

KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT SEPTEMBER 2022



1. MESSAGE FROM KENT CHAIR AND RFU COUNCILLOR ROGER CLARKE

I thought that I would share one or two points with you regarding commencement of season issues.

1. New Competition Structure.

A small group of John Day, Kevin Cope, Mark Finnis, and I are monitoring the results of games on a weekly basis and following up where necessary to check on walkovers or apparent competitive mismatches. To date, although there have been some games to follow up at the RFU Kent leagues level and at Metropolitan where the Merit Tables have commenced the new leagues seem to have gone relatively well. We will continue to monitor and also contact clubs if results suggest we should do so.



John Day, Chair of the Competition Committee, has been co-opted to the County Executive Committee as we continue to keep a close eye on things whilst Mark Finnis and Kevin Cope - Chair of Club Development are also working with clubs experiencing longer term player and volunteering problems as well as clubs experiencing any problems for the first time at the start of 22 -23.

Details of physical club cluster meetings will be published shortly as we open up direct communications for 22-23 where you can pick up on and share successes as well as any issues you would like RFU/KCRFU to help with which may have been missed.

2. RFU Game Congress.

More detailed information will be shared with clubs on current work being undertaken by the RFU on: The future of contact Rugby in the next 10 years- the same for noncontact versions of the game as well as the future of the clubs over the next 10 years.

These groups are designed to look at how the game should grow and what clubs will look like. Initial broad findings were shared with 160 delegates at a game Congress held at Warwick University on the 16-17 September which was attended by some RFU Council Members, CB (County representatives), and selected club representatives. Nigel Fray and Kevin Cope attended on behalf of the County and I attended as an RFU Councillor and as a member of the RFU Future of the Club Commission.

The broad conclusions in these three areas will be shared with all clubs between now and Christmas for input and comment and more on this will appear both in the RFU Community Update and in this newsletter.

3 Age Grade Affiliation Process.

We are approaching the end of the period for Age Grade affiliation and I'm keen that Kent Clubs are able to get closer to full affiliation this year. Prior to Covid, we estimate Kent had around 12,500 girls and boys actively engaged. Last year - season 21-22 we only managed 8.5k affiliations. This could lead us to believe that we had lost 4,000 players. I don't believe that and neither will you. It just meant that a lot of clubs did not affiliate all of their players. Without accurate data on player numbers, it makes it much more difficult to take the right decisions on investment and support.

Please do all you can to get your affiliation numbers to the level of your paid subscription levels and if you need any help please let either Tracy Pettingale in the office or Mark Finnis our Club Developer from the RFU know.

In the meantime continue to enjoy the start of the season and if you need help shout.

2. TOURS & CAMPS

Online application process and non-compliance

The March 2022 edition of the 'Information Sendout' advised clubs as to the online application process to seek CB (KCRFU) approval for tours, summer camps, festivals, etc. The advice also emphasised the need for applications to be submitted in sufficient time to allow CB to assess the applications and remedy any shortcomings that might have been identified.

Regrettably, we are continuing to receive applications with as little as two days' notice before the intended camp is due to proceed. This is unacceptable, not least for the reasons already stated, but also because those within the CB assessing the applications are themselves volunteers, who may have to balance their responsibilities to the KCRFU with their day jobs.



As previously, advised, we expect to receive applications no later than the following:

1. To play out of age grade including Age Grade into Adult and combining age grade teams (see RFU Regulation 15) should be submitted no later than 10 days before the match in which the individual or team is due to participate;
2. Camps and festivals, no later than 4 weeks before the camp is due to start;
3. Outgoing tours, 8 weeks before the proposed tour dates; and
4. Incoming tours, 4 weeks before the tour proceeds.

Especially, insofar as youth rugby is concerned, we certainly do not want to prevent young people from participating in tours and camps (and the game, more widely), which would happen if we were not able to approve the event on the basis of a late application, or assuming that the applicant club has met the other application criteria. Nevertheless, it is important that clubs adhere to the requirements that have been set.

