



# RFU

## PLAYING OUT OF AGE GRADE CONSENT FORM (Non-England Academy Players)

Before completing the form please read the accompanying advice on this form, RFU Regulation 15 and the Age Grade Codes of Practice ([www.englandrugby.com/codesofpractice](http://www.englandrugby.com/codesofpractice))

*Note: Please see separate form in relation to England Academy Players.*

Full name:	
Club/School:	

Age:		Date of birth:	___/___/___
Chronological age grade:		Proposed age grade:	

Playing position:	
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Period of permission, including dates (eg a series of matches, the season): NB: Maximum period is 1 season
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Reason to play the player out of age grade:
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Proposed by:  (Name of individual)	
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Role in relation to the player: (eg school/club coach, head of rugby)	
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**Signed Declaration:**

We certify that all the information on this form is correct, that a risk assessment has been carried out and hereby consent to the above player playing out of age grade in accordance with RFU Regulation 15 (Age Grade Rugby).

Signature of <b>proposer (i.e. coach)</b> _____ Print name _____ Date _____	Signature of <b>parent/guardian/carer or head teacher</b> _____ Print name _____ Parent/guardian/carer/head teacher (delete as appropriate) Date _____
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Signature of <b>Constituent Body or School's CSU official</b> (if applicable) _____ Print name _____ Date _____
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*CB = Constituent Body (ie the County RFU), CSU = County Schools Union. Where "Parent" is stated, this should be taken to also refer to guardian and carer.*

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**RFU Regulation 15**  
**Playing out of age grade – Consent Form**  
**Players not in England Academy**

This advice should be read in conjunction with Regulation 15 and the Guidance to Regulation 15. **Nothing here supersedes what is written in that Regulation and that Guidance.** The form is provided as an aide: It does not form part of the Regulations.

Notwithstanding anything contained or referred to in this document, it is the responsibility of the Club or School to ensure that it complies with Regulation 15.

[www.englandrugby.com/regulation](http://www.englandrugby.com/regulation)  
[www.englandrugby.com/codesofpractice](http://www.englandrugby.com/codesofpractice)

**Risk Assessments:**

Where it is suggested that an assessment should be carried out best practice is set out in the Regulation 15 Guidance. The key points to consider are:

- The ultimate consideration must be for the welfare and safety of the player and those with whom the player will be playing.
1. There has and will be clear communication with all those involved in and affected by the decision including the opposition team.
  2. The following aspects must be taken into consideration when making the decision:
    - i. The physical development of the individual and the player’s playing colleagues
    - ii. The skill level and experience of the individual
    - iii. The individual’s playing position in the team
    - iv. The competitive standard of the particular match and playing conditions.

**PLAYING UP**

<i>Relevant Regulation</i>	<i>Consents required</i>	<i>Assessment required</i>	<i>This form appropriate</i>
15.3.1, 15.3.2 and 15.5: What is permitted for U6s to U8s in relation to non-contact rugby and for U9s to U12s in relation to contact training. Playing up is only allowed within the context of Regulation 15.3.1 to enable players to train together in internal club training matches and not fixtures against other clubs.	No specific consents required although such activity must be recommended by Club or School (as applicable)	No	No
15.2.1: Insufficient players in age grade (U9 to U12) to play contact rugby. Permission should be sought for the groups to play together, not individuals in them.	<i>Club:</i> CB and club  <i>School:</i> CSU and school	No	No
15.3.2: U12s to U15s can train and play up one age grade if recommended by the player’s Club or School.	<i>Club:</i> Parent and club  <i>School:</i> Head Teacher	Yes	Yes
15.3.2: U16s & U17s can train and play up one age grade (including on front row of scrum) or two age grades (not in front row if an U16 playing 15 a-side) if recommended by the player’s Club or School. The parent / Head Teacher must be informed that it is possible that this dispensation may result in playing with and/or against one or more U19 players (see 15.3.2).	<i>Club:</i> Parent and club  <i>School:</i> Head Teacher	Yes	Yes

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15.6.1, 15.6.2: 17 year olds playing with adults.	(Use RFU's Playing Adult Rugby Form)	Yes	No
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### **PLAYING DOWN**

Permission is valid for up to one Season only and the player ***must remain in that lower age grade for the entire Season***. A player may return to his original and correct age grade if appropriate but may not play down again that season.

<b><i>Relevant Regulation</i></b>	<b><i>Consents required</i></b>	<b><i>Assessment required</i></b>	<b><i>This form appropriate</i></b>
15.4.1, 15.4.2., 15.5 U9s to U19s (inclusive) can only train and play down one age grade (subject to competition rules) if: (a) the player is in a younger academic year at school than the player's academic birth year; or (b) the player's safety may be compromised due to small stature or a developmental or behavioural issue.	U13 and below: <i>Club:</i> CB and club <i>School:</i> Head Teacher	Yes	Yes
	U14 and above: <i>Club:</i> Parent and club <i>School:</i> Head Teacher	Yes	Yes
15.4.1: U9s to U19s can only train and play down two or more age grades in exceptional circumstances.	RFU Legal and Governance Director	Yes	No

If you have any queries regarding this form or Regulation 15 please email Age Grade Rugby at [agegraderugby@rfu.com](mailto:agegraderugby@rfu.com)

*Note: CB = Constituent Body (ie the County RFU), CSU = County Schools Union. Where "Parent" is stated, this should be taken to also refer to guardian and carer.*