

**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 17 Male		Under 18 Male				Sunday	W/C	Month		
			Competitions	Representative	Competitions	Rep Counties	Rep Professional						
August	15 Summer	21								21	15 Summer	August	
August	22 Summer	28								28	22 Summer	August	
August	29 Summer	4					AASE Rnd 1 (Stage 1)			4	29 Summer	August	
September	5	11					AASE Rnd 2 (Stage 1)			11	5	September	
September	12	18					AASE Rnd 3 (Stage 1)			18	12	September	
September	19	25				Nat Clubs Comp	AASE Rnd 4 (Stage 1)			25	19	September	
September	26	2			School Champions R1	Nat Schools Comp R1	Nat Colleges Comp	AASE Rnd 5 (Stage 1)		2	26	September	
October	3	9						Nat Clubs Comp	AASE Rnd 6 (Stage 1)		9	3	October
October	10	16			School Champions R2	Nat Schools Comp R2	Nat Colleges Comp	AASE Rnd 7 (Stage 1)		16	10	October	
October	17 Half Term	23						CB		23	17 Half Term	October	
October	24	30						CB	England Camp	30	24	October	
October	31	6			School Champions R3	Nat Schools Comp R3	Nat Colleges Comp	AASE Rnd 8 (Stage 2)	CB	6	31	October	
November	7	13					Nat Colleges Comp	Nat Clubs Comp	AASE Rnd 9 (Stage 2)		13	7	November
November	14	20			School Champions SF	Nat Schools Comp R4	Nat Colleges Comp	AASE Rnd 10 (Stage 2)		20	14	November	
November	21	27		CB			Nat Colleges Comp	Nat Clubs Comp		27	21	November	
November	28	4			School Champions Final	Nat Schools Comp R5	Nat Colleges Comp	AASE Finals		4	28	November	
December	5	11						Nat Clubs Comp		11	5	December	
December	12	18		CB						18	12	December	
December	19 Christmas	25								25	19 Christmas	December	
December	26	1						Academy Rnd 1	Divisional	1	26	December	
January	2	8						Academy Rnd 2		8	2	January	
January	9	15						Academy Rnd 3		15	9	January	
January	16	22						Academy Rnd 4		22	16	January	
January	23	29		CB				Academy Rnd 5	Divisional	29	23	January	
January	30	5						Academy Rnd 6		5	30	January	
February	6	12		CB		Nat Schools Comp R6	Nat Colleges Comp	Academy Rnd 7		12	6	February	
February	13 Half Term	19						Academy Finals	Divisional	19	13 Half Term	February	
February	20	26			Divisional Clubs QF				Inter Divisional	26	20	February	
February	27	5				Nat Schools Comp SF	Nat Colleges Comp	Nat Clubs Comp		5	27	February	
March	6	12			Divisional Clubs SF				England Camp	12	6	March	
March	13	19					Nat Colleges Comp	Nat Clubs Comp		19	13	March	
March	20	26			Divisional Clubs Final		National Schools 7s	Nat Colleges Comp	England Camp	26	20	March	
March	27	2				Nat Schools Comp Finals	Nat Colleges Comp	Nat Clubs Comp		2	27	March	
April	3	9			National Clubs SF				England Camp	9	3	April	
April	10 Easter	16							England Triangular	16	10 Easter	April	
April	17	23								23	17	April	
April	24	30			National Clubs Final		Nat Colleges Finals	Nat Clubs Finals		30	24	April	
May	1	7								7	1	May	

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

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- 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