



TRANSITION PROTOCOLS

Aim

1. Due to the introduction for season 2019/2020 of revised safeguarding and DBS requirements, this guidance template has been developed to aid clubs in ensuring that **all** player welfare is paramount whilst still permitting clubs to integrate Colts into the senior levels of their club.
2. The challenge for all concerned is how to retain players in the transition from Junior to Senior rugby without prejudicing the welfare of the individual player, fellow team mates and the club as a whole. This is further complicated in that the physical attributes and skills of a Junior player are often on a par or higher than a comparable Senior player, yet mask the fact that in the eyes of the law he is still a child.
3. No two clubs are identical so this guide is produced by CRFU to assist clubs in developing their own bespoke practices however, there is nothing to prevent clubs adopting this document as their procedure should they chose to do so.
4. The protocol covers two areas; playing and training.

Playing

1. Details regarding the necessary procedures are contained at www.englandrugby.com/codesofpractice
2. Two key documents contained within the link are attached to this protocol and are largely self-explanatory. However, clubs should read the codes of practice and Regulation 15 so they understand the practice and principles underpinning the procedure. In short, the key element is that the needs of the player, as opposed to the needs of the club, are paramount.

Training

1. Training that combines Colts and Seniors in the same session or at the same location and time has the potential to erode protections and both clubs and players can unwittingly break the protections contained within regulation 15, especially as Colts can contain 16 year old players.
2. The following guidelines should aid clubs in maintaining the necessary levels of protection for all players whether they have dispensation under the playing regulations or not.



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3. The underlying principle is that the needs of all players are paramount and where there is any doubt all considerations should be oriented to the spirit of Regulation 15.
4. In addition to the protections in place for 17 year old playing senior rugby that include provisions for changing, showering and DBS checks, those taking charge of training should ensure;
 - a. Parental or guardian approval must be obtained before any Colt can take part in any training sessions that are combined with Seniors.
 - b. All junior players should be readily identifiable by wearing coloured bibs throughout any joint sessions.
 - c. All personnel should have a safe conduct brief before the session commences.
 - d. No contact rugby between Senior and Junior (unless the Junior has been approved under the playing protocol).
 - e. All non-contact activity is closely supervised so it does not morph into even minor levels of contact.
 - f. Drills and exercises should be conducted so there is no mismatch of size, strength or ability.
 - g. Any Junior can decline to be involved in any specific part of the session without prejudice.
 - h. Any junior has the opportunity to state any concerns to the person supervising the training without prejudice.
 - i. Any injuries to a junior, whatever their nature and severity, are logged.

Contacts

For any further advice please contact either:

CRFU Youth and Education Lead: youthandeducation@crfu.co.uk

CRFU RugbySafe Lead: rugbysafe@crfu.co.uk

CRFU Safeguarding Lead: safeguarding@crfu.co.uk



Playing Adult Rugby – Club Approval Form

- Approval for a male or female 17 year old to play adult rugby is required under Regulation 15. Due to new Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) and Safeguarding Requirements from 2019 this is a 2-stage process.
- The Club need approval by completing this Club Approval Form and process; and each individual player must be approved, by completing the **Playing Adult Rugby – Player Approval Form** and process.
- This form should be read and actioned alongside the Age Grade Codes of Practice at www.englandrugby.com/codesofpractice.

The purpose of this form is to help clubs prepare for the possibility of 17 year olds playing up into the adult game. Legally, whatever their physical and emotional characteristics, 17 year olds are still children and we have a duty to ensure that their welfare is protected.

To enable a Constituent Body (CB) to give consent that 17 year olds may play adult rugby at a club, there is an expectation that this form is completed **every season**. Please be aware that club eligibility for 17 year olds to play up into the adult game may be revoked by the CB or RFU if significant concerns are raised in relation to discipline or safeguarding.

To be completed by Club:

It is a requirement of RFU Regulation 15 that this form is fully completed, signed and submitted to the Constituent Body (CB) for approval every season.

Please note: Until this approval by the CB is received, the club cannot apply for any individual 17 year old to play in their adult teams.

