

Notes on completing the Club and Player Approval Forms

Please read through the RFU's guidance for Clubs, which talks about some of the elements of the Form. In addition to this, some notes from early discussions with clubs:

The Form

This should be a whole club form. Please do not submit separate forms for males and females.

Safeguarding Policy

- Your Club needs its own Safeguarding Policy – you can't just link to the RFU's Policy. You can download a template from the RFU here: <https://www.englandrugby.com//dxdam/12/12ef4ac1-3d81-44cc-8193-52a11b73a250/Club%20Safeguarding%20Policy%20Template.pdf>
- Your policy needs to be on your website, but it also needs to be something you share with Coaches and Parents – your Club needs to make sure it's following what your policy says.
- Your policy should be reviewed by your management committee at least every 3 years.

DBS Checks

- Your club needs to decide who is in a 'position of trust' when thinking about U17 players playing adult rugby. It is these people who need a DBS Check. This could be a First Aider or Manager who is attached to the group, a Head Coach who looks after the group, a Mentor who will look after the U17s etc.
- At the minimum, the Head Coach of the Senior Side the U17 will be playing for needs a DBS Check.

Safeguarding Audit

- This needs to be completed on GMS – information on how to do this has been sent to your Club's Safeguarding Officer.

Access to Separate Showers & Changing Rooms

- Several clubs have asked "what about away matches" – you cannot guarantee what facilities a club you are visiting might have. What you can do is ensure that where an U17 player does not want to shower or change with Adults, you do what you can to make sure that this is possible e.g showering before or after others etc.

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General

- You need to be aware of scenarios acceptable in senior rugby that are not so for minors; e.g Under the Licensing Act 2003, registered clubs cannot sell or supply alcohol to children. The club may also have a safeguarding responsibility if the Age Grade player accompanies adult players to any licensed premises post-match or are otherwise involved in the supply of alcohol to an age grade player at club function or whilst representing the club.

Notes on completing the Player Approval Form

The RFU's guidance also includes guidance on filling in the Player Approval Form. In particular it's worth noting the following points made in the guidance:

“Adult Teams the player is likely to play for” – be specific about which team they'll be playing for – it makes a difference whether they're playing for the 1st XV or the 4th XV. You should include the level or league they are likely to play in especially if they go into cup competitions where teams from higher leagues may play.

“Will the player also continue to play Age Grade Rugby” – if Yes, how are you going to manage their playing time, so they don't over play. This needs to take account of school playing as well

“Reason for the player to play out of Age Grade” – 17 year olds should ideally play with their peers in the age grade game and the general assumption is that they will remain in Age Grade rugby. So if they are to play up they must be “best in age”, i.e. exceptional. You need to give a reason for the player to play out of Age Grade” – a lack of players for the senior team is not a good enough reason!

Player Assessment – read through the guidance on this as it suggests what things you need to be writing about in the boxes to evidence your decision. We would expect to see all points addressed by a coach of appropriate competence.