



RFU

RUGBY CONTINUUM

29TH JANUARY 2010

IMPORTANT NOTICE

MINI RUGBY - RUGBY CONTINUUM COMPLIANCE

The following notice sets out the obligations to all Rugby Clubs in relation to the delivery of Mini Rugby and in particular compliance with the Rugby Continuum Regulations pertaining to **Playing Out of Age Grade** and **Very Young Players**.

PLAYING OUT OF AGE GRADE

Continuum Regulation 6 covers Age Grades & Dispensations. During the course of the year the RFU receives numerous applications for Dispensations in accordance with the provisions found in Continuum Regulation 6.2. A number of queries are made relating to the ability to play a player up. As a result of these queries the RFU are issuing the following statement to the Game:

There are no provisions in the regulations for a player to play up into a higher age grade nor is there provision for anyone to be empowered to grant such a dispensation.

Note: A player's Age Grade is determined at Midnight on 31st August at the beginning of each Season.

VERY YOUNG PLAYERS

Following an increase in the number children younger than 6 years old attracted to rugby the RFU has guidance on how to appropriately provide for these very young children. This guidance can be found online at www.rfu.com/regulations

It should clearly be noted however that these young children do not form a team and are not considered to be rugby players but are a group of very young children who will be involved in Under 6 "activities", not specifically rugby type drills or games. This group will **NOT** be allowed to play any sort of competitive game, under any circumstances but may move into the U7 age grade on their 6th birthday and be immediately involved in fixtures.

For avoidance of doubt players joining the Under 7 age grade on or after their 6th Birthday during the season in accordance with Continuum Regulation 6.2.3 must remain in the Under 7 age grade for the following season in order to comply with Continuum Regulation 6.1.

SANCTIONS

The Continuum is part of RFU regulations and the sanctions on anyone in the game breaching these Regulations can be significant. No person is empowered to override the Regulations.

RFU Seal of Approval Clubs, in particular, should ensure full compliance of the Regulations to avoid any adverse bearing on maintaining their accredited status.

The Rugby Continuum:

- provides a pathway by age grade for young players to gradually to **acquire the skills** needed to play Rugby Union
- considers all matches to be **an extension of training** to enable players to test the skills they have acquired in a game situation
- is written to provide a safe **nationwide process** for clubs and schools across the country where there are considerable variations in facilities provision and the number of players
- promotes the Core Values: Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship.