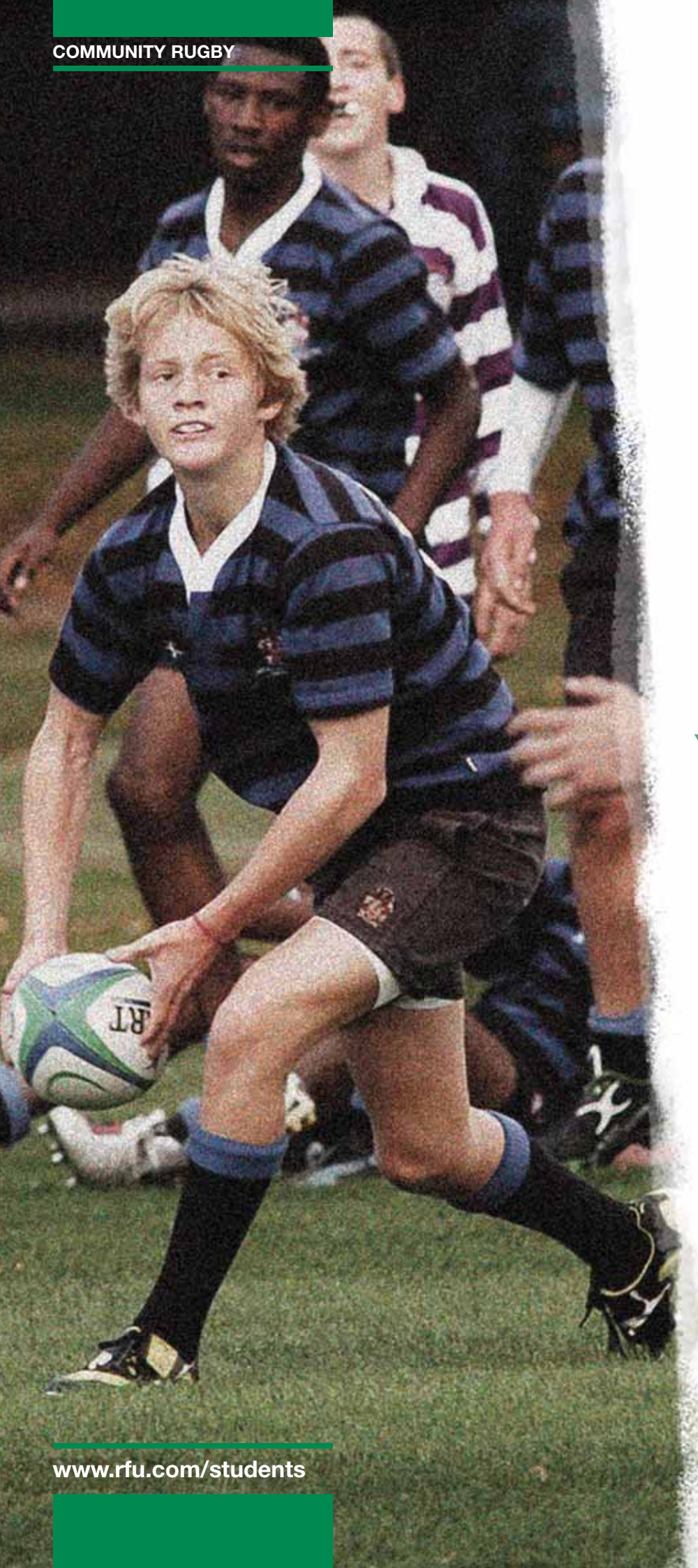


COMMUNITY RUGBY



Youth Structured Season 2010-11

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RUGBY.**



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Overview

“The provision of a Youth Rugby Structure that will develop the potential of elite and recreational participants and recognises the importance of both to the game’s future in England.”

(RFU Strategic Plan)

The structured season provides a framework for participants at all levels in clubs and schools, to develop their involvement in the sport through a balance of matches (competitive and friendly) and development (skills and training). The overriding principle is that the needs of young players should come first.

- Overplaying and over training of players in the U13-U18 age groups.
- Balance between the club, school, representative and player development programmes.
- Recognition of the importance of both elite (representative) and community (recreational) rugby within the structured season.
- Fixed weeks for CB Schools of Rugby, CB/Divisional development squads and representative matches.
- Ensure that sufficient emphasis is placed on coaching individual rugby skills as opposed to playing games.
- Balance between coaching /development sessions and matches.
- Avoid clashes between dates for national, regional and CB competitions.



