

# KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT NOVEMBER 2022



## 1. PLAYING AGE GRADE PLAYERS UP INTO AGE GROUPS, INCLUDING ADULT RUGBY

### Key principles

The CB receives frequent applications from clubs seeking permission to play age grade players (mainly up) into other age groups, including 17 year olds into adult rugby. Such applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the CB's Chair of Youth Rugby, Alan Erskine, and our Safeguarding Manager, Dawn Stanford and the Age Grade Disciplinary Secretary, Andy Gent.

The 'playing-up' Regulation (Regulation 15) provides a mechanism to further the development of young players, especially as they transition from the youth to the adult game. We have, however, seen clubs deploy the Regulation as a means more generally to fulfil fixtures and to be able to field 15 players, regardless of the specific development needs of the young individual for which the application to play-up is being sought.

To assist clubs, therefore, in determining when to apply to seek CB approval for a young player to play up, including into adult rugby, coaches and officers must adhere to the following key principles:

Before any application can be considered for an individual to play-up, that individual's club must first, and each season be approved to do so by the CB.

Both Club and individual approval must be sought via the CB's online application system (available on its website). Club approval applications should include details of all individuals who will be in a position of authority for each team that may be considered suitable for the player playing up. Those individuals will include at a minimum: first aid, captain, coach and manager for each team, all of whom should be in possession of a current RFU DBS clearance.

A decision as to whether permission should be sought for playing-up, should be based **on the development needs of**

**the individual only, and not the wider needs of the club.**

Applications for paying-up must be specific to the individual young player's needs and development. The CB sees too many 'cut & paste' applications, where the rationale seeking to play up one player is almost identical to another.



While acknowledging that the 'playing-up' Regulation may help clubs field a full team, **this is not the intention behind it.** Other mechanisms already exist, such as 'Game On', to facilitate the playing of matches and fulfilment of fixtures.

It is the CB's expectation that individuals for whom applications are made by their respective clubs to play-up will be at an age closer to the age group they are seeking to play in. For 17 yrs olds seeking to play up into adult rugby this will mean they are closer to 18 year rather than-17 year-old. Simply attaining 17 year of age is not sufficient, alone, to gain approval from the CB to play-up into adult rugby

Permission to play-up must not be seen by clubs as receiving a 'blank cheque' for that individual to play adult rugby for all future adult matches until the player reaches 18 years of age, particularly if the player still has access to age grade rugby.

Individuals who have given approval to play-up should play **as few adult matches as possible** and on an exceptional basis, based wholly on that individual's development needs, as agreed with and by the CB.

Permission for an individual to play-up should be made each season, i.e. if a player turns 17 in December and is allowed to play-up, for example in one of the final adult matches of the season, then a new application must be sought (bearing in mind the principles, above) for the new season commencing in the following September.

Nigel Fray  
KCRFU Honsec and Director of Governance.

## 2. ARTICLES FOR IN-TOUCH

Do you have pictures and reflections about the Women's World Cup or any club news/success stories that you think will be great items for the County's bi-annual newsletter, 'In Touch' and would like your article to be part of our January/Feb 2023 publication?



If so please send written articles with any good quality (large size) images for possible inclusion in the publication by the 3rd of January 2023, to [office@kent-rugby.org](mailto:office@kent-rugby.org)

## 3. SAFEGUARDING SELF-AUDIT. DEADLINE 31st DEC 2022

Each Club with an age grade section, or which has 17-year-olds playing adult rugby must complete the annual RFU safeguarding self-audit through GMS each year. Information on the audit can be found in Regulation 21, point 21.1.6.

The safeguarding self-audit consists of a set of questions and should be completed by the CSO, the assistant CSO or another officer with level two permission or above. Level two permission is required to access the GMS questionnaire

tab, which is under the Organisation Profile Module. To find out how to complete the annual safeguarding audit, please see the **Safeguarding Audit how-to guide**.

## 4. AGE GRADE AFFILIATION

15.1.4 All Age Grade Club Players must be affiliated annually on the RFU's online affiliation platform within 45 days of:

- (a) for new Age Grade Players at a Club, them first joining the Club;
- (b) for existing Age Grade Players at a Club, them starting a new Season at the Club.

Following a review of current players affiliated across the County, we have recognised there are still a number of player's parents/guardians who have not yet completed the process. Please use the links below to assist them;

**Renew-age-grade-child-affiliation-process** – for parents/guardians of previously affiliated players

**Age-grade-player-affiliation-for-a-parent-guardian** – for players not previously affiliated

**Club-administrator-help-a-user-to-reset-their-password** – Assist a current user to reset & access their account

## 5. RED ROSES V FRANCE

20,000 tickets have been sold for the 2023 Women's Six Nations match on Saturday 29th April 2023 against France at Twickenham! Make sure you are there to be part of history!



If you want to bring a school/club junior party, book via this link:

**Women's 6 Nations England v France @ Twickenham**

## 6. CLUB CLUSTERS

Thank you to all those who attended the recent Club Cluster events which were held around the County. A number of key issues impacting clubs currently were identified;

- Adult Male Playing
- Volunteering
- Energy Costs
- Age Grade Affiliations

Clubs will be receiving support and information from the local RFU Club Developer Mark Finnis based on identified needs, in addition, a resource of useful information has

been collated to support clubs which can be found **HERE**. A range of support and workshops is currently being planned and details will be provided to clubs shortly.

## 7. U12 GIRLS BAND

All players playing out of age grade require CB approval for playing and training. U11 girls do require CB approval to play in the u12 Girls' Age Band as per Reg 15.3.

If u11 & u12 girls are joint training this must be non-contact only and not u12 girls playing to u11 rules which would also require the CB approval for an u12 player to play down in line with Reg 15.4.

## 8. GMS

Support and resources are available to clubs:

- The pages on the RFU website;  
<https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/running-your-club/game-management-system>

- The GMS pages on the Help Portal;  
<https://help.rfu.com/support/solutions/15000031835>

A Support Trainer session in using GMS with small groups can provide targeted training to develop understanding and confidence in using GMS. Please contact Mark Finnis to advise if you feel your club is in need of this.

## 9. PAPA JOHN'S COMMUNITY CUP

Last chance to enter the Papa John's Community Cup. The entry period will close on Thursday 1st December. You are encouraged to complete the entry form see our website for details. **HERE!**



KENT MINI FESTIVAL

40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023