

Area	What has been updated?	Why has it changed?
<b>Age Grade Season</b>	The 2019-20 season will be Saturday 7 September to Sunday 10 May.	Due to the change of the 2020 May Bank holiday, we have extended the season to the Sunday 10 May to support the traditional tours/activities on the long weekend.
<b>Age Grade Player Registration</b>	Players in the U7, U8, U16, U17 and U18 age groups in club are required to register via parents on GMS. Players who are new to the game and who registered online last year also need to re-register using this process.	This gives players and parents more control of their own personal data and is GDPR compliant. This process reduces admin burden on volunteer registrars and will provide players and clubs with more accurate data.
<b>17 Year Olds Playing Adult Rugby</b>	A two-step process will be introduced for 17 year old players (male and female) to play adult rugby. This process ensures that clubs have a Safeguarding Officer and approval from the CB to play-up 17 year olds and then that each individual player has also been assessed by the club and approved by the CB.	There have been significant updates by the DBS to the rules on safeguarding children playing in adult sport. We want to safeguard our young players and our adult clubs/people in line with the level of the revised DBS requirements. This includes having a more robust assessment and neutral approval of the individual player. Full guidance and support is being developed for players, coaches, clubs and CBs.
<b>Combining U17 and U18 Age Grades</b>	U17 and U18 may play as a combined age group without needing permission.	This brings regulation in line with common practice in the club/school/college game. This also reduces the administrative burden on volunteers who previously needed to follow a permission process for an U17 to play with U18s.