



Girls Rugby Grows



This year sees an expanded girls' rugby programme, with a new U15s Year 9 and 10 age band introduced following the success of the U13s Year 7 and 8 competition.

Many young players have taken up rugby for the first time and moved from schools rugby into local clubs. The RFU's new age group competition responds to their desire to continue developing their skills and enjoying their rugby as they get older.

The year 7 and 8s will continue playing 7s, leading on to 10-a-side for the new year 9 and 10 competition. The programme will run through the six RFU areas, with two teams from each qualifying for the National Finals on Saturday 27th April at Staines RFC, prior to the Army v Navy game, with the winners playing on the Twickenham pitch prior to the match.

Players at Presdales School in Hertfordshire, whose girls have been playing rugby for a number of years, are excited about the new girls' competition. The school has a long-standing link with Hertford Rugby Club, with a number of students playing for the club's team and some progressing to county level. Their U15s are looking forward to playing other local schools in the programme

Said Mark Saltmarsh RFU Head of Education Development, "Now that the RFUW is fully integrated into the RFU there is a clear commitment to the women's and girls' game. With a team of Women's Rugby Development Officers working alongside the rest of the staff in the field, we are seeing more and more schools keen to offer girls rugby. Having the opportunity to play competitively throughout secondary school is a vital ingredient of getting girls involved and keeping them in the game."

Local festivals will take place between January and March, with area competitions in March and April. To discover more about the programme in your area, please contact your local Rugby Development Officer, who you will find at rfu.com/contactus.

England Rugby Travel

Caterham School – the lucky winners of England Rugby Travel's Tours competition – won 23 tickets to see England's opening QBE International victory over Fiji. And now Rob Clarke, head of rugby at the school, is already planning their next rugby tour with the RFU's official travel tours company.

"We were delighted to win the competition and to have the opportunity to see England in action was fantastic. We are a very proud rugby playing school and have players who aspire to wear that white shirt of England," he said.

Caterham tour regularly and have already spread the rugby gospel in Los Angeles and Hong Kong, as well making the ultimate rugby tour to New Zealand.

"We go on tour every two years and are constantly looking for new things to do with the team. The England Rugby Travel Tours information pack looked really impressive and the tours even better. They provide the service and attention to detail we are looking for, along with the reassurance of knowing it's with the RFU's official travel company," said Clarke.

England Rugby Travel provide schools, clubs and



universities with a rugby tour experience that is suited to any budget, duration, location and level of opposition. For more information on touring destinations and what England Rugby Travel Tours can do for your team, contact them on 0844 788 4060 or visit the website www.englishrugbytravel.com.tours



Young Coaches Get Help From the Best

The National Young Coaches Academy, now into its second year, saw 20 aspiring rugby coaches among 60 young coaches from across all sports, enjoying an intensive weekend this month (January). Included in the programme were keynote speeches from England and Lions coaches Andy Farrell and Graham Rowntree.

An RFU training weekend, with one to one mentoring,

will now prepare these emerging coaches for their UKCC Level 1 qualification. One of the key imperatives in the Rugby World Cup 2015 legacy involves quality coaching and this excellent programme will help the best young coaches to develop their skills and take their first steps on the coaching ladder.

All Happening Now at Slough Paula Rowe

Slough Grammar School have been trailblazers in offering contact rugby to all their girls. This, however, presented a difficulty because with this commitment a rarity they had a lack of competition for their most able players, while it was a problem encouraging girls with less sporting inclination to get involved.

Enter Community Rugby Coach Russell Bolton who created confidence-building coaching sessions, taking everything back to basics with touch rugby. With an understanding of how to build an attack, without the pressure of being tackled, within weeks Russell reintroduced the ruck before the tackle reappeared, with the girls all confidently making contact.

At the Under 15 age group there were a lot of very talented girls but, "In terms of school competition it was difficult as coaching at the only other nearby schools was at a much earlier stage of development," said Russell.