Youth Structured Season

It must be noted that the first weekend of the season is a registration weekend for club players. All players playing club youth rugby must be registered with the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

The purpose of the Youth Structured Season (YSS) is to enable training, fixtures and competitions to be planned by the Constituent Body Rugby Development Partnership (CBRDP) within the context of all the participants' requirements. It is intended to assist the co-operation of the parallel strands of youth rugby in schools and clubs.

Schools and clubs should plan on the basis that their better players might be unavailable to them during the weeks identified for CB, Divisional and International activity. League and other important fixtures should be avoided during these weeks but friendly games should not be cancelled.

The structured season should enable a balance of fixtures to be created based on local needs, strengths (and weaknesses). It should go some way to preventing overplaying of the most able, whilst providing meaningful coaching and fixtures for those who will progress no further than the club and school level.

The programme operates on a weekly basis starting on Monday and finishing upon a Sunday with Daily Mail Cup matches and college fixtures to be played midweek on a Wednesday. This should allow for a week of activity for young players to be planned considering demands upon the young player by school, club and representative rugby.

The position of the CBRDP is central to the success of a meaningful Constituent Body (CB) Youth Structured Season. Within the national framework a CB can be as proscriptive as it wishes to ensure that there are sufficient dates set aside for developmental work to meet recommended RFU good coaching practice, versus the number of competitive games. Agreement across CB boundaries would give a further dimension and thus added strength to the planned playing programmes.

The YSS 2010-11 incorporates the dates for the AASE League and for the National U19 Colts Competition.

Details of the RFUW Girls' Structured Season will be published in early 2010.

Under 13 to Under 18

Under 13 and Under 14

This is a time when children are enthusiastic and receptive to quality coaching opportunities. The emphasis here is on player development where schools and clubs should provide a balance of coaching to fixtures. The YSS chart provides further details of the programmes proposed at each age grade and weeks are designated for Club Training (CT) when no matches should be played and those for inter Club Matches (CM).

Within these age groups identified players from both clubs and schools, will attend the CB School of Rugby to be held during the week to avoid conflict with club and school fixtures on the weekend.

The U14 group will play one CB representative game over the Easter Holiday period.

Under 15

As the Daily Mail fixtures become fewer in the season so the CB needs to provide events/festivals/ gatherings at the periods defined to complement this structure. Weeks are designated for Club Training (CT) when no matches should be played and those for inter Club Matches (CM).

Within this age group identified players from both clubs and schools will attend the CB School of Rugby to be held during the week to avoid conflict with club and school fixtures on the weekend.

This age group will play two or three inter-CB representative games in total – to be played in the February and Easter vacation periods. Players in this age group will also participate in the CB Regional 12's Festival each year.

On days allocated to CB Representative Games, CBs and clubs could organise 10/12 a-side festivals for the remaining club players thus encouraging the potential recreational participant.

Under 15 Girls

This age band includes players aged 12, 13 and 14 years on 1st September. Club and cluster matches should take place on CTM dates only, and it is advised that clubs carefully consider which dates are used for matches or training, and should not look to play matches on all of these dates.

Under 16

At U16 all male players are eligible for national representative honours. CBs must ensure that clubs and schools work together within the CB to ensure that all participants achieve their full potential.

The CB Structured Season, using the RFU defined dates, must be agreed within the CBRDP. Weeks are designated for Club Training (CT) when no matches should be played and those for inter Club Matches (CM).

As with the previous age groups identified players will attend the CB School of Rugby sessions which will only take place after the Christmas to be held during the week to avoid conflict with club and school fixtures on the weekend. Great importance is placed on the role of the CBRDP in club/school liaison.

This age group will play a maximum of four inter-CB representative games either in festival format or as stand alone fixtures. Post Christmas CBs may play up to two additional representative matches to assist in the development of players not selected for the Division.

CB Squad preparation and inter CB fixtures should be midweek under floodlights with some games at the weekend. Divisions are to determine which matches selectors will view.

The emphasis in the Under 16 year is on increasing participation at all levels whether at club/school/CB/region, whilst providing representative opportunities at divisional/national level for elite players with potential.



On days allocated to CB Representative Games, CBs and clubs could organise 10/12 a-side festivals for the remaining club players thus encouraging the potential recreational participant.

Players born between 1st September and 31st December 1993 should be encouraged to play within the Under 17 and 18 age group post Christmas.