Club Name:			
Has the club appointed a Safeguarding Officer and are their details available on your website? <i>Even where there are no age grade teams, there is a requirement that clubs who have children playing up into the adult game appoint a CSO</i>			Yes/No
When did the Safeguarding Officer complete the RFU In Touch course? If not yet completed, give date and location of the course applied for <i>(this must be asap and no later than in six months' time)</i>			
Has the club adopted the RFU Safeguarding Policy and is it visible on your website?			Yes/No
Has the club completed the RFU Safeguarding Audit on GMS this season?			Yes/No

Have those in a position of trust in the adult teams, such as Coaches, Captains, Team Managers, 1st Aiders undergone a DBS check through the RFU Safeguarding Department? Please record these people below:			
Name:		Role:	
DBS Number:		Expiry Date:	
Name:		Role:	



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DBS Number:		Expiry Date:	
Name:		Role:	
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Name:		Role:	
DBS Number:		Expiry Date:	

Will the young person have the opportunity to shower and change separately if they wish?	Yes/No
Can you confirm that the referee and opposition will be informed that there is an under 18 year old in the side?	Yes/No
Is your Club Accreditation up to date?	Yes/No
Do you commit to following the guidance issued by the RFU in relation to 17 year olds playing up into the adult game?	Yes/No

Club Honorary Secretary or Chair:		Signature:	
E-mail:		Date:	

Club Safeguarding Officer:		Signature:	
E-mail:		Date:	

Please send the completed form to your appointed CB official for Playing Adult Rugby Approval or CB Honorary Secretary for review and approval.

To be completed by the Constituent Body:

Are there any disciplinary matters that give you cause for concern with this club?	Yes/No
Does your CB Safeguarding Manager have any safeguarding concerns in relation to this club?	Yes/No
Do you require any further evidence or advice from the RDO?	Yes/No

Is consent given for this club to play 17 years olds in adult rugby? Note: Completion of the Playing Adult Rugby – Player Approval form and process is also required for each individual player	Yes/No
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Approved by:		Signature:	
Role:		Date:	



Playing Adult Rugby – Player Approval Form

- Approval for a male or female 17 year old to play adult rugby is required under Regulation 15. Due to new DBS and Safeguarding Requirements from 2019 this is a 2-stage process.
 - In addition to the individual player being approved, the Club also need approval to play 17 year olds in adult rugby by completing the **Playing Adult Rugby – Club Approval Form** and process.
 - This form should be read and actioned alongside the Age Grade Codes of Practice at www.englandrugby.com/codesofpractice. *Please see separate form for England Academy Players.*
1. The ultimate consideration must be for the welfare and safety of the player and those they play with/against.
 2. There must be clear communication with all those involved in and affected by the decision.
 3. The following aspects must be considered:
 - i. The physical and social development of the individual and their playing colleagues
 - ii. The skill level and experience of the individual
 - iii. The individual's playing position in the team
 - iv. The competitive standard of the particular match and playing conditions.
 4. The form must be completed in full, endorsed by a coach of at least UKCC Level 2 and submitted to the Constituent Body (CB) for approval. Once approved, the player can play adult rugby, not before.

Player Full Name:	
RFU ID Number:	
Club:	
School/College:	

Date of Birth:		Current Age Band:	
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Age Grade Playing Position(s):	
Potential Adult Playing Position(s): <i>Note: Players aged 17 years old are not permitted to play or train in adult rugby in the front row.</i>	
Number of years the player has played rugby:	



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Representative rugby the player has played since 15 years old (<i>include DPP, Academy & Centre of Excellence</i>):	
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Adult team(s) the player is likely to play for:	
Will the player also continue to play Age Grade Rugby?	
Reason for the player to play out of their Age Grade:	
Requested start date for playing Adult Rugby <i>Note: Approval is for up to 12 months, until the player is 18 years of age</i>	

Player Assessment:		Suitable for Adult Rugby?
<i>To include findings and how each element was measured. The Age Grade Codes of Practice provide guidance on supporting evidence and how it might be measured.</i>		
Skill level and ability		Yes/No
Physical development for their age		Yes/No
Social & emotional development for their age		Yes/No
Additional comments & considerations		

Coach Endorsement (This assessment must be endorsed by a coach of at least UKCC Level 2):

Coach Name:		Signature:	
RFU ID Number:		Date:	



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Declaration:

We certify that all the information on this form is correct and if approved, agree to play the above player in Adult Rugby in accordance with RFU Regulation 15 (Age Grade Rugby).

Proposed by:		Signature:	
E-mail:		Club Role:	

Parent or Guardian:		Signature:	
E-mail:		Date:	

Please send the completed form to your appointed CB official for Playing Adult Rugby Approval or CB Honorary Secretary for review and approval.

Constituent Body Player Approval:

Does the Constituent Body approve the club's assessment process and findings to allow the player to play adult rugby? *Approval is for up to 12 months, until the player 18 years of age*

Yes	No	Date:	
Approver:		CB Role:	