

11 January 2019

Dear CBs, Clubs,

AGE GRADE PLAYER PATHWAY CONSULTATION

Following speculation regarding a proposed removal of CB Age Grade Rugby, this communication is intended to provide clarification and information regarding the current position and proposals.

The delivery of Age Grade Rugby alongside CB pathway activity is a complex process. The impact of participating in simultaneous programmes on player welfare, player retention and Age Grade Rugby at clubs can be significant, including:

- overplaying / overtraining
- prioritising club / school / academy / CB activity
- programmes operating outside the agreed structures as stipulated in the Age Grade calendar
- loss of understanding from stakeholders as to the purpose of the CB pathway

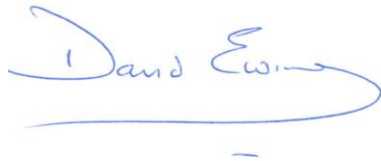
The RFU's Player Development Sub-Committee (PDSC) is tasked with overseeing, managing and minimising these and other issues. In addition, its Terms of Reference ask it to make recommendations that will lead to the establishment of single integrated pathways in the male and female age grade game.

Therefore, PDSC is establishing a task group to consult with key stakeholders, including players, parents and coaches on current practice and delivery models within the Age Grade Pathway. The task group will consist of the following individuals:

- Martin MacTaggart – Player Pathway Manager
- Nigel Gooding – Divisional Player Development Chair
- Bob Lawless – Regional Player Pathway Group Chair
- Chris Capps Jenner – CB Representative
- Hugo Corbett – Schools Representative
- Peter Fletcher – Clubs Representative
- Chris Chapman – Development Lead Officer (Talent & Performance Coaching), UK Coaching
- Dave Roberts – Council Representative
- Chim Gale – Academy Manager, Worcester Warriors

These views, along with an independent audit of current practice, will help inform the ongoing debate about what are the best and most appropriate pathways for young developing players. The consultation will take place between December and April.

Kind regards



David Ewing
Chair of Player Development Sub-Committee