Under 17 and Under 18

These are key years for retaining participants and also a development year for the aspiring player. CBs should prepare and deliver a joint U17 and U18 two year Development programme.

To support the retention of U17 players at club level, CB leagues or clusters of CB leagues should be run to provide competitive opportunities for players; these will feed into the National U17s Club Competition. Weeks are designated either for Club Training (CT) when no matches should be played and those for inter Club Matches (CM).

At U17 and U18 all players are eligible for national representative honours based upon Calendar year i.e. their being aged Under 18 at midnight on 31st December in the season. CBs must ensure that clubs and schools work together within the CB so that all participants achieve their full potential.

The CB Structured Season, using the RFU defined dates, must be agreed within the CBRDP. Great importance is placed on the role of the CBRDP in club/school liaison.

CB Squad preparation and inter CB fixtures should be midweek under floodlights, with some games at the weekend. Only three or four inter-CB games are to be played within this period. Divisions are to determine which matches selectors will view.

Post Christmas CBs should have a U17/18 Development Programme which incorporates lads who qualified as U16s born 1st September - 31st December 1993 but who did not achieve National U16 Representative Squads.

On days allocated to Representative Development Squads, CBs and clubs could organise 10/12 a-side festivals for the remaining club players thus encouraging the potential recreational participant.

Under 18 Girls

This age band includes players aged 15, 16 and 17 on 1st September. Club and cluster matches should take place on CTM dates only, and it is advised that clubs carefully consider which dates are used for matches or training, and should not look to play matches on all of these dates.



Academies and Player Development Groups



The RFU Age Grade Representation Report provides for the development of the Performance Pathway. This will entail putting the following into effect:

- a) In conjunction with CB Schools of Rugby establish a nation-wide junior talent search and the selection programme that identifies players possessing the necessary characteristics for future top level performances;
- b) Provide for identified young players (U13-U16) the first phase of conditioning, skills and psychological development by an outreach programme from the RFU Academies through the CB Schools of Rugby.
- c) Provide for identified young players (U16-U17) targeted for the national development squads, the second phase of player conditioning, fundamental skills, specialist and positional skills and psychological development within RFU Academies.
- d) Working with the CBRDP and within CB Schools of Rugby, the Academies will identify 'talented players' who will attend Elite Player Development Groups (EPDG). These will work alongside CB programmes and ensure that the player develops but is not overplayed.

The detail of the EPDG role and its relationship with CB Schools of Rugby will be managed and co-ordinated by Academy Liaison Groups.

Representative Girls Rugby

The RFUW are reviewing the current pathway and plan to announce this in early 2010.



Competitions

The development of meaningful competitions is a fundamental element of the player development process. The correct balance between matches and development activity is planned for in the structured season.

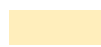
- a) At Under 13, age grade club and school matches provide 'friendly' games and consideration should be given by CBs/schools and clubs to investigate ways of introducing cluster groups on some match weekends. The emphasis at this age group is on development and there are no inter CB games.
- b) At Under 14, age grade provides a similar format to the Under 13 with the added introduction of one CB match. The emphasis at this age group is on development.
- c) At Under 15 the programme of CB matches is increased. This culminates in a Divisional 12 aside CB Festival at the end of the season in an environment that will challenge their skill and game understanding.
- d) The Daily Mail programme will remain the most important 'open' competition with opportunities for all schools.
- e) Under 16 is an important examination year, so once the international squad is selected, the non-selected players will either be involved in CB Schools of Rugby after Christmas or if born between 1st September -31st December 1993 in the CB U17/18 two year development programme.
- f) Under 17 is a key year for the retention of players requiring 'club cluster' merit table /leagues organised by CBs. (Schools could be involved in this process if complementary playing times can be organised). The season culminates in the RFU National U17 Competition.
- g) Under 15 and 18 Girls structure consists of a National Cup Competition and National 7s.

