



## CB Guide

This document is to support CBs in the application of regulation 15.5 “Playing with Adults”. This is best read in conjunction with the Playing Adult Rugby Club guide and alongside Regulation 15.

### What do we need to do as a CB?

The following advisory checklist will help a CB with the processes for approval of 17 year olds playing adult rugby:

1. Ensure that all clubs are aware of the process and signpost to the relevant Playing Adult Rugby – Club and Player Approval forms and processes.
2. Have a nominated group who are able to manage this process? This group should contain members who:
  - Have an understanding of the clubs within the CB and are able to determine their suitability to allow a 17 year old to play adult rugby.
  - Have background in working with 17 / 18 year old players as coach / manager and have an understanding of the development of Age Grade players.
3. The CB, or the nominated group, should consider and nominate a named individual who will provide final sign off.
4. Best practice is for this group to work remotely and consider applications within 5 working days of submission – having a general email address will also be a helpful option for a CB.
5. Ensure that clubs have submitted Club Approval forms before being able to follow the Player Approval process. Club Approval must be in place for each season. It is advisable for a club to submit a form either before or at the beginning of the season if they think they will have 17 year olds wishing to play adult rugby that season.
6. Ensure clubs submit the Player Approval form to the CB. If the CB needs more information or even a “second opinion” on a player’s suitability to play Adult Rugby, they may choose to ask a coach (appointed by the CB) to make a further assessment of the player.
7. Provide confirmation of receipt of Club and Player Approval forms so clubs know their application is under consideration.
8. Forms should be stored online and be password protected.
9. Monitor progress – e.g. if there is a concern with a club following approval then approval may be withdrawn. A link with the CB safeguarding and discipline teams will be important in monitoring clubs.



## What should be we be checking for in the forms?

Club Approval form – CBs should look out for the following:

Question		CB guidance
Has the club appointed a Safeguarding Officer and are their details available on your website?	Yes/No	<i>Even where there are no age grade teams, there is a requirement that clubs who have children playing up into the adult game appoint a CSO. Approved clubs should have a CSO. Signpost clubs to website and to other clubs for practical advice on how to appoint CSO.</i>
When did the Safeguarding Officer complete the RFU In Touch course? If not yet completed, give date and location of the course applied for		<i>Approved clubs should have a CSO who has completed or demonstrates they are booked on an In Touch course in the next 6 months.</i>
Has the club adopted the RFU Safeguarding Policy and is it visible on your website?	Yes/No	<i>Approved clubs should be answering yes – can be found online.</i>
Has the club completed the RFU Safeguarding Audit on GMS this season?	Yes/No	<i>Approved clubs should be answering yes – can be found on GMS</i>
Have those in a position of trust in the adult teams, such as Coaches, Captains, Team Managers, 1 <sup>st</sup> Aiders undergone a DBS check through the RFU Safeguarding Department?	Yes/No	<i>This only needs to be adults in position of responsibility and trust who will reasonably be expected to have regular contact with player – not every adult player. Approved clubs should have evidence that all key people have up-to-date DBS checks</i>
Will the young person have the opportunity to shower and change separately if they wish?	Yes/No	<i>Approved clubs should be answering yes, or can detail how they will ensure separate provision.</i>
Can you confirm that the referee and opposition will be informed that there is an under 18 year old in the side?	Yes/No	<i>Approved clubs should be answering yes. Refer to club FAQ if they ask for rationale of this.</i>
Is your Club Accreditation up to date?	Yes/No	<i>CBs should expect that the club are engaged in their development with RFU / CB. Approved clubs should be answering yes. Conditional approval if it is a work-in-progress.</i>
Do you commit to following the guidance issued by the RFU in relation to 17 year olds playing up into the adult game?	Yes/No	<i>Approved clubs should be answering yes.</i>
Are there any disciplinary matters that give you cause for concern with this club?	Yes/No	<i>CBs should consider if these relate to on or off-pitch practices of adults in the club that would negatively affect the physical and emotional welfare of children – e.g. foul play, spectator behaviour, club licensing. For approved clubs CBs should be answering no.</i>



