



Durham County Rugby

Newsletter Summer 2021

1 Jun 2021: **LAW CHANGE** **ANNOUNCED FOR AGE GRADE RUGBY**

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) will introduce a law change to the tackle height in age grade rugby in England for the 2021/22 season.

The existing rules for those playing full contact rugby at Under 9 to Under 14 levels has an imagined line between the armpits as the maximum height of a legal tackle.

Under the law change, approved by the RFU Council, this rule now extends to Under 15 to Under 18 levels bringing the tackle height down from shoulder level to the armpit for those age groups.

This means all players who are permitted to tackle in full contact age grade rugby (those participating at Under 7 and Under 8 level play non-contact rugby) will do so at the same height.

The RFU takes player welfare very seriously and it is at the heart of the training delivered to coaches, referees and medics at all levels of the game. The rules in operation ensure maximum possible safety for children, allowing players the time to learn rugby basics before contact is gradually introduced.

While the age grade and professional game cannot be realistically compared, the aim of the law change is to further reduce any community game high risk tackle events by taking two heads out of the same "air space".

There are a number of programmes, courses and resources to support schools, clubs and participants at all levels of the game including the Rugby Safe programme, Don't be a HEADCASE concussion guidance and the Activate injury prevention programme.

Rugby has a role to play in keeping people active, healthy and engaged. It also has other non-physical positive benefits for all ages, including increasing confidence, self-esteem, self-discipline and building character. There are also other rugby options including tag, touch and adapted versions of the contact game such as X-rugby for those players wanting to play variations from the full contact version of the game.

RFU Head of Game Development John Lawn said: "This is an exciting and important piece of work. We started planning for this back in 2019 and it builds on everything done in the age grade game over the last decade putting in place a building block approach to full contact rugby.

"We want to make the game as safe as possible, but without losing the physical element that's popular with players and this law change supports that.

"As a result of the fallow 2020-2021 season due to Covid-19 all age grade players, except for next season's Under 17 and Under 18 age grades, will only have experienced tackling below the line of the armpit. A continuation of the laws they were previously familiar with will support their reintegration back into the game.

"Maintaining a single tackle height also supports the integration of players in the dual or triple age bands in the girls' game."

In addition, the RFU will be implementing and evaluating a waist height tackle law variation and restricting late dipping/leading into contact with the head by the ball carrier in approximately 1,200 games in the Under 16 to Under 18 age grades during 2021/22.

Again, the aim is to evaluate the impact of law change on tackler and ball carrier behaviour has on reducing the occurrence of the highest risk tackle events (head-on-head contact) by taking two heads out of the same air space; to reduce the risk for the tackling player when faced with a ball carrier who is bent at the waist and create opportunities for more offloads/passes.

While coach and match official development already focuses heavily on safe coaching and refereeing of the tackle, we will be placing even greater emphasis on this area in the lead up to and during the 2021-2022 season.

To allow us to evaluate the impact, these games will be compared to the same number (1,200) played under standard laws with the same age grades. The evaluation will take place across three different environments:

- Rugby playing schools and colleges
- Club boys
- Club girls

We have received a positive response from Constituent Body competition organisers, England Rugby Football Schools Union, HMC Schools, England Colleges RFU, Association of Colleges Sport, Rugby Football Referees Union and Referee Societies who will be key to the smooth implementation of this important evaluation project.

As well as video capture and game analysis, injury

Article:
Course:
event:
Information:
Multiple Media:
Photographs:
Report:
Social Media:
Fixture/Result:
Link:
Referee:

surveillance will be collected alongside feedback from players, coaches and referees.

RFU Medical Services Director Dr Simon Kemp added: “It’s an evidence-based, game-led approach. This is about head impact and concussion prevention. We know that the most effective control measures are law changes and coaching behaviour. What we’re doing here is taking five or six years of data analysis to develop and implement a law change supported by coach input that we anticipate will have a positive effect on injury risk.”

“Interim outcomes from the evaluation of a waist height tackle law variation in French community rugby show that a tackle at waist height or below together with the prohibition of the ball carrier bending into contact are having a positive impact on reducing the number of serious head impacts, are viewed positively by players, coaches and referees and from the video examples provided appeared to show a change in the shape of the game, with fewer rucks and more offloads.

“We are very excited to be evaluating a waist height tackle law variation of our own next season to see what we can learn from the data and player and coach feedback.”