It is for this reason, therefore, that any club that

persistently fails to abide by the above application conditions (incl. timescales) and full compliance, as appropriate, with Regulation 15 (Age Grade Rugby) may, following due process and investigation and having been found to be in non-compliance with the requirements, face disciplinary action by the KCRFU.

In addition, should we believe it necessary to report a club to the RFU Disciplinary Department for contravention of Regulations, we will do so. Should a club be proven to have breached these conditions, it will face possible sanctions. This might, for example, include the suspension for one year of your club's and individuals' membership of the CB and consequently the withdrawal of the opportunity to purchase International match tickets via the KCRFU and/or possible withdrawal by the RFU of your International match tickets allocation.

In severe and persistent cases, the RFU may also, as it has done already this season, deduct league points from clubs' respective 1st XVs and/or impose demotion as the ultimate sanction. Such sanctions may also apply to clubs that fail to gain approval from the CB for a 17-year-old to play adult rugby (August 2022 'Information Sendout' refers).

We trust that clubs will take due note of the above and seek to comply at all times.

Nigel Fray
Hon. Secretary & Director of Governance
honsec@kent-rugby.org

3. AGE-GRADE FIXTURES

All fixtures for U12 to U14 in the Kent Competition have been sent to each team's contact, as entered on the application form. If any team is missing this information please contact the Youth Chair.

youth-rugby@kent-rugby.org

All fixtures for the U15 to Colts in the Kent Competition have been entered into GMS. Team managers/coaches have been provided information as to how to access these which requires clubs to provide access to the competition module on GMS to these people. If fixtures are missing please contact the Youth Chair, but for any other assistance contact the GMS helpdesk.

youth-rugby@kent-rugby.org

4. APPROVALS

Please remember that any player playing out of their age grade will require approval from the CB via **our online approval forms** and is required to be affiliated with your club.

5. 'GAME ON'- EVERY GAME MATTERS

'Game On' is a flexibility in rules, not a change in the game we all love. All teams short of players in the Kent leagues can still play their matches by agreeing to use 'Game On'

rules.

'Game On' works for those teams which, for whatever the reason, cannot put out a full 15. Using the different options allows teams, as long as they have ten players, to get a game. 'Game On' is here to help you get the game played, ensuring your players get the game time they crave and be able to spend time at your club.

By using 'Game On' we can make sure players, coaches, team captains and managers can get the game played so it doesn't have to be postponed or cancelled.

We appreciate having a full 15 is often preferred by teams and players. However, when this isn't possible you can still get your games played using 'Game On', as long as you have a minimum of ten players.

See below for how the 'Game On' framework has been enhanced this season to give teams even greater flexibility to complete matches. This includes more scrum options, allowing more players to participate in and enjoy parts of the game they love.

You can agree with your opposition to get the 'Game On', so players get to play and keep coming back for more.

Find out more about 'Game On' [here](#)

6. INNER WARRIOR CAMPS

Clubs are invited to register their Allianz Inner Warrior Camps [HERE](#) so you can capitalise on the increased profile and interest around the Red Roses warm-up fixtures in September.

The RWC dates that are part of the campaign window are:

- Saturday, October 15 – England v France RWC pool game, 8 am BST
- Saturday, November 5 – Semi-Finals
- Saturday, November 12 – Final
- Saturday 19th / Sunday, November 20 – First-weekend post-tournament

Please think about the best weekend for your club (from the list above) to host an Allianz Inner Warrior Camp – what else is planned? Could you organise a 'watch-party' and show the RWC matches on loop in the clubhouse?

Think about engaging the whole club to get behind the Red Roses, and welcome new members simultaneously. Allianz Inner Warrior Resources.