Does your CB Safeguarding Manager have any safeguarding concerns in relation to this club?	Yes/No	<i>CBSMs should consider if there are concerns relating to individuals who will be in contact with the player, or a wider issue relating to the safeguarding practices of a club. For approved clubs CBs should be answering no.</i>
Do you require any further evidence or advice from the RDO?	Yes/No	<i>Advice can be sought if required on any issues relating to the above based on RDO knowledge.</i>
<b>Is consent given for this club to play 17 years olds in adult rugby?</b> Note: Completion of the Playing Adult Rugby – Player Approval form and process is also required for each individual player	Yes/No	<i>Best practice is to provide a written approval. If a club application is rejected, best practice is to provide feedback as to why, with steps on how to address these concerns.</i>

**Player Approval form:**

This form should provide the CB with confidence that a thorough assessment has been carried out with thought going into the application. This should be coupled with knowledge of the club and a determination made if an application is based on the genuine development of a player.

The form should be used to build a picture of the player, their ability, development, confidence and competence. For example, a player who has extensive playing experience, playing at CB and with similar physical characteristics may be deemed suitable to play adult rugby.

Player Full Name:	<i>This information will enable the CB to be able to check details on GMS if required.</i>
RFU ID Number:	
Club:	<i>Cross check that the club have completed the Club Approval form and this has been approved before approving the individual player.</i>
School/College:	<i>The school or college and their playing programme may provide a guide onto the ability and experience of a player.</i>



<b>Date of Birth:</b>	<b>Current Age Band:</b>	<i>The 17 year old player could be an U18 or U17 player. This information enables the CB to check that player is currently 17 and how long until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday when approval runs until</i>
<b>Age Grade Playing Position(s):</b>	<i>A CB should be comfortable that a player has the confidence and competence to play a specific position. For example, an Age Grade player playing at centre may not have the skill set / experience to play 2<sup>nd</sup> row. An Age Grade centre may have the ability to play on the wing.</i>	
<b>Potential Adult Playing Position(s):</b> <i>Note: Players aged 17 years old are not permitted to play or train in adult rugby in the front row.</i>	<i>Approval cannot be granted if they plan to play in the front row (as per Regulation). If a club doesn't have an age grade section then their most recent / school position should be listed.</i>	
<b>Number of years the player has played rugby:</b>	<i>This will help to determine experience of a player. It wouldn't normally be expected for novice players to be granted permission to play adult rugby.</i>	
<b>Representative rugby the player has played since 15 years old (include DPP, Academy &amp; Centre of Excellence):</b>	<i>This is to help determine the ability of a player – however a DPP or CB player alone does not mean approval should be granted, nor should approval not be granted if a player hasn't played rep rugby. Consider what level and how recently a player has played rep rugby.</i>	
<b>Adult team(s) the player is likely to play for:</b>	<i>Consider:            How many teams the club has and what level they play in.            What coaching support the club has (e.g. does the 3<sup>rd</sup> team have a structure to support 17 year olds)            Whether the player has ability to play 1<sup>st</sup> team rugby in a league match.            If this is a "social team" and if so, is this a suitable environment for the player.</i>	
<b>Will the player also continue to play Age Grade Rugby?</b>	<i>If yes, there is evidence this will help their transition to the adult game with their peers. However, how will the club try to balance their playing/training time? Are they going to be overplaying by playing twice in a weekend?</i>	
<b>Reason for the player to play out of their Age Grade:</b>	<i>The explanation should focus on benefits to the player. This could include that they are physically/emotionally and skilfully more advanced than their peers; that they are not being challenged but that they will be in adult rugby; that it is unsafe for them to continue to play with the age group. In general, these players are more the exception rather than the rule. Clubs should not be solely applying based on a club/team being short on numbers; it must also be of benefit to the young player's development and retention in rugby.</i>	
<b>Requested start date for playing Adult Rugby</b> <i>Note: Approval is for up to 12 months, until the player 18 years of age.</i>	<i>Ensure that the player is 17 at this point. This also demonstrates that a club has a planned approach to support a young player. Approval cannot be retrospective.</i>	