More stories from England Rugby
[RFU COUNCIL VOTE IN FAVOUR OF COVID RECOVERY PLAN](#)

30 Jun 2021: RFU Community Game Update

RETURN TO RUGBY ROAD MAP: COMMUNITY GAME 16/06/21					
FOR INFORMATION ON USE OF CELEBRATIONS, CHANGING BOARDS AND OFF-FIELD PROTOCOLS, PLEASE SEE ENGLANDRUGBY.COM/COVID19					
PHASED RETURN	CURRENT STATUS				
A INDIVIDUAL TRAINING WITH ONE OTHER PERSON UNTIL 29TH MARCH	D1 READY4RUGBY & SOME CONTACT TRAINING FROM 29TH MARCH	D2 ADAPTED/LOW MATCHES FROM 26TH APRIL	E1 FULL CONTACT TRAINING TO BE CONFIRMED	E2 FULL CONTACT MATCHES TO BE CONFIRMED	F ALL RESTRICTIONS LIFTED NOT BEFORE STEP 4 OF GOVERNMENT ROADMAP REACHED (COULD BE LATER)

This edition includes:

1. Government Step 4 update and what this means for rugby
2. Regulation changes approved by RFU Council, Friday 11 June
3. Season 2021/22 Community Funding
4. Women’s leagues & fixtures release 2021/22
5. RFU Virtual AGM
6. Taxation of business support grants
7. News round-up
8. Webinars and on-demand videos

1 Jul 2021: Return to Rugby Summer Activity Guide

As this Thursday is 1st July it means age grade rugby progresses to; - U14-U18 boys and U15-U18 girls able to play X Rugby (not normal 7's) fixtures/festivals. - Age grade players are still at 1 game or festival per fortnight (a festival is 4 teams) -training can now have 30 minutes of contact per week instead of 20")

1 Sep 2021: Next Seasons Fixtures

RETURN TO RUGBY SUMMER ACTIVITY GUIDE				
APRIL 2021				
	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	
TRAINING	FREQUENCY	1-2 SESSIONS PER WEEK (INC GAME)	1-2 SESSIONS PER WEEK (INC GAME)	1-3 SESSIONS PER WEEK (INC GAME)
	INTENSITY	LOW - MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM - HIGH
	TYPE	GENERAL FITNESS AND SKILLS MAX 20 MINUTES CONTACT PER WEEK	RUGBY FITNESS AND SKILLS MAX 30 MINUTES CONTACT PER WEEK	POSITION/GAME SPECIFIC SKILLS MAX 40 MINUTES CONTACT PER WEEK MAX 20 MINUTES CONTACT PER SESSION
	TIME	45 - 60 MINUTES + ACTIVATE	45 - 75 MINUTES + ACTIVATE	45 - 90 MINUTES + ACTIVATE
	TAG	U7 - U18 BOYS & GIRLS	U7 - U18 BOYS & GIRLS	U7 - U18 BOYS & GIRLS
FIXTURES	READY4RUGBY	U9 - U18 BOYS & GIRLS	U9 - U18 BOYS & GIRLS	U9 - U18 BOYS & GIRLS
	X RUGBY	X	U14 - U18 BOYS U15 & U18 GIRLS	U12 - U18 BOYS U13, U15 & U18 GIRLS
	ADAPTED FORMAT	X	X	U14 - 18 BOYS U15 & 18 GIRLS

For men's fixtures click the title above
[Women's fixtures pdf](#) *Jan Duncan has collaged the women fixtures here*

Candy Leage draft in the picture above

27 Jun 2021: The Future is Bright for Beth!



The Future is Bright for Beth!

Durham County Women’s Captain, Beth Blacklock, who represents DMP Durham Sharks, will be leaving the Northeast this summer having been snapped up by Harlequins Women.

Beth was chosen as captain of the County representative team in the 2018-19 Gill Burns Championship campaign having already led Durham Uni Women’s 1st XV to face Exeter in the finals of the BUCS national cup competition.

Her joie de vivre, commitment and drive during training and playing as well as her demonstrable leadership skills made her a natural choice as captain.

She will definitely be a loss to female rugby in the northeast but what a fantastic opportunity to be joining Quins following their victory over Saracens to claim the Allianz Premier 15s title.

All Durham County RFU clubs wish her well and look forward to seeing her playing with her new team! Good luck, Beth!

#playlikeadurhamlass 



22 Jun 2021: Directory of Rugby Course

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY COURSE

KICKS OFF OCTOBER 2021

ARE YOU LEADING AND MANAGING A RUGBY PROGRAMME IN A CLUB, SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY?

SIGN UP NOW to develop as a leader who can create and sustain a high performance environment where players achieve success. This RFU certificated CPD course has been developed by England Rugby in partnership with industry specialists in the field of leadership and management.

2021/22 Residential courses cost £600

North Course – West Yorkshire Workshop 1 - 4th and 5th October 2021 Workshop 2 - 28th February and 1st March 2022	South Course – Buckinghamshire Workshop 1 - 6th and 7th October 2021 Workshop 2 - 2nd and 3rd March 2022
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Purpose: to support all areas of the game by helping to refine the leadership & management skills of those in roles

which have influence over others around them. Click on the link below to book onto our Leeds Course

[Link](#) #Leaders

20 Jun 2021: Photographs from 10s Tournament at Durham City



- **Tom Duncan:**
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/16645532@N05/albums/72157719439977196>
- <https://photo.sallyje.uk/index.php?/category/DU210620-L>
- More photographs from [Andrew Nelson](#) - thanks
- https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10225892312205066&id=1551512722

27 Jun 2021: Summer Rugby



- **Women's Festivals**
27th June Horden & Peterlee (meet 12 start 1pm).
[Pictures from game](#)
- **18th July Durham City,**
15th August West Hartlepool Times to be announced
Festival 27 June

1 Oct 2021: North East Rugby Forum

Discussions about all things rugby in North East England leagues fixtures etc including the women's leagues

There is also a facebook group

Billingham

13 Jun 2021: WE CONTINUE TO BUILD... CLICK TO READ MORE

#staysafe

The mini season has come to an end for the seniors, juniors and minis. It has been fantastic to see so many happy smiling faces back down at Greenwood Road.

Although we haven't seen as much rugby as we had hoped we have still had many good news story. Along with today's England victory we have seen our very own Adam Radwan called up to the England training for the summer internationals.

Click title to read more

21 May 2021: THE SEDGIE PLAN COMES TOGETHER! BILLINGHAM 3TM 19V SEDGEFIELD 34. AWAY. 21/05/21, BY JOHN ROBERTSON



Sedgie saved the best for last with a cracking performance against a strong Billingham side. This was the final fixture in our return to rugby programme following 14 months of enforced inactivity and we gave our best rugby performance in some time.

1 Jun 2021: Fixtures for Next Season

FIXTURES 2021/22		NORTH PREMIER	
SEPTEMBER		JANUARY	
4TH	WIRRAL (H)	8TH	BURNAGE (A)
11TH	ALNWICK (A)	15TH	NORTHWICH (H)
18TH	BURNAGE (H)	22ND	OTLEY (A)
25TH	NORTHWICH (A)	29TH	PRESTON G. (H)
OCTOBER		FEBRUARY	
2ND	OTLEY (H)	12TH	MACCLESFIELD (A)
16TH	PRESTON G. (A)	19TH	SANDAL. (H)
23RD	MACCLESFIELD (H)	MARCH	
30TH	SANDAL (A)	5TH	YORK (A)
NOVEMBER		12TH	BLACKBURN (A)
13TH	YORK (H)	26TH	LYMM (H)
20TH	BLACKBURN (H)	APRIL	
27TH	LYMM (A)	2ND	KIRKBY LONGSDALE (A)
DECEMBER		9TH	ROSSENDALE (H)
4TH	KIRKBY LONGSDALE (H)	23TH	WIRRAL (A)
11TH	ROSSENDALE (A)		
18TH	ALNWICK (H)		

colourscreen teesside limited RFU RAGING BULL

Blaydon

25 Jun 2021: Blaydon Women 54 - 27 Stockton



Excellent effort and performance from all the red kites tonight.

What a game, what a day!! Excellent carries, excellent tackles, well done everyone!!! Those pints are going down a treat tonight!!

Thanks as always to Stockton Rockets for a great game!! Good luck for next season!! #upthekites #blaydonredkites

Visit Blaydon's [twitter](#) for a running match report [twitter](#)

30 Jun 2021: Walking Rugby sessions extended, now also available at 6pm on Tuesday night, starting next Tuesday 27th April:

**BLAYDON RACERS
WALKING TOUCH RUGBY
OPEN TO MEN AND WOMEN**

Just to let everyone know that due to people struggling to attend Thursday morning sessions of Walking Touch Rugby we are adding a Tuesday night session starting 6pm on 27th April. Thursday morning sessions will continue as normal at 10am. Remember studded boots must be worn when playing on our APG pitch at all times.



BLAYDON RFC SWALWELL
Tel 0191 4200505

As the interest in walking rugby grows we've introduced an evening session with the Blaydon Racers to cater for those who can't fit in a day time session. Some of the team are taking part in this extra session to ensure its runs smoothly.

