

Key Calendar Ingredients - Essential Reading

There are **nationally consistent windows** when competitions will be arranged. The alternate 3 or 4 week window model ensures **season-long involvement and fair/equal impact** of poorer weather and representative rugby on clubs and education

The windows have been implemented **to reduce competition clashes and to balance the quantity of higher intensity rugby** during the season. They will help to limit the amount of selection/deselection and resulting overplaying/underplaying in Age Grade Rugby as well as reduce the intensity of matches that has started to negatively affect player welfare management and player/adult behaviour in the game

The windows concept will be rolled out across **all ages in the female Age Grade game** in 2016-17 and **up to and including Under 16 in male Age Grade Rugby**. This will be reviewed to establish the best approach for 2017-18 across all age groups

CLUBS, SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES CAN STILL PLAY IN ALL THE WEEKS OF THE SEASON

What it does not mean, for example, is clubs can't play rugby in schools windows. However they will know that their club players who also play school rugby will have potentially their more intensive school matches that matter most to them in particular weeks. They can adjust their selections to fit with the priority in conversation with the school. This same principle exists of course for schools during the clubs windows

There are three sets of windows – for clubs competitions, for school/colleges competitions and for representative rugby

It is in these windows and specific weeks of the season that competition and rep rugby organisers will need to plan for their activities

The windows will help players and those who support their development **to prioritise and plan their season with less conflicts and duplications**

The windows also mean that competitions themselves will need to be more focussed/shorter and the number of high intensity matches where the competitive outcome becomes the focus will reduce. This will drive **greater inclusivity of all players getting on the pitch and a return to more block fixtures by clubs and schools** rather than fragmented club fixture lists

Male rep rugby is planned at specific times to provide opportunity for the talented player. This is **balanced to limit impact** on both the talented player himself and those team-mates left in the core club, school and college playing programme

Female rep rugby (U15/18) remains season-long for now, due to the role it plays in providing **quality participation opportunities** (particularly 15 a side) that the girls game is as yet unable to offer widely and consistently enough in clubs, schools and colleges

Under 18 Male is the most challenging jigsaw to build due to the different “streams” of the game at grass roots level and in the player/talent pathway as well as the cross-overs between them

While some changes have been made to the Under 17/18 playing calendar, after consultation it will remain **fairly consistent with 2015-16**. The planned changes move towards less conflict, more defined periods for some competitions and representative rugby and clearer priority **for all levels of player**. Some major challenges still remain to be addressed and agreed through consultation during 2016. **A longer rollout period has been implemented to bring these ages into line with the rest of the game**

AGE GRADE RUGBY COMPETITION PLAYING CALENDAR 2016-17 - Final v.5.0

Month	W/C	Sunday	Under 12 Male Competitions	Under 13 Male Competitions	Under 14 Male Competitions	Under 15 Male Competitions	Under 15 Male Representative	Under 16 Male Competitions	Under 16 Male Representative	Sunday	W/C	Month
August	15 Summer	21							Regional	21	15 Summer	August
August	22 Summer	28								28	22 Summer	August
August	29 Summer	4								4	29 Summer	August
September	5	11	Organisers plan any CLUB comps in	Organisers plan any CLUB comps in	Organisers plan any CLUB comps in	Organisers plan any CLUB competitions in		Organisers plan any CLUB comps in		11	5	September
September	12	18	ORANGE weeks only	ORANGE weeks only	ORANGE weeks only	ORANGE weeks only		ORANGE weeks only		18	12	September
September	19	25	Organisers plan any	Organisers plan any	Organisers plan any	Organisers plan any	Nat Schools Comp R1	Organisers plan any		25	19	September
September	26	2	SCHOOL comps in	SCHOOL comps in	SCHOOL comps in	SCHOOL comps in		SCHOOL comps in		2	26	September
October	3	9	BLUE weeks only	BLUE weeks only	BLUE weeks only	BLUE weeks only		BLUE weeks only		9	3	October
October	10	16					Nat Schools Comp R2			16	10	October
October	17 Half Term	23	(Either/or depending on local 1/2 term week)	(Either/or depending on local 1/2 term week)	(Either/or depending on local 1/2 term week)	(Either/or depending on local 1/2 term week)		CB/DPP (Either/or re: 1/2 term)	(Either/or depending on local 1/2 term week)	23	17 Half Term	October
October	24	30	As above	As above	As above	As above		As above		30	24	October
October	31	6								6	31	October
November	7	13								13	7	November
November	14	20	As above	As above	As above	As above	Nat Schools Comp R3	As above		20	14	November
November	21	27								27	21	November
November	28	4					Nat Schools Comp R4			4	28	November
December	5	11								11	5	December
December	12	18	As above	As above	As above	As above		As above		18	12	December
December	19 Christmas	25								25	19 Christmas	December
December	26	1						CB/DPP		1	26	December
January	2	8							CB	8	2	January
January	9	15						CB/DPP		15	9	January
January	16	22	As above	As above	As above	As above	Nat Schools Comp R5	As above	CB	22	16	January
January	23	29								29	23	January
January	30	5					Nat Schools Comp R6		CB	5	30	January
February	6	12	As above	As above	As above	As above		As above		12	6	February
February	13 Half Term	19	(Either/or depending on local 1/2 term week)	(Either/or depending on local 1/2 term week)	(Either/or depending on local 1/2 term week)	(Either/or depending on local 1/2 term week)		(Either/or depending on local 1/2 term week)	CB (Either/or re: 1/2 term)	19	13 Half Term	February
February	20	26								26	20	February
February	27	5								5	27	February
March	6	12							Regional	12	6	March
March	13	19	As above	As above	As above	As above	Nat Schools Comp SF	As above		19	13	March
March	20	26		National Schools 7s	National Schools 7s			National Schools 7s		26	20	March
March	27	2					Nat Schs Comp Finals		Regional	2	27	March
April	3	9	As above	As above	As above	As above		As above		9	3	April
April	10 Easter	16							Regional	16	10 Easter	April
April	17	23							Regional & England	23	17	April
April	24	30						Regional 12s		30	24	April
May	1	7								7	1	May

CLUB, SCHOOL & COLLEGE ARRANGED FIXTURES CAN BE PLAYED THROUGH ENTIRE SEASON

CLUB, SCHOOL & COLLEGE ARRANGED FIXTURES CAN BE PLAYED THROUGH ENTIRE SEASON

- Half Terms and Holidays
- Club Competitions Window - Organisers plan any CLUB competitions in these weeks only
- Schools/College Competitions Window - Organisers plan any SCHOOL/COLLEGE competitions in these weeks only
- National or Nationwide Clubs Competition
- National or Nationwide Schools/Colleges Competition
- Schools U18 Champions Trophy
- AASE League Competition
- Academy U18 League
- CB Selection and Match Pathway Activity
- Regional, Divisional, National Pathway Activity