

KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT SEPTEMBER 2023



1. AGE GRADE AFFILIATION

Thanks to all clubs with Age Grade sections who have so far registered their young player affiliations for 2023-24. The CB registered c.11,500 names in 2022-23, which suggests that there were about another 2,500 young players who were not affiliated.



It is important that all Age Grade players are registered and that we have an accurate as possible record of the playing base. Please encourage all Age Grade parents/guardians and where relevant, players to affiliate this season, as soon as possible.

2. NEW TACKLE HEIGHT REGULATIONS

The season has only just started with the Kent Merit (Rural and Metropolitan) leagues' first games being played on the 16th September.

It's early days to make judgements on how the new tackle height Regulations will affect the playing experience and on how the game will be refereed. However, at this juncture, those National Regional sides in Kent which have already played 3 league games and those matches that have so far been playing in, RFU Counties leagues 1-5 have seen one red card only for a high tackle. Let's hope that this position is maintained and that clubs continue to seek the help of our County Referees Society if they are experiencing difficulties.

If any club has concerns or further questions concerning the new tackle height regulations, either contact Tracy at the office or our new Chair of Game Development, Jarrod

Lawrence for help. (game-development-chair@kent-rugby.org).

3. COMPETITION RULES & GAME-ON

Both the Rural and Met leagues encourage playing a game under 'Game-On' principles, rather than postponing it or conceding walk-overs. Already in the first week of the Merit table leagues, one game has been played using 'Game-on'. Discussion will be held at the County Executive around a further incentive scheme, in consultation with our sponsors, Shepherd Neame, which we expect to be similar to that which was run last season, where we offered incentives to teams and individuals that completed a high percentage of games during the season.



4. INJURED SELF-EMPLOYED PLAYERS - A REMINDER

The County holds a fund which is designed to provide limited financial assistance to players who are injured and as a result cannot work and who may receive no income

(e.g. sick pay) for a period of time.

If a club has a player who is injured during this season and may be facing financial hardship, then please contact the County Office to receive details of how to apply for financial assistance and what evidence is required to support any application.

The Executive Committee hopes that the existence of such a fund may give confidence to those self-employed players who might otherwise be concerned about playing regularly.


5. VISITING KENT CLUBS SEASON 23-24

During the season, the KCRFU's President, Doug Hursey, Chair, Roger Clarke, and Hon. Secreatry, Nigel Fray would like to visit clubs across Kent, to meet officials and volunteers and to discuss views on the game, any issues and/or requests for support they wish to raise. If you have dates on a Saturday and would like us to attend, please let us know at the office suggesting 2 or 3 alternative dates and we will ensure, given diary availability, that one of Doug, Roger or Nigel visit you.

Last season we covered some 25 visits.

Roger Clarke- Chair KCRFU Executive Committee and RFU Councillor

6. KSRFUR INTRODUCTION TO REFEREEING COURSE



**Introduction
to Rugby
Refereeing
Course
15-a-side
Game**

Delivered by Kent
Referees Society

**Evening 1: Monday 16th October
7.00-9.30pm @ Aylesford Bulls RFC**

**Evening 2: Monday 30th October
7.00-9.30pm @ Aylesford Bulls RFC**

£35 p/p. Book your place by contacting admin@kentrefs.co.uk
[Both evenings must be attended to complete the course]

- Are you having to step up and referee your age-grade games?
- Don't feel qualified?
- Want to feel more confident refereeing?

- Injured and want to stay in the game?

If the answer is yes, then why not do a short referee course (2 evenings) run by Kent Referee Society.

Book now as this course is always oversubscribed.

Monday 15th October and Monday 30th October at Aylesford RFC - 7:00 pm 9:30 pm

Contact admin@kentref.co.uk to book your place.

7. ARTICLES FOR IN-TOUCH



Due to very little response from clubs about sharing your amazing community rugby stories at your club for our publication of In-Touch, we are postponing the publication to Feb 2024.

