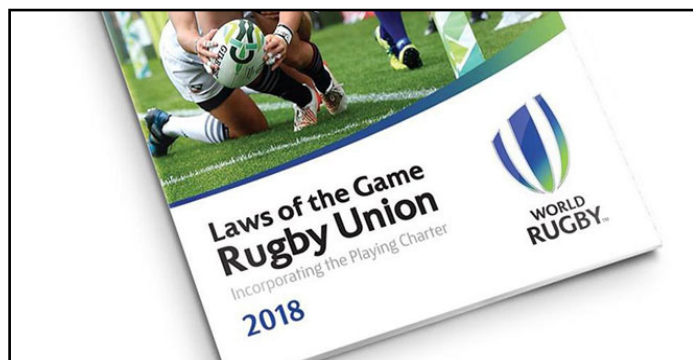
What are CMOD's? These are 90 minute workshops based around specific areas of the game itself as well as supporting overall game management. They are not just for referees, but also coaches, parents and even players!

There will be further information to follow in future

sendouts around specific details regarding May 20th.

4. NEW SIMPLIFIED LAWBOOK

Many of you will now have access to the new simplified law book, please note that although this is new, it does not include the global trial laws which we are still applying until further notice.



5. GLOBAL LAW TRIALS

Tell the RFU what you think!

A number of Global Law Trials have been introduced by World Rugby since the beginning of the season and applied to all games at all levels in England since 1 August 2017. These Global Law Trials are designed to support player welfare and make the Laws simpler to play and watch. The 17 variations can be grouped around some key themes:

- Time – how the game is ended after a penalty kick
- Tackle/ruck – what the tackler must do and how a ruck can be formed
- Advantage – where multiple infringements have occurred giving the non-offending team the choice of which they feel is the most advantageous to them
- Touch, in goal and mark – putting the emphasis on where the ball is when it is played

The RFU is reviewing their effect and wants you to help shape the game of the future by responding to a survey, which also gives you the chance to win one of five pairs of tickets to see England in a Quilter International this November.

Please click [here](#) to provide your thoughts.

6. OLD MUTUAL WEALTH KIDS FIRST CURRY EVENING

Thursday 8th March 2018

Old Colfeians RFC are hosting & running an Old Mutual Wealth Kids First evening on behalf of the RFU – this is a great opportunity for Clubs to network and share experiences/challenges in an informal environment.

The aim of the evening is to help parents and coaches understand the new Age Grade Rugby organisation and approach, explaining how it can benefit players and clubs as well as covering the following:

- Transitioning players through the U7-U13 Age Grades and from schools to clubs
- Scenarios that may conflict with the Kids First approach
- Working with parents (and, conversely, working with coaches)

This is a FREE evening to attend, and is aimed at coaches, managers and parents. As the title of the evening suggests, there will be food provided in the form of one of Mary's special curries.

If you would like to attend please let Ben Annable (mins.chairman@ocrfc.co.uk) or Calum (calum.dewar@googlemail.com) on or before 5 March 2018.



7. KENT COUNTY RFU ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION

Thursday 17th May 2018

Following the survey taken at last year's Awards Dinner, the 2018 Celebration Dinner will have a new venue and slightly different format.

This year, the dinner will take place on Thursday 17th May in the Kent Suite at the Ashford International Hotel, 7.00 pm reception for Dinner at 7.45 pm. <https://www.qhotels.co.uk/our-locations/ashford-international-hotel/>



This is slightly more central in Kent and is also able to accommodate more attendees. The larger venue is required because this year, winners and runners-up of

all RFU/Kent leagues will be included, including Women's leagues, not just the Shepherd Neame leagues.

Taking into account the feedback from last year to incorporate more leagues, will mean that the costs for the dinner will rise, therefore in order for Kent Rugby to provide for these greater numbers, attendees from clubs will be asked to contribute a small amount per person towards the meal. This will be a subsidised rate, to cover a three-course sit-down meal, and the usual free barrels of beer, kindly provided by Kent RFU's main sponsor, Shepherd Neame. Two guests are invited from each club at the subsidised rate and in addition, 2 complimentary places for each team who are either winners or runners-up of a league.

There will be a professional Toast Master in attendance to ensure that the evening runs smoothly, together with a speaker from Kent RFU and the current RFU President, John Spencer. The dress code is smart - jacket and tie/club blazer or cocktail wear.

Invitations will be sent out w/c Monday 26th February to all Club Honorary Secretaries registered on GMS.

We would like to encourage as many clubs to take up the invitation and confirm their place on receipt of their invitation to make this truly a celebration of achievement bringing the rugby community together.

Complimentary places, for League winning teams will be invited once the leagues have been completed.

8.ANNUAL CLUB SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

A final reminder that **ALL CLUBS** need to have submitted their completed Safeguarding Audit to the Kent CB Safeguarding Manager (Safeguarding@kent-rugby.org) by the end of February. Please check to make sure your club has done this.

9.REPORTING CONCERNS

A reminder that **any** concern or allegation that an adult working on behalf of your club such as coach or manager etc. has harmed a child physically or emotionally **must** be referred to the National RFU Safeguarding team as soon as possible, even if the parent of the child has not specifically asked for any further action to be taken. It is our duty to protect the children we work with, and the adults who work with us, by properly investigating any allegation.

Advice from the National Safeguarding Team should be sought before any further investigation of an incident takes place. Their contact details can be found on the England Rugby Website [here](#).

10.DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE

The DBS process is a crucial part of an effective recruitment process. Any club operating rugby for those under the

age of 18 is deemed a children's service provider, which means that certain legislation and commitments must be adhered to.

One significant aspect of providing a children's service is ensuring that a thorough recruitment process is followed, including interviewing potential volunteers, seeking references, checking qualifications are valid, on-going monitoring and carrying out DBS checks via the RFU.

RFU Regulation 21.2 describes the requirements of the RFU DBS process, further information is provided in the **RFU Safeguarding Policy** of the requirements within a rugby setting. All DBS applications must be obtained through the RFU Safeguarding Department and DBS disclosures issued through other Registered Bodies are not accepted.

The DBS issue a certificate for ALL DBS applications - therefore, simply having a DBS certificate does not mean applicants have been approved by the RFU. The certificate is sent directly from the DBS to the applicant's home address and the RFU does not receive a copy of the DBS disclosure.



All applications and results are, however, actively monitored by the RFU Safeguarding Team.

Only when an individual appears on GMS with a "current" DBS status are they deemed "approved/cleared" to work unsupervised with U18s, so it is crucial that clubs monitor GMS, have an up-to-date Child Workforce list and manage those engaged in the youth game.

If a DBS returns containing information, the RFU will instigate the **DBS Case Management Process** and failure to comply with this process will result in the individual being removed from coaching U18s. On occasion, the RFU will contact a club requesting a reference for an individual. It is imperative that written communication is supplied upon request so that the RFU can carry out a thorough risk assessment when managing a DBS disclosure.

Applicants (and clubs where necessary) will be informed of the outcome of the DBS Case Management Process in writing. Additionally the GMS site will be updated to reflect a Current or Rejected DBS status. Only when a "current" status appears against an individual on GMS are they deemed "DBS cleared" by the RFU.