

Minutes of Wiltshire Youth Forum Meeting – 18th September – Devizes RFC

Present:

Chris Jones – Chairman

Julian Phelps – Westbury

Clive Robins – Marlborough

Alex Brooks – Chippenham

Greg Ayliffe – Chippenham

Neil Bridgman – Corsham

Dee Walters – Supermarine

Richard Bourne – U16 County

Will Owen – Devizes

Steve Allen – Salisbury

Nick Elbourne – Wimborne & D&W Young Player Committee

Pete McAllister – Minety

Steven Barber – RFU

Derek Tucker – Trowbridge

Justin Cliff – Royal Wootton Bassett RFC & Secretary

Apologies: Dave Wookey – CB Youth Admin/Competition Organiser

Chairman

Chris Jones moving into new role Rugby Dev for D& W – Julian Phelps from Westbury is to take over as chair

Age Grade Regulations

U6 – Information from Alys Lewis RFU

Clubs are permitted to have U5s age grade (and in fact many clubs run younger age grades too) and U5s are also not prohibited from playing with U6s. The key point with these younger age grades at U6s and below is that they are only permitted to do training and are not permitted to play contact rugby nor compete in any competitions, matches, tournaments or festivals.

Note: Whereas before players could participate in matches and festivals as they reached their 6th Birthday, now they have to wait until they become U7 age grade

More information relating to Summer Camps, U17 Ladies being brought into line with Colts Rugby can be found at www.englandrugby.com/agegraderugby

Latest Codes of Practice can be found at

http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/MyRugby/Players/01/32/61/25/SeptemberCodeofPracticeFINALVERSION_Neutral.pdf

General Data Protection Regulations & GMS

The RFU are set to make a statement shortly relating to GMS how it is covered by the incoming General Data Protection Regulations however it is viewed that it is compliant. This will also cover the RFU position in relation to holding data external to GMS

In the meanwhile administrators with specific questions can contact the legal helpline, contact details can be found at www.englishrugby.com/governance/legal-and-general/

Competition

Graham Leveridge running U14

Neil Bridgman running U12/13 competitions - 10 clubs inc Calne/Minety participating in a waterfall competition

U14 – half game pilot – all squad get half a game – RFU to provide clubs / parents with Collateral – Trial being run in 2 CBs All feedback required to be sent by clubs/Parents

Discussion regarding number of DPP players in competitions from U14 upwards – all players on GMS to get game time recommendation as opposed to restricting number of DPP players – **Nick Elbourne to take forward to Dorset Forum** Competition organiser (David Wookey) to consider removing this rule if both forums and YPDC agree

U15/16 Waterfall Competitions initially

Steve Barbour – RFU Course Update

CPD – Injury Prevention Activate – Study in schools – 71% reduction in injuries and 53% in concussion – U15 and above – Activate 2 hr course – free CPD contact your CCC for further details

Age Grade CPD's are also available

Rugby Aware – free CPD information session for volunteers / coaches/ parents including Headcase AG regulations

Any other CPD's required by clubs then ask Frank or Stephen – all CPS are shown on the D&W website – minimum 10 attendees – 6 weeks' notice required

Headcase – info relating to managing Concussion info available on website – suggestion for this to be flagged against GMS - discussion highlighted difficulties if schools and clubs are not in communication – other suggestions are for email to be sent to D&W (persons unknown) – **Chris Jones to take forward – This will be the Rugby Safe representative – Joy Pentney, and the CB Medical Lead – Hollie Bailey**

Head Injury Assessments& Concussion

Please note ALL Clubs – please relate this to all club coaches and team managers – This is from the Referee Society.

RFU Match Official Development Manager asked all Referee societies to draw match officials attention to RFU Regulation 9 - **Head Injuries and Concussion**, we have already had a number of reported occasions this season with society referees asking that a player undergoes a HIA during game time. To re-iterate (as detailed below) **there is no HIA at these levels of the game.**

Regulation 9

9.4 In specified adult competitions, participants who sustain a head injury or impact but show no signs or symptoms of concussion may be temporarily replaced for medical assessment and may only

return to field of play if assessed and permitted in accordance with the protocols that apply to those competitions which are as follows:

a. Premiership and A League Matches: the protocol set out in the Premiership and A League Regulations.

b. Championship Matches: the protocol set out in the Championship Regulations.