<p><b>Player Assessment:</b>  <i>To include findings and how each element was measured. The Age Grade Codes of Practice provides guidance on supporting evidence and how it might be measured.</i></p> <p><i>CBs should look for clear evidence and fact in these sections. More than anything, the CB is looking for a good and robust assessment process taking place, backed by a UKCC Level 2 coach. They should be able to trust the club to have done the detail with their direct knowledge of the player. Approved players should all have a “Yes” in each of the boxes.</i></p> <p><i>The CB will usually not know the individual player; this is not a requirement as it is the club that is performing the player assessment. However, if the CB believes that the assessment is less than satisfactory from a welfare and safeguarding point of view, they should not approve the player to play adult rugby. If the CB needs more information or even a “second opinion” on a player’s suitability to play Adult Rugby, they may choose to ask a coach (appointed by the CB) to make a further assessment of the player. This should always be through the club contacts.</i></p>		<p><b>Suitable for Adult Rugby?</b></p>
<p><b>Skill level and ability</b></p>	<p><i>A player should usually be one of the top performers in their age group – not just in their playing position. A coach should have observed them in training and match situations and be comfortable in their ability to manage the contact situation in particular.</i></p> <p><i>Their playing experience at CB/DPP or school team may help to make a decision here.</i></p> <p><i>Does their ability match with the playing level of the adult team they are potentially going into?</i></p>	<p>Yes/No</p>
<p><b>Physical development for their age</b></p>	<p><i>Club should detail their weight, height and how this compares to others in the similar positions in the team. If the club/school/college have other measurements taken during PE (e.g. grip strength) this should be included. This should compare to a player of a similar position in the adult team. For example a 60kg, 5’10” player applying to play second row would not normally be appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>CBs should be confident this player will be physically safe to play in the adult team requested.</i></p>	<p>Yes/No</p>
<p><b>Social &amp; emotional development for their age</b></p>	<p><i>In this section clubs should detail leadership roles in the club or school (captain, young leader, prefect) as well as detailing their current interactions with adults in club. Detail about how they are in school/college may also support this section. Players who demonstrate resilience, emotional intelligence and who will be able to cope with adult setting may be more appropriate. Remember, players want to play with their friends – what is the impact of removing them from a friendship group in the club?</i></p>	<p>Yes/No</p>
<p><b>Additional comments &amp; considerations</b></p>	<p><i>This will be further opportunity to evidence a player’s confidence and competence to play adult rugby and the suitability for them to do so.</i></p>	



**Coach Endorsement** (This assessment must be endorsed by a coach of at least UKCC Level 2):

Coach Name:		Signature:		<i>This is further demonstration of the club taking the assessment seriously and someone with a technical knowledge and credibility endorsing it. CBs should look for current coaching award and might want to check on GMS. For example, is there evidence of current, active CPD or further qualification?</i>
RFU ID Number:		Date:		

**Declaration:**

We certify that all the information on this form is correct and if approved, agree to play the above player in Adult Rugby in accordance with RFU Regulation 15 (Age Grade Rugby).

Proposed by:		Signature:		<i>Should be a position of responsibility within the club (e.g. Age Grade Chair, Honorary Secretary, Head Coach).</i>
E-mail:		Club Role:		
Parent or Guardian:		Signature:		<i>This needs to be signed to ensure those with parental responsibility are shown to be involved and aware of the potential for a child to play in adult rugby.</i>
E-mail:		Date:		

Please send the completed form to your appointed CB official for Playing Adult Rugby Approval or CB Hon. Secretary for review and approval.

**CB Player Approval:**

Does the CB approve the club's assessment process and findings to allow the player to play adult rugby?

*Approval is for up to 12 months, until the player 18 years of age*

Yes	No	Date:		<i>CB to return the form with this decision to the club. It is best practice to keep a secure record of this – online and password protected is advisable in light of the personal nature of some of the detail included.</i>
Approver:		CB Role:		