



# Age Grade Rugby

**COUNTDOWN TO SEPTEMBER  
2016**

# What is the new Age Grade Rugby ? -

A **player centred**,  
**development driven** and  
**competition supported**  
approach to 6-18 year old rugby,  
underpinned by the wants and  
needs of young players



# Council Approval



- i. Mixed contact rugby finishes after U11
- ii. U13 Dual age band for girls does not include U11s
- iii. 15 a side rugby starts at U14
- iv. U13 new rules are implemented in 2016-17
- v. Lineout introduction is delayed to U14
- vi. A nationally-defined menu of national and county competitions per age group
- vii. No formal league rugby before U15
- viii. No Tournaments (competitions that find an overall winner) before U12
- ix. Competitions and Rep Rugby at all levels (local to CB to national) to be played in specific, nationally-consistent windows in the season
- x. Formation of Regional Player Development Groups to drive player pathway programme
- xi. Divisional representative level replaced by Regional level programme at U16 (from 2015-16)
- xii. No representative rugby before U15
- xiii. No district programmes at U16

# Key changes for September 2016



- Full roll out of the New Rules and progression pathway
- One national competitive menu
- Consistent national competition playing calendar



# NROP & Player Progression Pathway

Structure		Get started			Tackle	Scrum		Lineout		Contest for the ball		Kicking	
Age Group	School Year	Max numbers	Max Pitch size	Ball Size		Max Numbers	Contest	Max Numbers	Contest	Ruck	Maul	From hand	At goal
U7	2	4	20 x 12	3	No - Tag only	N/A	N/A	N/A - free pass	N/A - free pass	N/A	N/A	No	No
U8	3	6	45 x 22	3	No - Tag only	N/A	N/A	N/A - free pass	N/A - free pass	N/A	N/A	No	No
U9	4	7	60 x 30	3	Yes - inc 'hold'	N/A	N/A	N/A - free pass	N/A - free pass	No	No	No	No
U10	5	8	60 x 35	4	Yes	Nearest 3	Uncontested	N/A - free pass	N/A - free pass	Yes - limit of 1 supporting player	Yes - limit of 1 supporting player	No	No
U11	6	9	60 x 43	4	Yes	Nearest 3	Strike only, no push	N/A - free pass	N/A - free pass	Yes - limit of 2 supporting players	Yes - limit of 2 supporting players	Yes - 'fly hack' not permitted	No
U12	7	12	60 x 43	4	Yes	Nearest 5	Strike only, no push	N/A - free pass	N/A - free pass	Yes	Yes	Yes - 'fly hack' not permitted	No
U13	8	13	90 x 60	4	Yes	6 - trained and willing	Strike and push	N/A - free pass	N/A - free pass	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
U14	9	15	100 x 70	4	Yes	8 - trained and willing	Strike and push	13	Uncontested	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

# Girls Player Progression Pathway

Structure		Get started			Tackle	Scrum		Lineout		Contest for the ball		Kicking		
Age Group	School Year	Max numbers	Max Pitch size	Ball Size		Max Numbers	Contest	Max Numbers	Contest	Ruck	Maul	From hand	At goal	
U7	2	4	20 x 12	3	No - Tag only	N/A	N/A	N/A - free pass	N/A - free pass	N/A	N/A	No	No	MIXED
U8	3	6	45 x 22	3	No - Tag only	N/A	N/A	N/A - free pass	N/A - free pass	N/A	N/A	No	No	
U9	4	7	60 x 30	3	Yes - inc 'hold'	N/A	N/A	N/A - free pass	N/A - free pass	No	No	No	No	
U10	5	8	60 x 35	4	Yes	Nearest 3	Uncontested	N/A - free pass	N/A - free pass	Yes - limit of 1 supporting player	Yes - limit of 1 supporting player	No	No	RUGBY
U11	6	9	60 x 43	4	Yes	Nearest 3	Strike only, no push	N/A - free pass	N/A - free pass	Yes - limit of 2 supporting players	Yes - limit of 2 supporting players	Yes - 'fly hack' not permitted	No	
U13	7 & 8	12	60 x 43	4	Yes	Nearest 5	Strike only, no push	N/A - free pass	N/A - free pass	Yes - limit of 2 supporting players	Yes - limit of 2 supporting players	Yes - 'fly hack' not permitted	No	GIRLS RUGBY
U15	9 & 10	15	100 x 70	4	Yes	8 - trained and willing	Strike and push	13 - trained and willing	Uncontested, lift permitted	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
U18	11 to 13	15	100 x 70	5	Yes	8 - trained and willing	Strike and push	13 - trained and willing	Contested, lift permitted	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