Youth Structured Season 2010-11

2010	W/C MON - SUN	Sunday date	UNDER 13	UNDER 14	UNDER 15	DM15	UNDER 16 COMMUNITY	Nat Rep Pathway	
AUG	30	5	Club Player Registration	Club Player Registration	Club Player Registration		Club Player Registration		
SEPT	6	12	Club Training	Club Training	Club training		Club training		
	13	19	CT	CT	CT	R1 (Wed)	CT		
	20	26	CT CB Sch R	CT CB Sch R	CT CB Sch R		CM		
OCT	27	3	CM	CM	CM	R2 (Wed)	CT CB PD		
	4	10	CT	CT	CT		CM		
	11	17	CM	CM	CM	R3 (Wed)	CT CB PD		
	18	24	CM	CM	CM		CM	CB Match midweek	
H/T	25	31	CT CB Sch R	CT CB Sch R	CT CB Sch R		CT	CB Match	
NOV	1	7	CM	CM	CM		CM		
	8	14	CM	CM	CM	R4 (Wed)	CT	CB Match	
	15	21	CT	CT	CT		CM		
	22	28	CM	CM	CM	R5/V4 (Wed)	CT	CB Match	
DEC	29	5	CT CB Sch R	CT CB Sch R	CT CB Sch R		CM	Div Devt	
	6	12	CM	CM	CM	R6/V5 (Wed)	CM	Div Devt	
	13	19	CT CB Sch R	CT CB Sch R	CT CB Sch R		CT CB Sch R	Div Devt	
	20	26	Christmas						
2011 JAN	27	2	CT	CT	CT		CT		
	3	9	CT CB Sch R	CT CB Sch R	CT CB Sch R		CM	Div Festival	
	11	16	CM	CM	CM	V6 (Wed)	CT		
	18	23	CT	CT	CT	R7/V7 (Wed)	CM	Div Festival	
	25	30	CM	CM	CM		CT		
FEB	31	6	CT	CT	CT	QF (Wed)	CM	INT Sqd	
	7	13	CM	CM	CM	Semi F	CM		
	14	20	CM	CM	CM		CT	INT Sqd	
H/T	21	27	CT CB Sch R	CT CB Sch R	CT CB Sch R		CT CB Sch R	INT Sqd	
MAR	28	6	CM	CM	CM	Semi F	CM	INT Sqd	
	7	13	CT	CT	CT		CT CB Match		
	14	20	CM	CM	CM		CM	INT Sqd	
	21	27	CM	CM	CM		CM		
APR	28	3	CT CB Sch R	CT CB Sch R	CT	DM Final 30th March	CT CB Sch R	Int'l Matches	
	4	10	CT	CM	CT CB Match		CM	Int'l Matches	
	11	17	CM	CM	CT Regional 10s		CT CB Match		
EASTER	18	24	CT	CT CB Match	CT		CT		
MAY	25	1	CT & Emerging Schools Final (Sat)	CT	Divisional CB 12's Tournament		CT		
	2	8							

Weeks go from Monday to Sunday to allow activities within the week not exclusively on Sundays.

DM Daily Mail Schools Rounds played in specific weeks

 CT Club Training

 CM CB Club League Competition/Festival

UNDER 17 COMMUNITY		UNDER 18 COMMUNITY		DM U18	Nat Rep Pathway	U19 AASE League	U19 Nat Colts Cup	RFUW U15	RFUW U18	2010	W/C Mon-Sun	Sunday date
Club Player Registration		Club Player Registration						details to be published in early 2010		AUG	30	5
CM		Club Training								SEPT	6	12
CT	CB PD	CT	CB PD	R1 (Wed)		Festival 1	CUP				13	19
CT		CT			CB Match midweek						20	26
CM		CT		R2 (Wed)		Rd 1				OCT	27	3
CM		CM			CB Match midweek						4	10
CT		CT		R3/V1 (Wed)		Rd 2	CUP				11	17
CM		CM			CB Match midweek						18	24
CM		CT			CB Match					H/T	25	31
CM		CM		V2 (Wed)		Rd 3				NOV	1	7
CT		CT		R4/V3 (Wed)	Div Assessment						8	14
CM		CM				Rd 4	CUP				15	21
CM		CT		R5/V4 (Wed)	Div Dev						22	28
CT		CT				Rd 5	PLATE			DEC	29	5
CM		CM		R6/V5 (Wed)	Div Dev						6	12
CM		CM			Div Dev						13	19
Christmas												
CT	CB PD	CT			Div Festival 28th-30th					2011 JAN	27	2
CM		CM				Rd 6	PLATE				3	9
CM		CM		V6 (Wed)							11	16
CM		CT		R7 /V7 (Wed)		Rd 7	CUP/PLATE				18	23
CT	CB PD	CM			Nat Squad						25	30
CM		CM		QF (Wed)		Festival 2				FEB	31	6
CM		CT				Rd 8	CUP/PLATE				7	13
CT	CB PD	CM			Nat Squad						14	20
CT		CT								H/T	21	27
CM	Nat Comp	CM			Nat Squad	Rd 9				MAR	28	6
CT	CB PD	CT		SF		Rd 10					7	13
CM	Nat Comp	CM			Nat Squad		QTR FINAL				14	20
CT	CB PD	CT		RP7s		Festival 3					21	27
CM	Nat Qtr Final	CT		DM Final 30th		Play Offs				APR	28	3
CT	CB Match	CM			Int'l Matches						4	10
CM	Nat Semi Final	CM			Int'l Matches		SEMI FINAL				11	17
CT		CT			Int'l Matches	Final				EASTER	18	24
CT	Nat Final	CT					FINAL 3rd			MAY	25	1
											2	8



