

CB Age Grade Rugby Teams

Overview

Representative rugby plays an important part of the 'total rugby offer' providing opportunities to enrich, reward and recognise talented and committed players, coaches, selectors, medics and volunteer administrators within the community game. It should not however, be run to the detriment of club, school, college rugby, or adversely affect playing opportunities for those outside of representative programmes.

The RFU Player Development Sub-Committee has oversight of the programme and for developing the policies that direct the operation of the Community Representative Pathway.

Recent seasons have seen a number of changes to regulations and the delivery of Age Grade programmes. The guidance below provides clarity on the regulations, the key principles associated to the programmes and finance provided.

It is the responsibility of those organising representative rugby to contribute to the discussions with CB competition organisers, schools, colleges and DPP staff to provide a comprehensive CB Age Grade Calendar to submit to the RFU for approval in February each year

Key Values

The purpose of CB rugby at this age is to provide further playing and development opportunities for players through representing their CB. It is important to ensure that players find the experience rewarding whilst maintaining a balance between the demands of their education, other sports, participation in DPP or Academy programmes and minimising the disruption in club and school rugby.

Regulations

Each age grade team, through the Age Grade Competition Menu, has specific competitive opportunities allocated to them and are supported through windows of delivery including the number of training sessions, within the Age Grade Calendar.

- Under 15 Boys – 1 assessment day, 4 training sessions and 3 fixtures
- Under 15 Girls – 1 assessment day, 4 training sessions and 3 fixtures
- Under 16 Boys – 1 assessment day, 5 training sessions and 4 fixtures
- Under 18 Girls – 1 assessment day, 4 training sessions and 3 fixtures

There is a range of delivery models available for Boys U17/18 operation:

- Standalone 17s and 18s
 - Under 17 Boys – 1 assessment day, 4 training sessions and 3 fixtures
 - Under 18 Boys – 1 assessment day, 4 training sessions and 3 fixtures
- Combined 17s and 18s - 2 year programme where u17 is leading to u18.
 - U17s do not have a competitive playing structure but instead have 7 development sessions to feed the u18 competitive group (Under 18s not involved)
 - Under 18 Boys – 1 assessment day, 4 training sessions and 3 fixtures

- Two under 18 teams (including U17 players)
 - No post-Christmas Under 17 playing programme
 - Under 18 Boys – 1 assessment day, 4 training sessions and 3 fixtures

The Age Grade Calendar also provides specific windows for the Under 18 Boys Divisional Programme

- Under 18 Boys – 1 assessment day, 1 training day, 1 warm up match and a National Development Weekend

Any delivery outside of the allocated windows, including any selective development sessions, is in breach of Competitive Activity Regulation 15.9.1ⁱ

Funding

In February 2017, the Community Game Board (CGB) tasked PDSC to review the funding of Age Grade Programmes. Whilst it is not mandatory for a CB to receive funding for representative activity, the model designed is to make an appropriate and realistic contribution to the essential costs associated with running these sides, for both boys and girls.

This review made recommendations, which Council and CGB approved, with the following key principles:

1. Pitch side care provided for representative rugby matches and training as per the guidelines for the minimum levels of immediate care and/or first aid coverⁱⁱ.
2. The funding relates to both the boys and girls programmes
3. The principles held within the Age Grade Competition review must be adhered to and are non-negotiable.
4. Constituent Bodies have a responsibility to part fund activity
5. A funding model that was beyond a ‘minimum viable’ option but below a ‘gold’ standard recognising that not everything was fundable.
6. Include criteria where funding can be reclaimed if a programme is not deliveredⁱⁱⁱ
7. Delivery should be in line with best practice (see Codes of Practice)^{iv}
8. In line with the Under 16 Strategic Review the under 16 programme will comprise of two teams

The funding model created was to ensure there is an equal experience within each CB across the playing programme determined by the Age Grade Review.

The Review Group recommended the following funding distribution, the funding would only be available to those CBs that would use or need it based on number of teams that they plan to provide at the various age groups.

U15 Boys	U16 Boys - 2 Teams	U17/U18 Boys	U15 /U18 Girls	Total
2200	3800	2900	3600	12500

Summary

It is the responsibility of each CB to ensure that the delivery of all Age Grade Programmes is in accordance with the Key Values, Regulations and Funding Principles.

ⁱ Age Grade Rugby Regulation 15

http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/General/General/01/32/72/38/RFURegulation15_English.pdf

ⁱⁱ Medical provision

http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/MyRugby/Players/01/32/06/28/RugbySafeFirstAidImmediateCareGuidelines16-17_Neutral.pdf

Representative - CB/County/ Division	Immediate Care Practitioner	First Aid Trained Therapist/HCP	Club/School First Aider	Emergency First Aid (EFARU) / Sports First Aider
Adult	1 per team			1 per team
U18	1 per team			1 per team
U16	1 per team			1 per team
U15 and below		1 per team		
England Rugby DPP (Matches only)	1 per team			

ⁱⁱⁱ Recoverable criteria

- Non operation of a team will result in a reduction and/or recovery of allocated funding
- Operating outside of Age Grade Calendar could result in suspension of funding and/or disciplinary action
- Non provision of appropriate medical care could result in suspension of funding and/or disciplinary action

^{iv} RFU Codes of Practice

http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/MyRugby/Education/01/32/87/32/AgeGradeCodesofPracticeMarch18_Neutral.pdf