

# Hampshire RFU – Mid Season 2026 Newsletter

We hope you had a restful festive period and are ready for another exciting year of rugby across Hampshire. This update highlights key opportunities, upcoming dates, and essential reminders to support your role in running our clubs and delivering the game.

We've lined up essential reminders and links so you can take action right now - everything you need can be found at

[www.hampshirerfu.com](http://www.hampshirerfu.com)



**HAMPSHIRE RFU**

# Contents

This newsletter covers various important updates and information for Hampshire RFU clubs. Use the sections below to navigate to the topics most relevant to you, or read through it all for a comprehensive overview.

## **Hampshire RFU Updates**

A link to Hampshire RFU's new strategy for 2025-2028, new kit supplier and a request for GMS feedback.

(All)

## **Youth Rugby**

Updates on festivals, schools rugby, Regulation 15 review, girls rugby events and the new Rugby Ambassador pilot.

(Youth Chairs, Age Grade)

## **Adult Rugby**

Information on senior fixtures, competitions including an update on Counties 5/6 leagues, announcement of our new Representative Rugby Lead.

(Chairs, DoR's, Hon Secs)

## **Compliance**

Useful links for approvals and reporting to ensure club compliance.

(CSO's, RSL's, First Aiders, Hon Secs)

## **Finance**

A reminder about club accounts submission and offer of support to clubs.

(Chairs, Treasures)

## **People**

Volunteer recognition, including RFU Switch Award nominations, our new Coaching Lead and new opportunities at Hampshire RFU.

(CCC's, Volunteer Leads, Chairs)

## **Club Investment**

New Facilities Lead, supporting club investment readiness and Revenue Generation support.

(Chairs, Hon Secs)

## **Refereeing**

Information on referee development - Ready2Ref.

(Ref coordinator, CCC's)

## **Share Your Club News & Vacancies**

An opportunity to publicise your club's achievements, events, and open positions.

(Chairs, Hon Secs)

## **Looking Ahead**

A preview of upcoming events, fixtures and key dates.

(All)

## **Socials**

Follow us and keep in touch!

(All)

# New Hampshire RFU strategy

In case you missed it, Hampshire RFU are proud to have launched their 2025-2028 strategy!

 Hampshire RFU



## Strategy 2025-2028

Hampshire RFU is the proud home of rugby across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, and the Channel Islands.

## New Kit Supplier

Don't forget that Hampshire RFU has a brilliant new kit supplier, Kitworld, supplying Mako on and off field kit - get yours now!



 Kitworld Ltd : Bespoke Kit and Sportswear



Product categories Hampshire RFU

## GMS Feedback

In our role to advocate and champion your needs as volunteers and clubs, we are seeking feedback on GMS, specifically suggestions on improvements that will better enable you to perform your role as a volunteer in delivering the game.

Please send any suggestions to [admin@hampshirerfu.com](mailto:admin@hampshirerfu.com)

# Youth Rugby

## Festivals & Competitions

Hampshire RFU Mini Festival dates and **sign up** is now live!

U7/U8/U9: March 22nd at Trojans FC - [click here to register](#)

U10: March 22nd at Aldershot and Fleet RFC - [click here to register](#)

U11: March 22nd at Alton RFC - [click here to register](#)

U12: March 15 at Havant RFC - [click here to register](#)

Don't forget that **other club festivals and events** can be found here - [See Events & Festivals](#)

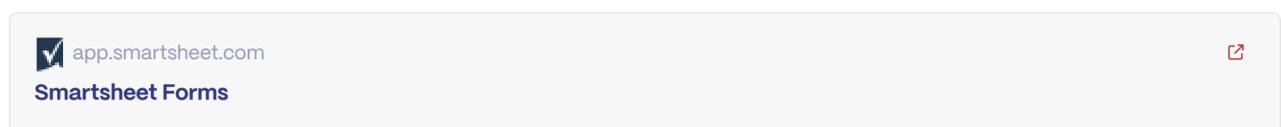
## Schools Rugby

Catch up on the latest School Rugby Managers (SRM) news and round-up: [Read the SRM Christmas 2025 Update](#)

We are pleased to announce that Hampshire has been allocated a further **NEW SRM** to build on this fantastic work. We are currently in discussion with the RFU over the details, including location, with deployment in **September 2026**.