# National Competitive Menu



- The right competitive opportunity at the right age
- Applied by competition and representative rugby organisers



**AGE GRADE RUGBY  
COMPETITIVE MENU 2016-17**

**Role of Competition and Representative Rugby Organisers**

The structure of the Menu will be governed by RFU regulations. Organisers will be expected to operate their competitions and activities within the parameters of Regulation 15 - Age Grade Rugby. Only the competitive formats on the menu for an age group will be allowed. Regulation 15 is being developed to include this and is targeted for completion at the RFU Council meeting in February 2016.

**Competitive Menu By Age Group**

The competitive opportunity available on the Menu progresses by age group. Progression is aligned to the developing competitive motivations of Age Grade Rugby players.

Competition Format	Under 7 to 11	Under 12 Male	Under 13 Male	Under 14 Male	Under 15 Male	Under 16 Male	Under 17 Male	Under 18 Male	Under 13 Female	Under 15 Female	Under 18 Female
Friendly Fixture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Triangular	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Festival	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Waterfall Tournament		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Knock Out/Tournament				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
League					✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Competition Format	Under 7 to 11	Under 12 Male	Under 13 Male	Under 14 Male	Under 15 Male	Under 16 Male	Under 17 Male	Under 18 Male	Under 13 Female	Under 15 Female	Under 18 Female

**Competitive Format Descriptors**

<b>Friendly Fixture</b>	Competitive style playing opportunity for two teams, often as part of a club or school/college block fixture, where focus is on maximising all your player's involvement, development and enjoyment.
<b>Triangular</b>	Competitive style playing opportunity for three teams where equal player participation is the emphasis. Focus is on maximising all your player's involvement, development and enjoyment rather than the score.
<b>Festival</b>	Competitive round-robin playing opportunity where equal team and player participation is the emphasis. Scores may be recorded but winning doesn't affect your ongoing participation as every team plays the same appropriate number of matches.
<b>Waterfall Tournament</b>	Competitive playing programme where equal participation/progression is the emphasis. The outcome of your pool games are recorded to enable every team to advance to later rounds for an equal number of matches against similar level teams.
<b>Knock Out/Tournament</b>	Competitive playing programme where the outcome of the game is recorded and dictates your progression to later knock-out rounds or decides your final standing. Usually includes a winners trophy.
<b>League</b>	Competitive playing programme where the outcome of the game is recorded and points are applied to dictate your position and final standing in the league table. Usually includes a winners trophy. May lead to a play off system to establish final champions.



## AGE GRADE RUGBY COMPETITIVE MENU 2016-17

### National Competitions Schedule 2016-17 Draft

Across Age Grade Rugby there will be a set of nationally delivered competitions. Whilst a number do, a national competition no longer necessarily seeks a national "champion". Some national competitions will provide a consistent playing programme and calendar across the country for an age group of players. The schedule of these national competitions is as follows with the detail behind each competition to be confirmed in spring 2016 at the latest:

