

HAMPSHIRE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

Regulation, Advice and Guidance Note 32

Sponsor Club Hampshire Committee

Approved 1 November 2012

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THE HAMPSHIRE WAY THE DEVELOPMENT OF PLAYERS AND THE SELECTION OF CLUB HAMPSHIRE SQUADS

- 3201 **THE HAMPSHIRE WAY** is not only about winning.
- 3202 It is about developing Rugby players selected for the County teams to become the best rugby players that they can be. This involves playing with and against better players and being exposed to better coaching.
- 3203 As youngsters move up through the Age Grade structure (from U15 upwards) of the County teams we aim to provide a qualitative improvement in the coaching they experience, the rugby they play and the demands made upon them.
- 3204 Raising the expectations of players requires raising the expectations, knowledge and experience of coaches, and thus coach development is an integral part of the programme.
- 3205 No player has an automatic rite of passage into the next Age Grade squad. Each season the initial Age Grade assessment day will include those of the previous season's lower age County Squad to see if they are still of the required standard and commitment. Club and School Coaches are always welcome to attend County training sessions to observe the standards expected of County players.
- 3206 Care must be taken therefore by Club and School Coaches when choosing these Year 10 athletes to ensure that none, nor their parents, are given false hopes. Coaches are expected to take personal responsibility for nominating only those whom they consider to be exceptionally promising.
- 3207 Our experience has shown that young players develop best when they are regularly monitored on the County programme delivered by specialist coaches. There is a particular focus on identifying talent on developing potential at age 16 - 18. Representative matches at U18 Age Grade is part of an on-going talent identification process.
- 3208 Neither fear nor favour will be shown in the selection of players for our Club Hampshire squads. Selection will always be based on RFU best practice (<https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/coaching>). Honesty, integrity and transparency is the rule. It is therefore incumbent upon individual players themselves to honour their commitment to Club Hampshire and The Hampshire Way. If a player confirms his/her wish to be selected to play for the County then he/she is to be encouraged to place this commitment above that to his/her club or school.
- 3209 To avoid undue pressure being placed upon young players the Club Hampshire programme will conform to the RFU Youth Structured Season and will avoid the planning of matches outside the weekends allocated to Constituent Body arranged competitions. It will, however, plan some player development and training sessions mid-week but these are programmed so as not to disrupt club / school competition matches. Care will also be taken in arranging Under 20 and Senior County Squads training sessions and warm-up fixtures to avoid the dates set for the RFU Club Championship in the RFU Structured Season and the dates of the Hampshire Knockout Competition.
- 3210 In an attempt to reduce the risk of overplaying, a player will not normally start a match for Club Hampshire if he has already played a competitive match within the preceding 24 hours and in any event will be required to comply with the maximum playing time specified in RFU Regulation 15.14.
- 3211 Club Hampshire provides qualified physiotherapist support at all fixtures, Players selected for the Club Hampshire Age Grade Squads are encouraged to join the Hampshire Rugby Injury Scheme details of which will be provided each season. This Scheme provides fast-track sports injury treatment and physiotherapy at a reasonable cost to the individual. Financial assistance may be provided to some players in exceptional and confidential circumstances.