## Regulation 15 Review

In 2025/26, the age grade regulations are being reviewed along with guidance to the age grade game. The RFU are keen to hear from everyone involved in helping our young players to enjoy the game.



## Mini Rugby 'Triangular' Sessions

Following a successful pilot by Trojans FC, and with the support and approval of both Hampshire RFU and the RFU, **'Triangular' sessions** are now available for clubs to use within their mini rugby programmes.

These sessions bring together **three clubs or squads** for a morning or afternoon of rugby, starting with **Activate warm-ups**, followed by a **round-robin of short games and skill zones**.

This model offers greater **flexibility** and **variety** than traditional shared sessions, while staying fully within **RFU age-grade regulations** for playing time. It also helps **coaches and team managers** from different clubs build positive relationships, improving the quality and consistency of children's playing experiences — now and in the future.

For more information, please contact:

**Laura Self, Director of Youth Rugby**  
[youth-rugby@hampshirerfu.com](mailto:youth-rugby@hampshirerfu.com)

## Girls Love Rugby Event

Delivered in partnership with the RFU and our U16 Girls PDG coaches and players, this event looks to further inspire girls to play rugby!

[Sign up here](#)

**LOVE RUGBY SERIES**

A nationwide series of **girls-only** festivals, joining up girls aged new to rugby with those already playing for a fun, friendly and positive experience

**Key Information**

- Girls in U9-U11s (Year 4-6)
- All abilities welcome
- Contact and no-contact rugby options
- Coaching workshops and game play

**Basingstoke RFC**  
Pack Ln, Basingstoke RG22 5HH  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 100-1230**

**Sign up as a club group or as an individual.**

**Want to join in?**

1. Find an event you are interested in
2. Sign up using the link below
3. Keep an eye out for upcoming events on [findrugby.com](http://findrugby.com)

Supported by **Hampshire** Rugby Football Union

[Sign-up to your local event here !](#)

## Rugby Ambassadors

Hampshire RFU are looking to work with up to 6 clubs to pilot a new programme of **Youth Rugby Ambassadors** - tapping into the ideas and energy of our youth players / officials to help improve the playing experience (one of our key missions!).

Launching this spring — contact Sarah Jane Brown - Deputy Director, Youth Rugby for more info - [youth-rugby-development@hampshirerfu.com](mailto:youth-rugby-development@hampshirerfu.com)

## Representative Rugby

A massive congratulations to the **4 Hampshire U18 Boys** who were selected to attend the London South East Divisional assessments following their performances during the recent campaign!

# Adult Rugby

## Adult Male Competitions Update



As part of our ongoing review process, the Competitions Committee has assessed the Merit League and Hampshire Premiership. Based on club feedback, we've implemented an amended competition structure to better support sustainable, enjoyable rugby and maximise weekly participation.

Recent feedback and match data highlighted growing imbalances — with some clubs strengthening while others faced player shortages. This led to player loans, uncontested scrums, cancellations, and mismatched fixtures that discouraged participation.

To address this, and with limited time before the season resumed, we consulted a range of club representatives who supported reorganisation. While we couldn't speak to every club directly, we believe this new structure best serves the majority and keeps players engaged.

### New Structure Summary:

- **Counties 5 (Level 11):** 10-team league, nine games (home or away).
- **Counties 6 (Level 12):** Split into **North (8 teams)** and **South (7 teams)**, using the same league dates.

### Fixtures:

- [Counties 5](#)
- [Counties 6 North](#)
- [Counties 6 South](#)

Fixtures have been updated on *Who's the Ref*, with referees assigned in consultation with the Hampshire Referees Society.

### Promotion & Relegation:

- 2 teams promoted from Counties 5 to Counties 4; 2 relegated.
- 2 teams relegated from Counties 5; 1 promoted from each Counties 6 league.

### Playing Regulations:

- Squads of 23 players at both levels.
- **Counties 5:** contested scrums remain required.
- **Counties 6:** *Game On* rules apply as standard.

We recognise mid-season changes are challenging, but believe this approach supports sustainable, competitive rugby across Hampshire.

