



## **STUDENT PASS TRIAL CONDITIONS**

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### **Background**

As part of the RFU's strategy to encourage those aged 16 - 24 to continue to play rugby, the Community Game Board (CGB) has been examining ways to make it easier for students to play for clubs participating in the RFU leagues and cups both at their homes and their university or college. This is to reflect the fact that holidays between academic terms are such that students may return to their home town during term time as well as in the holidays. The CGB believe that students should be able to play for clubs local to their university or college during term time as well as their home club during holidays or term time. Rather than impose complicated registration regulations, the CGB believes that people in this position should be provided with a "student pass" so they can play for either club without having to wait for re-registration each time they change.

There may be other people who work away from home (such as members of the Armed Forces) who might also benefit from a similar scheme, but the RFU would like to assess the scale of the problem and whether a "pass" scheme would be manageable and fair to all participating people and clubs.

After a successful trial during the 2015-2016 season the RFU has extended the pilot to include season 2016-17, which will enable genuine students to play for their home club and the club local to their higher/further education institution by undergoing a simplified and less onerous player registration process. The RFU will monitor and analyse the roll out and impact of the trial during the season.

In order to participate in the pilot, the conditions set out below must be satisfied. With the exception of these conditions, RFU Regulation 14 (and all other RFU Regulations) will continue to have full force and effect.

### **Conditions**

A student who wishes to play rugby for both his/her home club and a club closer to the location of his/her higher/further education institution, shall be entitled to make an application to your RFU Registrar, for a student pass subject to satisfying the below conditions:

1. The trial is open to male players across England playing at Level 3 and below.
2. The trial is open to female player across England playing at Level 1 and below.

3. In order to apply to participate in the trial, the player must initially register with one club in accordance with the registration provisions set out in RFU Regulation 14 (men's registrations) or RFU Regulation 16 (women's registrations).
4. The player must then undergo the loan registration process set out in RFU Regulation 14 or 16 (as applicable) in order to be registered with the second club as well as provide the additional documentation requested in these conditions as set out below:
  - a. Player to set out name and location of the two clubs for which he/she would like to play;
  - b. Player to provide proof to the satisfaction of the RFU of permanent home residence;
  - c. Player to provide proof to the satisfaction of the RFU that he/she is a genuinely enrolled student at a higher/further education institution; and
  - d. Player to provide such additional information as the RFU may request.
5. Having reviewed the documentation, if the Registrar in its discretion approves that the player should be able to play for both clubs and is eligible for a student pass, the player shall be registered onto the RFU's system as a student authorised under the student pass trial.
6. When considering if a player should be eligible for a student pass, the RFU will take into account the circumstances of the player, the RFU regulations, the trial conditions, the document/evidence provided to support the application, the integrity of rugby and any specific competition/league in which the player may play, and provided the player does not play for two clubs in the same league.
7. Once the player has provided all necessary documentation pursuant to RFU Regulation 14 or 16 (as applicable) and these conditions, the registrar will confirm if the player is eligible to participate in the trial and to play for both clubs during the season without further need to re-register.
8. If a player is accepted onto the trial, the player will be classified as a loan player on loan to the second club and therefore the loan player provisions of RFU Regulation 14 or 16 (as applicable) will continue to apply including without limitation Regulation 14.3.5(c), 14.6.5. and 14.6.6.
9. Should the player's circumstances change, the player must notify the RFU.
10. Participation in the student pass trial can be revoked at any time by the RFU.
11. Once the Student Pass loan registration has been processed the player is free to move between the two clubs without the need to provide further paperwork. This includes movement after the Transfer Deadline.