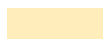
RP Rosslyn Park 7s



Div Devt Only two Divisions of the four will use these dates



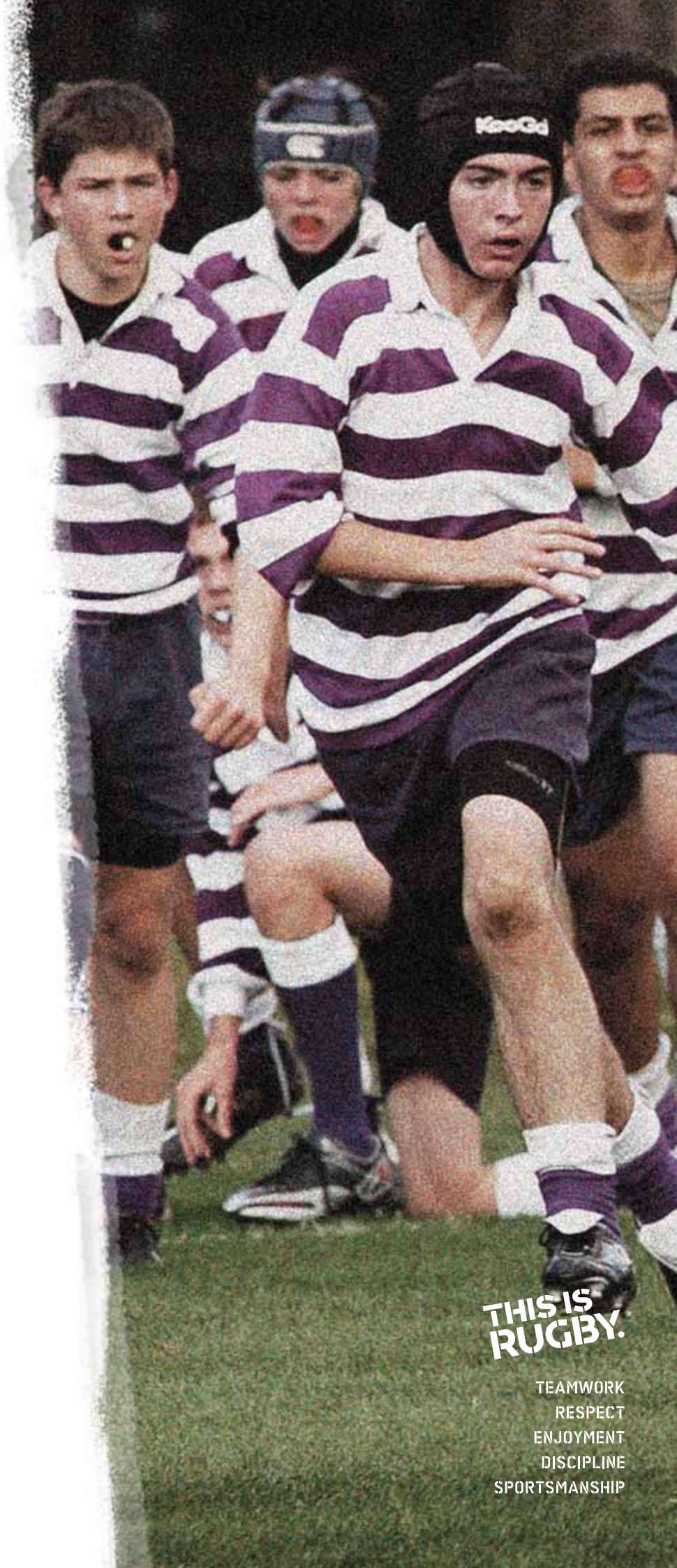
CB Sch R CB Schools of Rugby or sub CB



RFUW CTM Club Training or Match



CB Matches



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