For questions, please contact:

- **Chris Budden**, Competitions Committee Chair — [competitions@hampshirerfu.com](mailto:competitions@hampshirerfu.com)
- **Rob Matthews**, Director of Adult Rugby — [adult-rugby@hampshirerfu.com](mailto:adult-rugby@hampshirerfu.com)

## Cups & Competitions

All the latest fixtures, results, and Adult Men's Hampshire Cup draw details are online:

 Hampshire RFU   
**Fixtures & Competitions**  
Hampshire RFU oversees a wide range of adult and youth rugby leagues and competitions, with dedicated organisers ensuring smooth operations at every level.

## Representative Rugby

We are delighted to welcome **Matt Davis** as our **Lead for Representative Rugby**.



After successfully leading Hampshire Women's to a County Championship and being a dedicated Head Coach of Havant Women's Rugby for many years, Matt brings a wealth of experience and energy to the role as Hampshire RFU Representative Rugby Lead.

Charged with overseeing age grade and senior representative rugby, Matt will lead the coaching teams and team managers in ensuring connected, quality and meaningful rugby for our players.

Contact him [here](#).

# Compliance

## Approvals and Reporting

All of our web forms are designed to be quick, simple and help keep you compliant with regulations - a key list for discipline, safeguarding and rugby safe are here:

- [Report a Red Card](#)
- [Get Tour Approval](#)
- [Request Event Approval \(including festivals\)](#)
- [Request Camp Approval](#)
- [Report a Concussion](#)
- [Playing out of age grade](#)

## RugbySafe



The Regulation 9 RugbySafe audit was successfully completed by 38 Hampshire clubs! Alongside the positive feedback on communication, EFA training & recruitment and compliance, several key actions were identified:

- Strengthen pre-match confirmation processes to ensure EFAs are in place for adult fixtures.
- Ensure externally qualified EFAs complete: HEADCASE e-learning, ProActive training, follow Hampshire reporting protocols.
- Improve consistency around formal recording of pitch safety checks.
- Continue to advocate with club committees, players and coaches on the importance of RugbySafe - new players / coaches support letter can be found below!

 Hampshire RFU

### First Aid & Injury Management

Every club must maintain a Medical Emergency Action Plan (MEAP) that includes:



# Finance

Thank you to all those clubs who submitted their accounts by the deadline of 31st December 2025. For those who still need to do so, please use the link below.

 Hampshire RFU



## Financial Compliance

Hampshire RFU as the constituent body, has an obligation under regulation 5 to monitor the financial health of clubs. As such, we require every club to upload its financial statements annually by 30th November using the for...

## Further Support

If your club would like a discussion or support regarding club finance, please contact Hampshire RFU's Director of Finance, Audit and Risk, [Stefan Hargrave](#) to arrange a meeting.

# People

## Volunteering

### Switch RFU Awards

Nominations are now live the Switch RFU Awards.

[Find out more and nominate now](#)

### Hampshire RFU Conker Spirit of Rugby Awards

Don't forget to Celebrate those who live the Spirit of Rugby every month.

 Hampshire RFU



#### Nomination For Conker Spirit of Rugby Award

This is your chance to nominate volunteers for two unique categories.

### Volunteer Lead Opportunity

We're seeking a dynamic individual to lead volunteer engagement in Hampshire. Find out more and apply!

 Hampshire RFU



#### Volunteer Lead – Hampshire RFU

Do you want to make a real difference in the rugby community by supporting the volunteers who keep the game thriving? Hampshire RFU is seeking a Volunteer Lead to champion volunteer engagement, recruitment, and recognitio...

## Coaching

We're delighted to welcome **Andy Stevens** as Hampshire's new **Coaching Lead**.



