

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 13 Female Competitions	Under 15 Female Competitions	Rep Development	Under 18 Female Competitions	Rep Development		Sunday	W/C	Month
August	15 Summer	21								21	15 Summer	August
August	22 Summer	28								28	22 Summer	August
August	29 Summer	4								4	29 Summer	August
September	5	11	CLUB, SCHOOL & COLLEGE ARRANGED FIXTURES CAN BE PLAYED THROUGH ENTIRE SEASON	Organisers plan any CLUB comps in ORANGE weeks only	Organisers plan any CLUB comps in ORANGE weeks only		Organisers plan any CLUB comps in ORANGE weeks only			11	5	September
September	12	18		Nat Clubs Comp	Nat Clubs Comp		Nat Clubs Comp			18	12	September
September	19	25		Organisers plan any Nat Schools Comp	Organisers plan any Nat Schools Comp		Organisers plan any Nat Schools Comp			25	19	September
September	26	2		SCHOOL comps in BLUE weeks only	SCHOOL competitions in BLUE weeks only	CB	SCH/COLL comps in BLUE weeks only	Nat Colleges Comp	CB	2	26	September
October	3	9		(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)			9	3	October
October	10	16		As above	As above		As above			16	10	October
October	17 Half Term	23		Nat Clubs Comp	Nat Clubs Comp	CB	Nat Clubs Comp	CB	CB	23	17 Half Term	October
October	24	30		As above	As above	(Either/or re: 1/2 term)	As above	(Either/or re: 1/2 term)	(Either/or re: 1/2 term)	30	24	October
October	31	6		As above	As above		As above			6	31	October
November	7	13		As above	As above		As above			13	7	November
November	14	20		Nat Schools Comp	Nat Schools Comp	CB	Nat CollegesComp	CB	CB	20	14	November
November	21	27		As above	As above		As above			27	21	November
November	28	4		Nat Schools Comp	Nat Schools Comp	CB	Nat CollegesComp	CB	CB	4	28	November
December	5	11		As above	As above		As above			11	5	December
December	12	18		Nat Clubs Comp	Nat Clubs Comp		Nat Clubs Comp			18	12	December
December	19 Christmas	25								25	19 Christmas	December
December	26	1								1	26	December
January	2	8								8	2	January
January	9	15		As above	As above		As above			15	9	January
January	16	22		Nat Schools Comp	Nat Schools Comp	Divisional	Nat CollegesComp	Divisional	Divisional	22	16	January
January	23	29		As above	As above		As above			29	23	January
January	30	5		As above	As above		As above			5	30	January
February	6	12		Nat Clubs Comp	Nat Clubs Comp		Nat Clubs Comp			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)	Divisional	(Either/or depending on local 1/2 term week)	Divisional	Divisional	19	13 Half Term	February
February	20	26		Nat Clubs Comp	Nat Clubs Comp		Nat Clubs Comp			26	20	February
February	27	5		As above	As above		As above			5	27	February
March	6	12		As above	As above	Divisional	As above	Divisional	Divisional	12	6	March
March	13	19		As above	As above		As above			19	13	March
March	20	26	Nat Schools Comp	Nat Schools Comp		Nat Colls Comp/Schs 7s			26	20	March	
March	27	2	As above	As above	Divisional	As above	Divisional	Divisional	2	27	March	
April	3	9	Nat Clubs Comp	Nat Clubs Comp		Nat Clubs Comp			9	3	April	
April	10 Easter	16							16	10 Easter	April	
April	17	23			Divisional		Divisional	Divisional	23	17	April	
April	24	30	As above	As above		Nat Clubs Comp			30	24	April	
May	1	7			Divisional		Divisional	Divisional	7	1	May	
Month	W/C	Sunday		Under 13 Female Competitions	Under 15 Female Competitions	Rep Development	Under 18 Female Competitions	Rep Development		Sunday	W/C	Month

- 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