

## Message regarding Sevens Events to Rugby Staff in HMC Schools



Following recent conversations regarding Sevens activity in schools, we wanted to provide clarity around the regulation requirements. This is being sent to all rugby staff key contacts in HMC schools that are held on the RFU/ERFSU database, as per all regular communications and newsletters. We have also liaised with HMC colleagues in providing this information.

SCHOOLS

### Approval

*Under Regulation 15.9 all events at all ages need to comply with the age grade regulations, be in line with the Age Grade Playing Calendar, played to the correct competitive format and approved in advance. This is for events including 4 schools or more. Approval lines are as per this extract from the table in 15.9:*

| ACTIVITY   | ORGANISED BY | APPROVED BY |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| In Season & Out of Season Competitions<br>Locally organised Festivals, Tournaments and Competitions  | Clubs        | CB          |
|  | Schools      | CSU         |
|  | Colleges     | ECRFU       |
| National Festivals, Competitions and Camps<br>If participating teams are from more than just neighbouring CBs and there are more than six entrants | Clubs        | CB          |
|  | Schools      | ERFSU       |
|  | Colleges     | ECRFU       |

### Playing Calendar

*This season there are seven weeks post-Christmas available for schools/colleges competitions, tournaments and festivals at U12-16 (Year 7 to 11). Week commencing:*

*14, 21, 28 January 2019*

*4, 11, 18, 25 March 2019*

*At U17/18 there are no defined competition playing windows/weeks but a significant amount of national/regional/county competitive activity and rep rugby to be careful not to clash with throughout the season.*

*The calendar, which is released in the first week of November in advance of each season start the following September, is designed to balance club and education based competitions and rep rugby across the season. Defined competition weeks are exclusive for competitions in either school/college or club depending on the window. It does not apply to standard fixtures or triangulars, which may be played throughout the season. But it identifies where a player playing in multiple environments will have potential competition pinch points so that clubs, schools, colleges and rep rugby can work together to ensure that player gets to play in all the settings they want to in equal measure. Unfortunately, we have to regulate in this way due to instances where people don't prioritise the player's motivation and welfare.*

It has become clear in recent weeks that a number of schools are unaware or misunderstanding or simply ignoring the Age Grade Regulations. If organisations do operate in conflict with them, it is the RFU and ERFSU's duty to investigate and possibly move to sanctions.

In relation to insurance, **any potential liability that the school and teachers may be exposed to, would be a matter for the school's liability insurance** as the RFU's liability insurance does not apply to schools. Schools should therefore check with the school's insurers on the point of whether deliberate non-compliance with the NGB regulations would affect their liability.

We are committed to continuing our work with HMC schools into next season, in finding solutions to the current challenges and driving a joint approach across Age Grade Rugby.