*Having previously been an active member of the Hampshire RFU Coaching Committee, including a spell as Chair, I'm delighted to have been appointed as Coaching Lead.*

*Hampshire RFU have three clearly defined Missions to grow the game within Hampshire, and I'm looking forward to delivering quality coach development activities to help support these Missions.*

*Through my years coaching, I've always enjoyed any opportunity to improve my coaching craft and ability either as a regular attendee on RFU's coach education courses, or through interacting with and following other providers of coach education. This also includes my duties as a RFU Coach Developer and Mentor and Lead Coach within the Bath Rugby Academy.*

*I look forward to sharing further such opportunities with the County's coaches! [coaching@hampshirefru.com](mailto:coaching@hampshirefru.com)*

### Save the Date!

**Hampshire RFU Conference 2026** – covering Coaching, Safeguarding, Player Welfare, Club Investment and much more!

**Sunday 5th July 2026**, Totton College.

# Club Investment

## New Facilities Lead



**Tommy Gentleman** has joined the Club Investment team as our Facilities Lead. Tommy is set to work with our clubs to identify projects that you need funding for. He will ensure that you are "Investment Ready" and that all your criteria are met for funding from the RFU or other grant institutions. He is working alongside Terry Foreman, our current Facilities Lead, who is stepping down at the end of the season.

## Facilities - Investment Ready

Hampshire RFU, in support of its mission to **increase club investment**, is looking to build out a better database of all the facilities held at your club. This data will be shared with the RFU to identify trends of challenges clubs face, such as replacement bulbs from halogen to LED, to better influence and leverage funding from the RFU.

Keep an eye on our website for more information.

 Hampshire RFU ↗  
**Facilities & Funding**  
We provide guidance to help clubs develop and enhance their facilities.

## Revenue Generation



We are delighted to welcome **Shane Castle** as the Hampshire RFU Revenue Generation Consultant. This pilot national scheme will deliver fantastic results for the yet to be selected 4 pilot clubs.

The goal is to:

- Identify and unlock new income streams tailored to each club.
- Increase facility utilisation through venue hire, events, and community partnerships.
- Improve operational efficiency and reduce costs through contract reviews and best practice.
- Grow sponsorship, advertising, and partnership revenue.

 Hampshire RFU ↗  
**Revenue Generation**  
Our work is collaborative and focused on a small pilot group of 4 clubs. We recognise volunteer time is precious — so recommendations are practic...

## RFU Club Surgery

The RFU are delivering a series of National Club Surgeries, with Hampshire hosting one at **Havant RFC** on **Monday 19th January 2026**. They will deliver two informal presentations back-to-back at different times during the day at 14:30-16:00, or 18:30-20:00.

- Training offer: Find out more about the Ready 2 Ref training course, the new England Rugby Learning due to launch in Summer 2026 and player welfare updates.
- One Club: Reduce costs & Maximise your Supply Chain with 'One Club' Find out how the new 'One Club' partnership with Regency Purchasing Group can support your club operations
- Hampshire RFU will also be attending where you can meet our Revenue Generation Consultant.

[Book here](#)

## Special Club Offer

Legends Lounge - All-inclusive hospitality at Twickenham.

Many clubs have tickets to the Home 6-Nations games at Twickenham and many ask us about hospitality and what options are open, especially for **your sponsors**.

To help provide a good experience but at a much lower cost than Twickenham's Hospitality, we have teamed up with the **Legends Lounge** who are offering hospitality for only **£208.33 pp (£250 inc VAT)**.

- Just 20 metres from Gate F of Twickenham Stadium
- Open 3 hours pre match and 90 mins post-match
- Hog Roast and unlimited beers and wines
- Marquee closed during the game, true rugby fans
- Showing the 'other' game on giant screens round the Marquee
- Charity donation to Lewis Moody's Trust

 LEGENDS SERIES ↗  
**LEGENDS LOUNGE**  
MORE INFORMATION & BOOKING FORM

As an additional incentive to Hampshire Clubs we have secured a **20% discount** on the hospitality tickets until **19th January**.

Use the code **HANTS20%** on the checkout page.

# Refereeing



**ⓘ We have already seen the new Ready2Ref courses, new one day courses to train as a referee, delivered at Trojans FC and Alton RFC, with more ready to go at Eastleigh RFC and Havant RFC soon.**

**Keep an eye out for more Ready2Ref courses this spring (New Milton RFC and the Isle of Wight)**

**👉 [Ready2Ref courses](#)**

 Hampshire RFU

## **Young Match Officials**

Hampshire RFU and HRR are committed to supporting the growth and development of Young Match Officials (YMOs) across our clubs, schools, and representative rugby. Refereeing is a fantastic way for young people to stay involved in...