Do not miss out on sharing your club news and be part of our publication of In-touch?

Please send written articles with any good quality (large size) images for possible inclusion in the publication by the to office@kent-rugby.org

8. YOUTH COMPETITIONS

Thank you for your applications. We have a record number of teams competing in the competition this season which shows how well clubs are recovering after the last few years.

We can always do better, however. I therefore encourage those clubs with sufficient players to enter as many teams as possible; we could have at least another 10 teams entered into our competitions, which should encourage greater participation and enjoyment for our young players.

For those teams that have entered, all fixtures are available on GMS and you should all by now have been given the requisite access to the Electronic Match card and Team modules by your clubs. If not, please ensure this in place and you are familiar with the system before the first games. Help can be found on the GMS hub via the RFU website or contact your Competition manager.

As a reminder, any rescheduled matches must be approved by the competition managers, who will make the date changes on GMS. This needs to be done in advance of the original date of the match.

As long as there are 10 players, the match can go ahead and, at youth level, both teams should have the same number of players on the pitch unless cards have been issued.

We will be looking at playing time for players this season to understand how well clubs are adhering to the half game rule, which is a key principle of the RFU's youth strategy, to keep players engaged and playing.

9. ON LINE APPROVALS - Playing Out of Age Grade, combining teams, playing 17 year olds in adult rugby, club and player approvals.

Clubs are reminded that, unless they have received a signed form from myself indicating approval, no player should be playing in a team which is not of their own chronological age. Approval must be sought via the online forms that are available from the Kent RFU website only (<https://www.kent-rugby.org/about-us/online-forms/>), and not the forms available on the main RFU website.

Please make your application as robust as possible providing all necessary supporting evidence, and ensure all prerequisites are completed prior to applying to make approval as easy as possible.

Finally, good luck to our Kent teams (defending Champions, Tonbridge Juddians, Canterbury, Medway, Sidcup and Sevenoaks) competing in the National U18's Boys' Cup which starts this month.

Alan Erskine
KCRFU Youth Chair

10. COACHING CONFERENCE

After a slow start places are filing up for our coaching conference, don't miss out on the early offer. Another Excellent Coach booked to deliver at the conference.

Rory Teague, Former Racing 92 & England Attack Coach.
Declan Danaher, Former London Irish Assistant Coach
Amy Turner, Harlequins Women Head Coach
Simeon Barnes, Surrey Uni Performance Forwards Coach



XV ASIDE COACHES CONFERENCE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH 

Delivering inspirational content to influence positive change in coaching practice

KENT RFU SUBSIDISING 1ST 50 COACHES BY 40%

SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER

COURSE CONTENT

- Attack transition
- Defensive principles and strategy
- Tackle execution & dominance
- Attacking shape to manipulate defences

REGISTER HERE



enquiries@coachcentered.com
www.coachcentered.com
07764336709

MAIDSTONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Barton road, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 7BT

COURSE TIMINGS



9.30am Registration
10am Start
4 pm Conference close
Finish time 4 Hrs before W.Cup Final

Kent RFU are sponsoring the 1st 50 Kent Club / School coaches with a 40% discount

Discounted Cost £59.99 **40% OFF**

FULL COST £99.99


CIMSPA Education Partner | Training Provider

MSK Training Event

Calling All Rugby Healthcare Professionals In Kent

Complimentary CPD Training Day:

 Saturday 28th October 2023

 09:30 - 15:30

 KIMS Hospital, Maidstone



Register your interest with **Emma Santer** emma.santer@kims.org.uk





Marbella Vets Rugby Festival



**4th & 5th
May 2024**

Marbella Rugby Club

- 16 teams, 15 a side
- Live Music, DJs
- BBQ, Party Atmosphere
- Fancy Dress
- Trophies and Prizes

Visit rugbytourspain.com/events/marbvets2024



debra
Piel de Mariposa
Butterfly Children

To register or for more information:

enquiries@rugbytourspain.com

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    /rugbytourspain