- Download the Allianz Inner Warrior brand guidelines for clubs
- Download social assets to promote an Allianz Inner Warrior Camps for Girls
- Download social assets to promote an Allianz Inner Warrior Camps for Women
- Download an Allianz Inner Warrior Session Plan
- Download an Allianz Inner Warrior Camp press release template
- Download the Allianz Inner Warrior Logos

For more information, contact innerwarrior@rfu.com or visit www.englandrugby.com/innerwarrior

7. NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR KCRFU U18 BOYS TRIALS

Nominations are open for schools and clubs to nominate a maximum of three players for Kent County U18 boys (born from September 2004 to August 2005 inclusive), who will be invited to trial for selection for the Kent County Under 18s Rugby representative team. There will be a trial day for all nominated players followed by a further 2nd trial for those selected.

Trial dates

Sunday 30th October, 12:30 pm start, Dartford Valley RFC
Sunday 6th November, Trials, 12:30 pm start, Dartford Valley RFC



PLEASE NOTE

To ensure an equitable opportunity for everyone:
ALL PLAYERS MUST BE NOMINATED REGARDLESS OF PREVIOUS INVOLVEMENT in u17s Kent/DPP/PDG/Saracens. **NOMINATE HERE!**

8. COMPLETE YOUR CLUB SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

The Safeguarding Audit is mandatory for all clubs who offer Age Grade activities, or who wish to have 17-year old's playing up into the adult game (Reg 21.1.6).

The Safeguarding Audit is located in the questionnaire tab within the 'Organisation Profile' module on GMS. You can save the content and return before you wish to finalise your submission, but please don't forget to tick the safeguarding declaration at the end and press submit when you are ready!

Please answer questions honestly, with your answers reflecting current practice at your club. The audit can be used to assist clubs in recognising areas for development.

If you have any difficulties with completion, please contact the RFU Safeguarding Team at safeguarding@rfu.com
Guidance is also available [here](#)
Deadline 31st December 2022.

9. PRINCIPLES OF SCRUMMAGING COURSES

The Principles of Scrummaging CPD aims to increase the number of players able to play in the scrum.

This 2.5 hrs course has a blend of theory and practical and will look at exploring England Rugby's principles of scrummaging, looking at recent developments in scrum coaching and match officiating.

The course is designed to help coaches, match officials, and players to understand individual and collective techniques as well as position-specific conditioning, developing these in a fun and engaging way. To book these courses click the links below. At 7 pm, on the below dates, costs £10. Click the picture below to access the courses and booking links.

10. PRINCIPLES OF LINEOUT COURSES

This 2-hour course explores the England Rugby principles of the lineout and is designed to help coaches, match officials and volunteers explore recent developments in lineout coaching. All courses are 7pm-9.30pm
Access the courses and booking links below

Tunbridge Wells RFC - Monday 6th March 2023

Ashford RFC - Monday 13th March 2023

Medway RFC - Monday 20th March 2023

11. COURSES STILL AVAILABLE

The coaching (ERCA) and refereeing (ERRA) courses in Kent are now fully booked, however there are still places on the following refereeing courses:

England Rugby Referee Award- St Augustine's Primary School - 15th Oct

England Rugby Referee Award- Simon Langton Grammar School - 23rd Oct

MINI FESTIVAL SAVE THE DATE Sunday 26th March 2023

PRINCIPLES OF SCRUMMAGING

Venue	Date (7pm)	Book
Dartford Valley RFC	Mon 3 rd Oct	https://bit.ly/PoSdValey
Old Alleynians RFC	Tues 4 th Oct	https://bit.ly/PoSAlleynians
Sidcup RFC	Wed 12 th Oct	https://bit.ly/PoSsidcup
Rosslyn Park RFC	Fri 14 th Oct	https://bit.ly/PoSRosslynP
Dorking RFC	Wed 19 th Oct	https://bit.ly/PoSdorking
London Irish Amateurs RFC	Tues 1 st Nov	https://bit.ly/PoSIrishAms
Sutton & Epsom RFC	Wed 23 rd Nov	https://bit.ly/PoSsutEpsom
Beckenham RFC	Wed 30 th Nov	https://bit.ly/PoSBeck

Minimum Age – 14

2.5 hours

£10

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