# Share Your Club News & Vacancies

We want to help you spread the word! Send us your **club news and volunteering/job vacancies** for promotion across our channels.

 Hampshire RFU



## Add News Form

If you have a development, achievement, or initiative that reflects the governance, delivery, or growth of rugby in Hampshire, we encourage...

 Hampshire RFU



## Send Us A Vacancy

**Increase your club's visibility and engagement by sharing your stories with the wider Hampshire rugby community.**



# Looking Ahead

## RFU Clubs Surgery – 19th January

The RFU are delivering a series of National Club Surgeries, with Hampshire hosting one at **Havant RFC** on **Monday 19th January 2026**. Book your place below.

 app.smartsheet.com  
**Smartsheet Forms**



## Clubs Meeting – 4th March

Our spring **Clubs Meeting**, covering topics such as competitions, progress against our strategy, club investment and revenue generation. Book your place below.

 Hampshire RFU  
**Clubs meeting**



## Mini Festivals and Youth Finals – 22nd March

Our Mini Festivals plus Youth Waterfall Cup finals take place on the 22nd March (except U12's...15th March).

 Hampshire RFU  
**Events**



## Youth Forum – 13th April

Our spring Youth Forum will review our competitions delivery, look ahead to next season and update clubs on any regulation changes. Book your place below.

 Hampshire RFU  
**Youth Forum**



## Upcoming County Fixtures

<b>U18 Girls</b>	<b>U20 Men: Jason Leonard Cup</b>	<b>Senior Men: Bill Beaumont Division 3 - Pool 4</b>	<b>Senior Women: Gill Burns Division 1 Pool 2</b>
18/1 - Kent vs Hampshire	15/3 - Kent v Hampshire	16/5 - Sussex v Hampshire	10/5 - Hampshire v Kent
15/2 - Hampshire vs Surrey	19/4 - Hampshire v Surrey	23/5 - Hampshire v Surrey	24/5 - Surrey v Hampshire

 Hampshire RFU  
**Events**



## End of Season – 4th May

Celebration time, rest and then some summer activity.

## Hampshire RFU conference – 5th July

A new, bigger and exciting county conference covering Coaching, Safeguarding, Player Welfare, Club Investment and much more!

## Hampshire RFU Annual General Meeting – 15th July

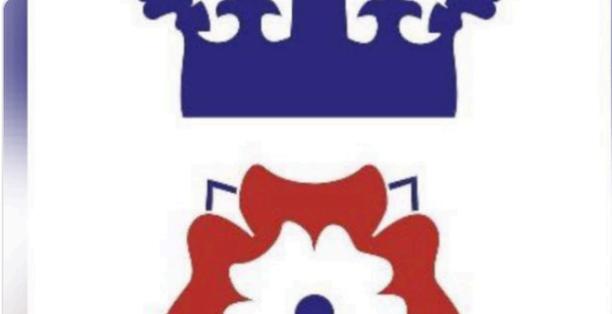
Our Annual General Meeting will see our Annual Report presented, sharing and celebrating our progress against the new strategy and offering clubs input into next season.

 Hampshire RFU  
**Hampshire RFU Annual General Meeting**



# Socials

Join the Hampshire RFU What's App Community



WhatsApp.com ↗  
**Hampshire RFU Community**  
WhatsApp Group Invite

Follow us on Facebook



facebookapp ↗  
**Hampshire Rugby Football Union | Wickham**  
Hampshire Rugby Football Union, Wickham. 2,970 likes · 4 talking about this · 29 were here. Hampshire RFU; supporting our clubs to govern,...

TikTok - it's new....we are learning.....



TikTok ↗  
**HampshireRFU on TikTok**  
@hampshirerfu 5 Followers, 3 Following, 0 Likes – Watch awesome short videos created by HampshireRFU

Instagram - still figuring this out too!



**HAMPSHIRE\_RUGBY\_1883**

LinkedIn



linkedin ↗  
**Hampshire RFU Ltd | LinkedIn**  
Hampshire RFU Ltd | 115 followers on LinkedIn. Dedicated to supporting clubs to govern, deliver and grow the game across Hampshire. [...]