The Berkshire School Under 15 Girls Tournament, with eight schools playing a good standard of 7s, served to further whet the appetite and then talks with Berkshire resulted in a couple of development sessions at Reading RFC, with talented girls from all schools being coached. There were 12 brand new players there, despite the fact that at the start of the season only 25 girls were playing across the county at Under 15 level. One was even invited

to play in the final county game of the season where she impressed on the wing.

"I will now be in another six schools introducing the game after being told about the programme at Slough Grammar," said Russell. "I'll continue to offer development sessions to the talented players who can then trial for the county squad next summer. These will not only be held at Reading but also at Maidenhead RFC and Newbury RFC making the game more accessible across the county. I've also been working alongside teachers and we are arranging a series of teacher training opportunities."

Said Roy Steel, Head of Rugby at Slough Grammar School, "Our talented players have been given opportunities to take their rugby forward and girls that have maybe previously been hiding away during games are taking part because they have that confidence in the contact area. We have a very diverse community and it has been great to see all of them having fun and really learning about the game."

Malcolm Darvell of Berkshire Girls Under 15s added, "We've previously struggled to attract new girls but the processes that the RFU are putting in place have already shown that they work and, with their on-going support, we are confident that girls rugby in the county will go from strength to strength."



Tim Stirk, ERFSU President



In the recent reorganisation of the Community Rugby Department, Education has been particularly well served and continues to have staff at Twickenham dedicated to promoting rugby in our sector. Their enthusiasm and spirit was amply demonstrated by a splendid Party in the Car Park at Twickenham's South

Africa match, despite the terrible weather conditions. Many thanks to all from Education Development who braved the conditions with unflagging cheerfulness, but especially to Hayley Minter and Mark Lowe for organising the event.

This is a time of change not only of staff but also of initiatives and reviews which affect rugby in schools and colleges. The future of England 16 Group is part of an Aspirational Teams Review, and it seems that the RFU will continue to entrust the management of the Group to ERFSU. However, we must accept a 'leaner, meaner' programme and management process work with our colleagues in RFU Academies and the Professional Rugby Department to select the best players for our teams.

In other areas such as the U18 Academy league, the working of the recently revised Regulation 15 (Age Grade Rugby), and the reviews of Age Grade Competitions and Schools of Rugby, we must keep monitoring developments and contribute our observations in a constructive way. Please give any feedback to ERFSU's officers and committee chairs and express your views at meetings of your County Schools Union. In this way we have two lines of communication to the RFU through ERFSU and through your senior Constituent Body.

The New Year brings a series of exciting events for ERFSU and I look forward to attending another Party in the Car Park, Daily Mail RBS Cup and Vase Semi-Finals, the Rosslyn Park Sevens, Schools Day, the Wellington Festival and the two U16 Internationals. Given sufficient notice, I am also delighted to attend other school rugby events and festivals.

Leading by Example



One of PE's real success stories has been leadership, with associated activities making a significant impact on developing the personal and social skills of students. For many this is their first experience of responsibility; the first time they have been listened to and gained an idea of their own worth, their personal skills and potential. For some it is their first PE success.

The RFU Education Development Team has worked with teachers to produce three new leadership resources for schools, which will be launched next month (February). For the first time students at Key Stages 2 & 3 will be able to get involved in leadership through rugby union, with a new course also for Key Stage 4.

As well as developing their leadership skills students will be involved in planning and running festivals and coaching sessions for younger students at their school and organising touch rugby at lunchtime. Positive play at lunch and break times has shown a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the playground and has had a positive impact on students' readiness to learn when they return to the class. Look out for these new leadership courses at rfu.com/schools

Coach Licence Benefits for Teachers

The RFU Coach Licensing Scheme, having started in 2009 as a pilot programme in Midlands East, is going from strength to strength as 6,000 coaches in England enjoy the benefits of being licensed. Until now the scheme has been aimed at club coaches but, with most children getting their early rugby experiences in schools, licensing has been extended into the education sector to ensure that all coaches inspiring young players have full RFU support.

Support for licensed coaches includes: access to the RFU Online Coaching Academy; increased access to cutting edge RFU coaching products and services and 15% discount at the Rugby Store. The RFU Coach Licence is free, and application for teachers is through a simple online form, with applications being backed by the Head Teacher or their nominee. Every school will be receiving full details on how teachers can apply shortly.

For schools and parents, the licence provides reassurance that the teacher/coach's best practice knowledge is current, having attended (as part of the licence requirement) RFU Continued Personal Development courses. High quality coaching is key to ensuring players are retained in the game, and the RFU Coach Licence Scheme plays a vital role.

Look out for the application forms when they arrive at your school, and join the RFU Coaching team!

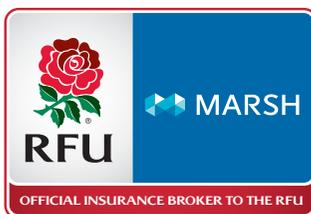
Planning is everything for a perfect tour

If you've been handed the task of organising an overseas tour for your school's rugby team, you'll no doubt have already worked out that you have quite a job on your hands!

The overseas tour is a long-standing tradition for many schools, and can be very beneficial for pupils and staff alike; whether the aim is to use the time to work on training and performance, broaden cultural horizons or simply to reward hard work.

Whatever the aim, you'll want to do everything you can to make the tour a success – and ensuring the trip is sanctioned and supported by the RFU is essential.

The rugby tours' section on www.rfu.com is a great source of support when it comes to getting organised – from remembering all



the logistics you must deal with prior to departure, to sorting out the insurance that is essential to securing official RFU tour sanction.

On that note, Marsh have worked closely with the RFU to create a tours' insurance policy that provides cover against a wide range of risks – including medical and emergency travel expenses to pupils' personal baggage, cancellation and curtailment.

For tours' guidance, checklists and forms visit www.rfu.com/managingrugby/rugbytours or to talk about your tours' insurance call Marsh on 01444 335392.

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THIS IS RUGBY.

Teamwork Respect Enjoyment Discipline Sportsmanship

A Hundred Years of Rugby At Hymers College

A century of rugby union is certainly something to celebrate and Hymers College are celebrating their centenary season in style with a special fixture on the Close at Rugby School. They are hosting the Independent Schools' Lambs XV, giving the whole school as well as former pupils and staff the chance to get behind the team.

The College introduced rugby union in 1912 and the last 100 years have been quite a journey. Rugby is now an integral part of school life and offered to boys from Year 7 through to the sixth form. Old Hymesian Tom Biggs was recently selected for the England Saxons squad, whilst another old boy, Rob Vickerman, captained the England 7s in Dubai.

The school's current Head of Rugby, former England prop Paul Huntsman says, "Rugby union is an important part of school life and we hope to see another 100 years of teams enjoying everything the sport has to offer. All the pupils are looking forward to the celebrations marking such a monumental event in the school's history."



Tag Takes Police Back To School

West Mercia Police Community Support Officers have been helping to run the RFU's primary schools tag rugby programme in Worcestershire and Herefordshire. This has seen them building positive relationships and, with the help of tag, delivering classroom modules on personal safety.

In the autumn term four local primary schools, Ashperton Primary Academy, Almeley Primary School, Gorsley Goffs Primary School and St Lawrence Primary School, were given the chance to showcase this tag programme in front of thousands of fans at Sixways, during half time of the Worcester Warriors v Llanelli Scarlets match. The schools qualified through success in the West Mercia Police Tag Rugby Festival earlier in the year.

Said PC Paul Sparrow, Herefordshire's Youth Inclusion Officer, "Delivering tag rugby in many schools throughout the force, alongside the RFU and in partnership with Child

Victims of Crime allows us to address a number of key safety messages and build positive relationships with the schools and students."

"The good relationships built with the Community Support officer is helping break down barriers between the community and the police. The development of this relationship is extremely important in helping keep our children safe when they are out of school."

"The Tackle Safety message delivered by the police, who support this programme, is incredibly important and a key element in our PSHE curriculum" said Anna Streater, Head teacher of Oldbury Park Primary School.

More Police & Community Support Officers are due to be trained to coach tag rugby this month (January). For more information on the tag rugby programme or tag qualification visit rfu.com/schools

The Party Goes On Rain Or Shine!