<b>Under 13 Male</b>	Schools	National Schools 7s	March	Annual schools 7s competition, taking place at Rosslyn Park
<b>Under 15 Male</b>	Schools	National Schools Competition	September to March	Schools tiered Knock-out Cup sponsored by NatWest - possibly mirror locally for schools not entering the main competition
<b>Under 16 Male</b>	Schools	National Schools 7s	March	Annual schools 7s competition, taking place at Rosslyn Park
<b>Under 17 Male</b>	Clubs	National Under 17s Competition	September to April	Local county leagues or cups feeding Divisional play offs and National finals in April
<b>Under 18 Male</b>	Schools	Champions Trophy	September to November	Schools Knock-out Cup for 32 teams sitting above the Knock-out Cup structure as below leading to a Final in November
	Schools	National Schools Competition	September to March	Schools tiered Knock-out Cup sponsored by NatWest - possibly mirror locally for schools not entering the main competition
	Schools	National Schools 7s	March	Annual schools 7s competition, taking place at Rosslyn Park
	Schools/Colleges	AASE League	September to November	Two Phase League for AASE Colleges and Schools leading to a Finals Day event in November
	Colleges	National Colleges Leagues	September to April	Colleges Leagues on a regional level run with AoC Sport (Association of Colleges) leading to play offs and Finals
	Clubs	National Under 18s Competition	September to April	Clubs Knock-out Cup run by East Midlands Rugby Union leading to a Final in April
<b>Under 13 Female</b>	Schools	National Schools Competition	Sept, Nov, Jan, Mar	Series of four tiered flexible Festivals (to run on an Area or County basis)
	Clubs	National Clubs Competition	Oct, Dec, Feb	Tiered Waterfall Tournaments over 6 weeks (to run on an Area or County basis)
<b>Under 15 Female</b>	Schools	National Schools Competition	Nov, Mar	Series of two tiered flexible Festivals (to run on an Area or County basis) - reflect shift in balance to club participation
	Clubs	National Clubs Competition	October to April	Clubs tiered Knock-out Cup running over 9 weeks from local to national level
<b>Under 18 Female</b>	Schools/Colleges	National Schools 7s	March	Annual tiered schools 7s competitions, taking place at Rosslyn Park
	Colleges	National Schools Competition	Sept, Nov, Jan, Mar	Series of four tiered flexible Festivals run on a regional level with AoC Sport (Association of Colleges)
	Clubs	National Clubs Competition	Oct, Dec, Feb	Clubs tiered Knock-out Cup running over 9 weeks from local to national level

Age Grade Rugby: Player-Centred, Development-Driven, Competition-Supported



**AGE GRADE RUGBY  
COMPETITIVE MENU 2016-17**

**Representative Rugby Schedule**

This section includes all selection systems that identify Age Grade players to perform outside their usual club, school or college participation. Some of the changes started their implementation in the 2015-16 season. The changes to where representative selection starts is based on format agreed by the RFU Council in April 2015. This agreement considered the implications of representative pathways and activity, not only on the players in the pathway but also and essentially on those back in the club, school or college programme. All representative selection and activity will be played in nationally defined and consistent windows - see the Competition Playing Calendar 2016-17

Representative Format	Under 7 to 11	Under 12 Male	Under 13 Male	Under 14 Male	Under 15 Male	Under 16 Male	Under 17 Male	Under 18 Male	Under 13 Female	Under 15 Female	Under 18 Female
Developing Player Programme			✓	✓	✓	✓					
Sub County/District					✓		✓	✓			
County/CB					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Regional					✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Divisional					✓	✓		✓			✓
England					✓	✓		✓			✓
Representative Format	Under 7 to 11	Under 12 Male	Under 13 Male	Under 14 Male	Under 15 Male	Under 16 Male	Under 17 Male	Under 18 Male	Under 13 Female	Under 15 Female	Under 18 Female

Age Grade Rugby: Player-Centred, Development-Driven, Competition-Supported



- Competitions and representative rugby at all levels (local to CB to national) to be played in specific, nationally-consistent windows in the season