9.5 In respect of all other adult and age grade matches or training sessions, participants and all those involved (including coaches, players, parents and club officials) should refer to the RFU Headcase guidance set out in www.englandrugby.com/headcase/ for guidance on prevention, recognition, management and returning to play. All (players, coaches, parents, match officials and club officials) should familiarise themselves with this RFU Headcase guidance.

9.6 Any individual who exhibits any of the signs or symptoms of concussion should be immediately and permanently removed safely from the field of play, should not return to play that day, and it is recommended that they are referred to a medical or healthcare professional for assessment and advice.

Richard Bourne – County

D & W CB Rugby is U15 upward the Bath academy run the DPP from U13 to U16

(<https://www.bathrugby.com/the-club/the-team/our-academy/developing-player-programme-u13-u16/>)

County Coaches are getting involved in Bath DPP programme

County Rugby really starts at U15 – trials at 29th Sept Bryanston – 120 U16 players involved – 30 players will be selected – if clubs have players who have been missed previously (looking to play 2 best squads) – email Richard Bourne for U16 age group if you have players for consideration

All County contacts are on the D&W Website

County relationship with Bath DPP is good

County are keen to ensure that exit strategy from Bath Academy is clear and supportive of players

Aspiration pathway is to have 2 squads from U15 upwards including U17

Nick Elbourne advised U14/15 DPP have switched training night to Weds – reasoning was that DPP and PDG was occurring on same night – and coach numbers were restricted – Weds night was the suitably qualified only night that quality of coaches were available

Discussion on Player Numbers 15 plus

A number of clubs at a variety of levels are having difficulty in fielding teams – Trowbridge have a high percentage of state players – some clubs are being penalised by number of public schools

Teams such as Salisbury/Chippenham are victims of DPP Success

Teams such as Melksham/Corsham where joint teams were agreed have failed

Numbers of players across age groups appear to be flat – anecdotally losing players to other sports

Supermarine have run schools tag festival to raise numbers – clubs need to involve themselves into schools

Stephen Barbour will approach Alan Low to see if we can get an overview of All Schools Players Programme as clubs are supportive

Clubs such as Chippenham and Devizes are encountering difficulties when Schools appear to not be able to release players for Community Club matches even on designated Club Weekends and it was agreed that advice should be sort as to how this matter can be addressed as it appears that this not only impacts the clubs involved but also on the other clubs seeking fixtures

Numbers at Colts level are now at a level where some clubs with sufficient numbers for 2 squads have decided not to enter Merit Table competitions as too many fixtures were cancelled last year through general player availability in the county being low/erratic

At mini level an approach that supports smaller clubs is required – this is coupled with a growing realisation that with large clubs in the county having enough numbers for 3 or 4 sides in an age group this can be problematic with clubs travelling long distances and in some instances spending time on what may appear to be an away training fixture

ALL CLUBS ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE SURE THAT GMS IS UPDATED AND MAINTAINED ON AN ONGOING BASIS SO THAT PLAYER NUMBERS ARE REFLECTIVE OF THE NUMBERS ACTUALLY PLAYING

AOB

Julian Phelps New Chair advised

Bath Foundation will be attending next meeting – looking at 16/17 years old supporting children with social or disabilities playing mixed ability rugby

Dee Walters Supermarine asked about assessing players who attend clubs who may have ‘difficulties’ – If clubs have any queries please email RFU RugbySafe or D&W Rugby Safe rep – Joy Pentney

Alex Brooks Chippenham – question about blades (U14 level) – concern over safety of blades – incident to reported to RFU & DW RugbySafe/Medical team

Neil Bridgman Corsham – may not have a safeguarding officer – ***Neil to contact to Dave Harris to discuss***

Derek Turner Trowbridge – Guidance on Reg 15 – these are now on RFU website

<http://www.englishrugby.com/governance/regulations/>

Safeguarding Contacts – RFU were going to post Volunteer Forms/Guidance on the website – **Stephen Barber to follow up with Alan Low** – Julian to forward Westbury’s example (see below)

Volunteer Recruitment & Development Policy – See attach example from Westbury RFC provided by Julian Phelps

Information provided since Forum Meeting

Ball Size

Dave Wookey has advised – there is a new regulation for U15 and upwards – with U15 now playing with Size 5

http://www.englishrugby.com/mm/Document/General/General/01/31/99/86/RFURegulation15Appendix92016-2017_English.pdf