After a soggy but entertaining party prior to a rain-soaked QBE International when England took on South Africa, the ERFUSU & RFU Education Development Team will be back in Twickenham's West Car Park to party on prior to the RBS 6 Nations England v France game.

If you have a ticket to watch the match and are involved with schools rugby why not come along for a drink, a bite to eat and a chat with friends old and new. "The Party is great fun no matter what the weather and gives the ERFUSU a chance to talk to those involved in the grassroots in a relaxed environment," said Mark Lowe, ERFUSU Officer.

Numbers are restricted so email your name and how many from your school will be there to schools@therfu.com



Rosslyn Park HSBC National School 7s

From the 18th – 22nd March more than 200 schools from across the UK will descend upon the Richard Evans Memorial Ground for the National Schools 7s tournament. Alongside the matches, the RFU and the England Rugby Football Schools Union will be running a series of drop in education sessions. Topics including anti-doping in rugby and fitness for 7s will be covered by some of the RFU's top experts. For more information please contact schools@therfu.com.

Youth Sport Trust Talking

Rugby at Sheffield Sainsbury's School Games

The Youth Sport Trust has decided that following a successful bid, rugby will once again be part of the Sainsbury's 2013 School Games national event taking place in Sheffield next September.

Building on the success of the inaugural finals held in the Olympic Park last May, the 2013 competition will see over 1,500 of the most talented school-age non-disabled and disabled athletes competing in 12 sports, including girls U18 rugby sevens.

The four-day multi-sport spectacular will take place between 12 and 15 September in Sheffield – the home town of Olympic gold medallist, Jessica Ennis. Around 400 volunteers – most under 25 – will help to bring the event to life for the athletes and thousands of spectators.

The finals will be organised by the

Youth Sport Trust, which Sport England has commissioned to provide development support across all elements of the Sainsbury's School Games.

At the local and regional levels of the School Games, the RFU has been contributing prizes for participating schools, including tickets to England matches, tours of Twickenham Stadium and tag rugby equipment. These prizes have been helping to encourage more schools to use the School Games website and share information on their sporting activity.

In 2011 – 2012 more than 80% of School Games Organisers delivered inter school competitions in rugby. In addition 36 countrywide School Games Festivals, involving thousands of pupils, delivered rugby as part of their events.



Youth Sport Trust

Youth Sport Trust Conference

The RFU's Education Development Team has an exhibition stand at the 2013 Youth Sport Trust Conference, Telford, from the 6-7 February 2013. If you are visiting the event, please drop by for a chat and to find out about our latest resources.



Daily Mail RBS Final Day Tickets

The Daily Mail RBS Schools competition, the premier tournament in schools rugby, will reach its finale at Twickenham on Saturday, March 23. Some 1000 teams will have taken part each year across the country and the RFU is providing 50 free tickets per member school/club to the Daily Mail RBS Schools Final Day. Email schools@therfu.com with the number of tickets you require and a delivery address by Friday 8th March.



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Welcome to Colleges Rugby, highlighting developments from this fast growing sector. This termly Touchline supplement will next appear in May, please send your news stories through to colleges@therfu.com



STUDENTS TAKE OWNERSHIP OF TOUCH

The RFU and British Colleges Sport have been working together to offer college students the chance to enjoy O2 Touch Rugby. As part of the BCS Intra-College Sport programme, the aim is to increase students' weekly participation in sport or physical activity, with Student Management Teams organise promoting and delivering activities.

Last September students at 51 Colleges were interested in providing intra-college O2 Touch Rugby. Since the creation of the Colleges Development Team in October, interest has doubled, with 109 Colleges now either already delivering rugby or about to start.

Birmingham's Bournville College has seen particular success since introducing O2 Touch last year. Community Rugby Coach John Critchlow delivered introductory sessions to six different college classes, which led to an intra-college tournament supported by Five Ways Old Edwardians RFC. A Student Management Team then took over the organisation and delivery of the programme, with Critchlow's support. Five Ways Old Edwardians RFC also continued to provide students with further playing opportunities.