Age Grade Rugby Competition Playing Calendar 2016-17 - Final Draft v.3.0																							
Month	W/C	Sunday	Under 13 Female				Under 15 Female				Under 18 Female												
							Rep Development				Rep Development		W/C	Sunday	Month								
August	15 Summer	21											15 Summer	21	August								
August	22 Summer	28											22 Summer	28	August								
August	29 Summer	4											29 Summer	4	August								
September	5	11	Schools Competitions Window		Schools Competitions Window			Schools Competitions Window			Schools Competitions Window			5	11	September							
September	12	18																		12	18	September	
September	19	25												CB							19	25	September
September	26	2								Nat Schools Comp											26	2	September
October	3	9	Clubs		Nat Clubs Comp			Clubs			Nat Clubs Comp			3	9	October							
October	10	16																		10	16	October	
October	17 Half Term	23	Competitions	Nat Clubs Comp	Competitions	Nat Clubs Comp		Competitions	Nat Clubs Comp		Competitions	Nat Clubs Comp		17 Half Term	23	October							
October	24	30	Window		Window		CB	Window		Window		CB	24	30	October								
October	31	6	Nat Clubs Comp		Nat Clubs Comp			Nat Clubs Comp		Nat Clubs Comp			31	6	October								
November	7	13	Schools Competitions Window		Schools Competitions Window			Schools Competitions Window			Schools Competitions Window			7	13	November							
November	14	20												CB							14	20	November
November	21	27												Nat Schools Comp							21	27	November
November	28	4								Nat Schools Comp											28	4	November
December	5	11	Nat Clubs Comp		Nat Clubs Comp			Nat Clubs Comp		Nat Clubs Comp			5	11	December								
December	12	18	Clubs Competitions		Clubs Competitions			Clubs Competitions		Clubs Competitions			12	18	December								
December	19 Christmas	25	Window		Window			Window		Window			19 Christmas	25	December								
December	26	1											26	1	December								
January	2	8	Schools Competitions Window		Schools Competitions Window			Schools Competitions Window			Schools Competitions Window			2	8	January							
January	9	15																			9	15	January
January	16	22																			16	22	January
January	23	29								Nat Schools Comp											23	29	January
January	30	5	Nat Clubs Comp		Nat Clubs Comp			Nat Clubs Comp		Nat Clubs Comp			30	5	January								
February	6	12	Club Competitions	Nat Clubs Comp	Club Competitions	Nat Clubs Comp		Club Competitions	Nat Clubs Comp		Club Competitions	Nat Clubs Comp		6	12	February							
February	13 Half Term	19	Window		Window			Academy Programme		Window			Academy Programme	13 Half Term	19	February							
February	20	26	Nat Clubs Comp		Nat Clubs Comp			Nat Clubs Comp		Nat Clubs Comp			20	26	February								
February	27	5	Schools Competitions Window		Schools Competitions Window			Schools Competitions Window			Schools Competitions Window			27	5	February							
March	6	12												Academy Programme							6	12	March
March	13	19																			13	19	March
March	20	26												Nat Schools Comp							20	26	March
March	27	2		Nat Schools Comp									27	2	March								
April	3	9	Clubs Competitions Window		Clubs Competitions Window			Clubs Competitions Window			Clubs Competitions Window			3	9	April							
April	10 Easter	16												Nat Clubs Comp							10 Easter	16	April
April	17	23																			17	23	April
April	24	30																			24	30	April
May	1	7						Academy Programme					Academy Programme	1	7	May							

# Age Grade Rugby Campaign 2016



## January – Awareness Raising

- Raising awareness of Age Grade Rugby to staff and the game through RFU communications channels
- Final divisional meetings w/c 11 Jan
- Launch of Kids First w/c 18 Jan

## February- March – Education

- Further detailed information distributed to staff and the game
- RFU Roadshows to take place in all Areas

## April-August – Planning

- Ongoing help, advice and support

## September – Go Live

- Implementation and evaluation





# SEPT

## AGE GRADE RUGBY



Get ready. [englandrugby.com/agegraderugby](http://englandrugby.com/agegraderugby)

**AGE  
GRADE  
RUGBY**  
SEPT 2016

A new player centred, development driven and competition supported approach to 6-18 year old rugby, underpinned by the wants and needs of young players.

The key changes for rugby across schools, colleges and clubs will be:

1. One national competition calendar
2. One national menu of competitions
3. Full roll out of the New Rules of Play



- As advocates for the changes to Age Grade Rugby, representing the RFU
- Distributing communication and campaign materials
- Providing help and support – FAQs
- Eyes and ears!



