

Are You Ready to Play Rugby FAQ's

- **Who is responsible for pre match risk assessments and is there a liability if something goes wrong?**
 - *There are no risk assessment procedures being implemented this year, we will work internally to develop risk assessment procedures for programs run by Scottish Rugby and we will produce game management guidelines for all clubs and schools to follow for the start of the season. If something goes wrong all involved in coaching and refereeing are covered under the Scottish Rugby Unions insurance scheme.*
- **Will we be able to recruit new referees, if they are under new pressure in trying to guarantee safety under the new procedures.**
 - *Referees are not being put under any new pressure – player safety has always been paramount to everything that referees do when refereeing a game.*
- **In relation to the Under 18 playing senior rugby, would each individual need to have an assessment if they were 'ready' physically / skill wise etc to play adult rugby or would it be agreed that they are to an acceptable level if they are:(a) A District Under 18 player (b) A National Under 18 squad member.**
 - *Players aged 16 and 17 playing adult rugby are at greater risk of injury than players playing within their age group as such all Under 18 players playing adult rugby must go through the application process to play senior rugby.*
- **Am I right in saying that an Under 16 prop isn't allowed to play Under 18 rugby at school or club?**
 - *Players aged 15 and under can not play prop or hooker in a senior school or U18 club fixture until they turn 16 years of age.*
- **Who is going to be making the physical assessments on players who are put forward for moving up an age group?**
 - *U16 playing in U18 – medical assessment is conducted at an assessment centre set up by Scottish Rugby and manned by suitably qualified medical personnel.*
- **How do we get boys assessed for physically maturity?**
 - *Fill in the appropriate application forms and Scottish Rugby will inform the player school/club of the date and time of the regional assessment.*
- **When is the paper work going to be made available?**
 - *Application paperwork will be made available in June 2009*
- **Where do you get application form for exemption?**
 - *Application forms will be sent to all clubs and schools and will be available on the 'Are you ready to play rugby' section of the Scottish rugby website.*
- **If a player aged 15 has passed the policy requirements – for one club/school – does that discount him for playing at his proper age group for another club/school?**
 - *No, however where possible we are trying to keep players U16 playing in their age group. They also need to apply separately to play U18 rugby for different school/club teams due to potential different competition.*
- **What happens to the smaller clubs/schools who play combined teams eg joint u15/u16?**

- *Combining age groups below U16 is fine as long as it is within a 2 year age banding and as long as common sense prevails. The emphasis should be on keeping physically immature and physically mature players apart and as such a combined U16/U17 team is not acceptable.*
- **Does this apply to every school, who need 16s to make up 1st XV's**
 - *Yes these policies apply to all of Scottish Rugby including Clubs and Schools and any player who has not reached the age of 16 should not play in u18 school or club rugby unless they have been cleared by Scottish Rugby to do so.*
- **Can I coach if I don't have online rugby ready?**
 - *All coaches must be 'rugby ready' as a minimum.*
- **When will there be the 1st aid courses and are they free?**
 - *A rugby first aid course is being developed over the course of the 2009/10 season in the meantime clubs and schools are encouraged to attend first aid training provided locally with payment being assisted through local Sports Councils.*
- **When reference is made to Under 16 on safety issues, are we to take it that this refers to Under 16 on 1st January or a literal definition of Under 16?**
 - *All reference to U16 in the 'are you ready to play rugby' documentation refers to those players who have not yet turned 16 years of age.*
 - *All reference to U16 in competitions run by Scottish rugby means those players who will be U16 on the 1st January 2010.*
- **In the case of S1, P7, P6, these are all year groups not age groups. Can you confirm that it is the year group which is crucial and not the age group which would normally be implied by such year groups?**
 - *Within each School year group there will be a number of age groups but it is crucial that the school year groups and club year groups play to the same law variations for the School year group.*
- **We presume that it is ok for pupils in P6 to play in P7 teams, P7 in S1 teams as routinely happens in prep schools. Are we right to do so?**
 - *The policies launched this year focus on the U16 and U18 age groups. Moving forward we will be looking at age banding from age 8 upwards in the interim we would recommend playing in 2 year age bands with prior agreement between teams ie P4,P5 playing together, P6,P7 playing together S1 & S2 playing together and S2 and S3 playing together. With the law variations being applied consistently across these bandings. Again common sense must apply.*
- **What happens to kids who are too old for under 16's but are not 16 till the end of the year so technically not eligible to play under 18's. As a club we struggle at this age groups but are now struggling more as we have a good few kids that fit this category and don't have enough for an under 17.**
 - *These players, out with the front row, should apply for exception to play U18 rugby. If they are deemed to be physically immature and not able to play U18 rugby they should be given dispensation to play U16 rugby for the season. Only players who have gone through the exception process can be given dispensation.*
 - *Front row players aged 15 and born between 1st Sep and 31st Dec can't apply for exception to play up so will be allowed to play U16 rugby for that season.*

- **Do we even know where these assessment centres are going to be and will they be local and how soon would clubs be able to put children forward for this.**
 - *We are aiming to set up assessment centres throughout Scotland dependant on demand and across the following regions, Highland and Islands, Grampian, Tayside, Fife, Central, Edinburgh, Borders, Glasgow North & Glasgow South.*
 - *Applications forms will be ready to be progressed in June 2009.*
 - *Physical maturity assessments will be delivered by a Scottish Rugby qualified medic and will consist of height, weight and hand grip strength.*

- **Does this mean that a school/club U16 league is being set up as previously the Form IV, V and VI all played together? If not then the kids in Form IV will not get any games and we may lose some of them, unless they play for clubs?**
 - *We are encouraging all clubs and schools to schedule appropriate fixtures for their players and would encourage U16 teams in Schools even if this means 10 aside. Please contact your Regional Development manager to get further information on playing opportunities that are available in your area.*
 - *All age grade playing structures will be available and reviewed in due course.*

- **A child's birthday is 10 days after the cut off but he is not physically ready to go up to the next age group does he have to play in the higher age group? ie, is in S2 and due to his date of birth should be in U15 but can he continue to play in S2?**
 - *The policies launched this year focus on the U16 and U18 age groups. Moving forward we will be looking at age banding from age 8 upwards in the interim we would recommend playing in year groups up until formal competition starts at U15 (1st Jan)*

- **A 15 year old player is put forward for assessment to play in U18 rugby and passes the test. Can he also play in U16 or does he have to play U18 rugby?**
 - *Only players who are going to play U18 rugby aged 15 should apply for the assessment if the player is going to stay playing U16 rugby we would recommend that he isn't put forward for the assessment. Please remember that this is about players playing with and against players of the same maturity grouping and not about pushing players forward or indeed holding them back to strengthen the team.*

- **A player born say in October goes to university at the age of 17 can't play university rugby as its adult men's rugby and there is no U18 1st September team near his university, where does he play?**
 - *A player in this situation has three options open to him, he can either; play in the university freshers or U20 set up, apply for dispensation to play adult rugby for the university or a local club or if practicable play for a local club or return to his home club to play U18 1st September rugby.*

- **At what age is a player allowed to play U17 games?**
 - *A player can not play U17 rugby until he has turned 16 years of age or has completed an application to play U18 School or club rugby.*