Critchlow said, "I plan to step back even further this year to allow the college and club to take full ownership. I can definitely see the positive impact the programme has had and continues to have at Five Ways, especially around recruitment for a really tough to reach age group."

For further information on the BCS Intra College Programme visit www.bcsport.org



COLLEGE RUGBY'S MASSIVE POTENTIAL

Sport in education is changing at a pace, bringing challenges and significant opportunities, especially leading up to England 2015. Whilst work in schools and universities continues to strengthen, the sleeping giant of the education sector is beginning to stir. Growing the game in the college sector could and should strengthen rugby clubs by developing more players, coaches, referees and volunteers for the grass roots of the game.

Early this year England Colleges RFU will be providing strategic focus to help clubs and geographical CBs consider how best to engage with this exciting sector.

- The student population within the college sector is vast with over 3 million students at the 345 Colleges across the country. Twice

as many 16-18 year olds study at colleges compared to secondary schools, and A-Level results in colleges were 10% higher than at state schools.

- Only a small proportion of college students are involved with sport. However, many more would like to access enjoyable and sociable activities that allow them to keep fit. College students lack opportunities to participate in sport and rugby can fill this void.
- Students often need to experience work at local organisations. Sports students seek leadership opportunities as coaches, referees or volunteers. Students on other courses such as construction and car mechanics also require



practical work experience with local organisations.

Area Managers and local Rugby Development Officers are the best point of contact for developing plans to engage with colleges and maximise their potential. For more information please contact the Colleges Development Manager, Hamish Morton hamishmorton@rfu.com.

COMPETITION ON THE UP

British Colleges Sport (BCS), formed in 1978 to support sporting provision within the Further Education sector, has for the past decade been working closely with the RFU, leading to the formation in 2011 of England Colleges RFU.

The last five years have seen an increase in BCS membership, with a current 241 member colleges in England and Wales, coinciding with the considerable growth of qualifications available to students wishing to develop careers in sport related employment.

Alongside this, BCS organises rugby union leagues at three levels (Elite, Performance and Participation) as well as knockout Cup competitions for men and women. The numbers of teams participating has risen again this season with an extra seven men's teams entering the league and 25 additional teams in the men's Cup competition. The women's Cup has also seen an increase in numbers.

Cup finals will take place at Colleges Sport Week from the 29th April – 3rd May at the prestigious St George's Park in Burton on Trent. Students from across the country will be taking part, watching and discussing sport at their institution. Rugby will play a leading role, with O2 Touch activity building on regional programmes happening nationwide, the second Annual Colleges Rugby Conference and the National Finals of the BCS Cup competition.

Register interest in BCS Finals: ChrisBussell@bcsport.org
Register interest in Colleges Conference: Colleges@rfu.com



SEVENS BRINGS SEFTON STUDENTS INTO RUGBY



Teams from Sacred Heart Catholic College, Maricourt High and South Sefton Sixth Form College competed in a fantastic local area competition at the beginning of December.

Waterloo RUFC, like many clubs, were struggling for playing numbers at U18s Colts level. Working with their local Community Rugby Coach, Martin Powell, they built links with South Sefton Sixth Form College and Sacred Heart Catholic College.

Maricourt, who have a link with Ormskirk RUFC, joined the 7s project to offer more competition to their students. "Given the big drop off in this age group, ensuring that sixth forms and college students have positive experiences of rugby union is key. Clubs will only recruit players if the whole network is in place," said Powell.

Waterloo RUFC provided kits for the South Sefton and Sacred Heart teams, with Maricourt wearing the Ormskirk strip, promoting their club links and creating an exciting, competitive atmosphere. The game between Sacred Heart A and Maricourt ended 5-5 due to solid defences. Sacred Heart A pipped their opponents to the post taking the title.

The project moves on this year when South Sefton and Maricourt play a 15-a-side fixture against the team from Sacred Heart, along with further 7s festivals expanded to include colleges from Merseyside and North Lancashire. The response to the competition and club links has been outstanding and new players from the target colleges have already joined the U18 club sides.