# Further information



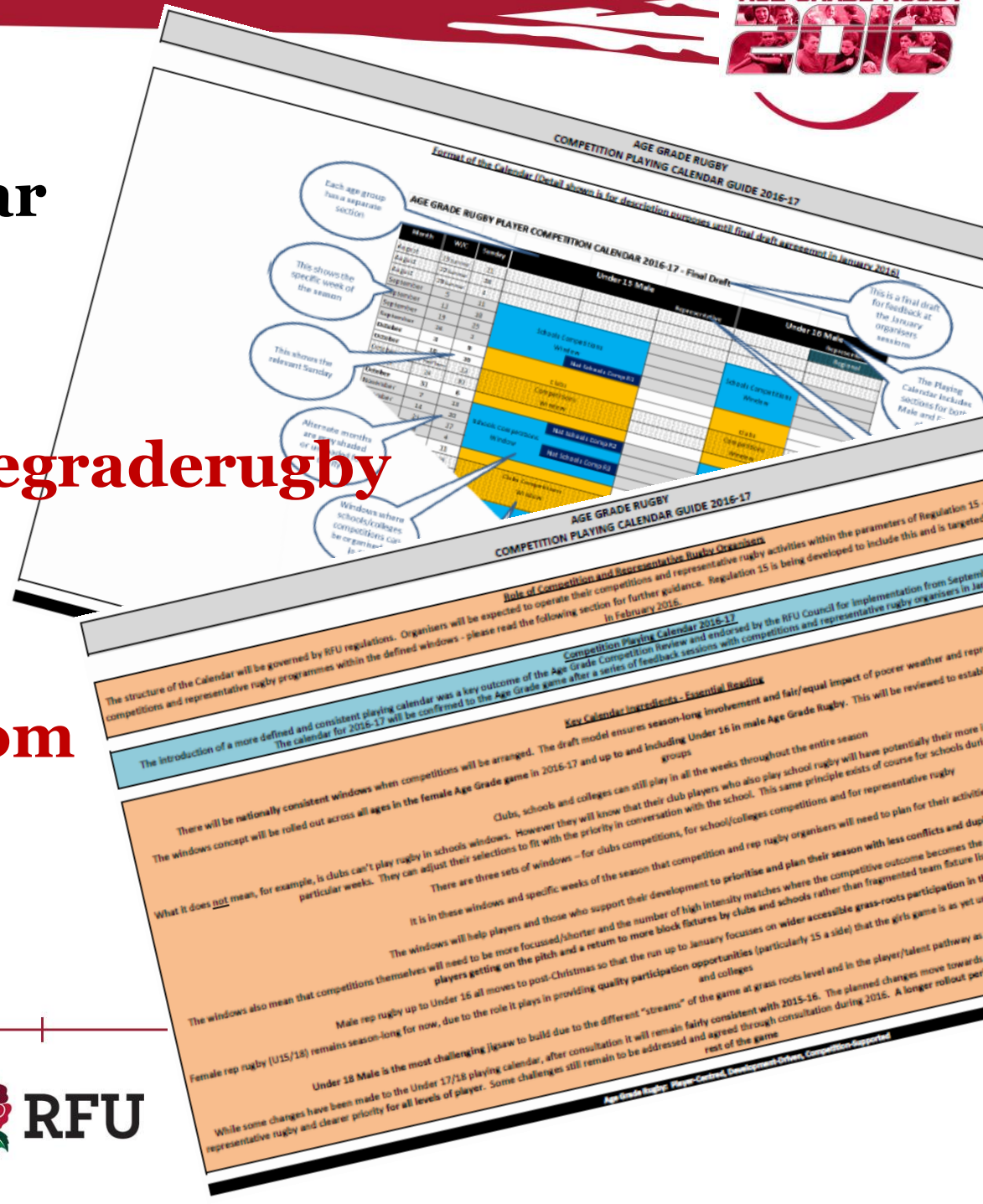
## FAQs and Menu/Calendar

## Website

- [englandrugby.com/agegraderugby](http://englandrugby.com/agegraderugby)

## Contact

- [agegraderugby@rfu.com](mailto:agegraderugby@rfu.com)



**Any more questions?**





THANK YOU

