



The England Rugby Developing Player Pathway in Hampshire

22/05/17

Dear England Rugby Developing Player Pathway Stakeholder,

Following the recent England Rugby Developing Player Pathway (ERDPP) review several changes have been made and a new framework for delivery has been defined. Following this review it is deemed that some clarification on the DPP and its outcomes is needed to avoid confusion amongst the various stakeholders and programmes currently being delivered.

The ERDPP has a focus on the attainment of skills, game understanding (principles of play) and athleticism. It is not part of the CB's competitive playing programme, however boys engaged within the DPP may represent the county if selected to do so. It is essential that DPP and CB representative rugby are a nationally defined single system rather than a series of different and competing programmes to ensure that player welfare and development are at the centre and the ultimate outcome of life-long participation in the game is achieved.

Delivered by London Irish and the RFU in conjunction with Hampshire RFU the ERDPP engages players from Under 13 through to Under 16 years old and is a development programme that interacts with and complements school, club and CB playing programmes, providing further development opportunity without the conflict of competition. It is not instead of, but alongside of and should support players in all appropriate programmes and their normal place of participation.

At U13 the entry point to the programme is via assessment during February half term 2018. This portion of the year has been chosen to meet outcomes of the most recent Talent Development Symposium and with the intention of putting the player at the centre of the process. Assessments for U14/U15 have recently or are about to take place. Assessment and subsequent invitation to attend the DPP sessions at Applemore College are the **sole entry point** into the ERDPP within Hampshire.

Most players will remain within the programme until "graduation" at the end of U16's. However assessments will be held for each age group, each year to ensure that players who have not been involved previously but have subsequently developed are afforded the opportunity to be engaged within the DPP.

London Irish currently host one ERDPP centre within Hampshire based at Applemore College. The ERDPP is **not linked to** the Hampshire Elite Player Training Sessions (HEPT) delivered by HRFU .HEPT is not used as a vehicle for assessment into the ERDPP and there is no requirement for DPP plyers to attend HEPT. There is no cost to the players invited into the DPP

The DPP framework has been circulated via the CB. There is also a FAQ document circulated with this letter which should answer any further questions you may have.

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