It's great exercise, you'll put more into it than you think, great craic with like-minded rugby players (you're never an Ex player really) or those who want to get involved who haven't played before. All of the fun of the game without the impacts, come along and get involved

Follow **Blaydon Walking Rugby** Facebook page to get involved

21 Jun 2021: Blaydon Kites at Durham Ladies 10s



Great day yesterday at the Durham County 10's Festival. Drawn in to pool 1 with games against Bishop Auckland,

Durham University and Ryton.

Good to get some points on the board across the day, well done to the try scorers for the Red kites and well done to all the Kites who played throughout the day! Well done to VB for getting coaches Player of the day! Superb effort!

Well done to the few kites who offered to help out Houghton Ladies for a game and wear the shirt for their game against Winlton Vulcans bagging the team 2 tries from Lauren and Jo.

We go again, this Friday at HOME to Stockton. 7.30pm KO!

Thanks Sally Evans for the photos.
#upthekites #blaydonredkites #blaydonrfc #durhamcounty10s

Consett

30 Jun 2021: HAKA RUGBY GLOBAL

BY RICHARD ARMITT

Summer rugby camp for all kids under 18.

The guys from Haka Rugby Global return to us this summer after the interruption of last summer.

This is a fantastic opportunity to learn skills and lessons about the culture of New Zealand.

All presented by professionals coaches and players that have in the past included ex-All Black Sammy Tuitupou.

The perfect way to start the school holidays.

To book up use the link below:

<https://hakarugbyglobal.wildapricot.org/event-3558430>
Or to find out more about the guys visit their website:
<https://www.hakarugbyglobal.nz/>

"Using Maori Culture & Rugby as a tool to develop future world leaders.."



**HAKA RUGBY GLOBAL
ELITE CLINIC 2021**

NORTHEAST UK

WHERE: CONSETT RUGBY CLUB
Medomsley Rd, Consett. Co Durham DH86LX

WHEN: 2 Day Clinic 19/20 July
AGE: 7-18 Years - Boys and Girls
PRICE: £65 Includes HRG Training T-shirt & Shorts

REGISTER: www.hakarugbyglobal.nz/camps
ENQUIRIES: Info@hakarugbyglobal.nz

SKILL * CONFIDENCE * TEAM WORK * HAKA




Darlington

6 Jun 2021: U13 Girls Team at Darlington for girls school year 6 and 7



NEW TEAM REMINDER...

Remember that this weekend sees the launch of the new Under 13's girls team at Darlington. A fun introduction to rugby with games and sessions designed to show how rugby really is for everyone.

Starting at 11am on Sunday 6th June and running weekly over the summer and into next season. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Hartlepool

1 Jun 2021: VACANCIES - WOMEN'S & GIRLS RUGBY

We have four exciting opportunities to lead and coach a new Women's & Girls Rugby programme at Hartlepool Rugby Club.

WE ARE LOOKING TO APPOINT A TEAM OF ENTHUSIASTIC AND ENERGETIC COACHES TO

LEAD AND DEVELOP A NEW FEMALE PLAYING OFFER AT MAYFIELD PARK.

These vacancies are perfect for anyone who is looking for a coaching or leadership role within an ambitious rugby club and has a passion for growing the Women's & Girls game.

VACANCIES:

Head of Women's & Girls Rugby

We are looking for a Head of Women's & Girls Rugby to lead, coordinate and develop the female playing offer at Hartlepool Rugby Club.

Women's Rugby Lead Coach

We are looking for a Lead Coach of Women's Rugby to plan, deliver and evaluate engaging training sessions and manage the team on a match day.

Under 15 Girls Coach

We are looking for an Under 15 Girls Coach to plan, deliver and evaluate engaging training sessions and manage the team on a match day.

Under 13 Girls Coach

We are looking for an Under 13 Girls Coach to plan, deliver and evaluate engaging training sessions and manage the team on a match day.

All coaches will receive:

- Hartlepool Rugby Club Kit & Team Wear
- Free access to any relevant coaching courses or qualifications
- Support from an ambitious and forward-thinking committee

To declare your interest in any of the roles above or for more information please email - hartlepoolrugbyclub@outlook.com

30 Jun 2021: INNER WARRIOR CAMP SUCCESS

Last Sunday we held our first Inner Warrior Camp for women & girls, and it proved to be a roaring success.

Developed by England Rugby, the Inner Warrior campaign is aimed at women and girls to encourage greater female participation in rugby across the country.

Hartlepool Rovers

16 Jun 2021: EXCITING NEWS FOR OUR WOMEN'S AND GIRL'S SECTION.

Blur Last Sunday saw ladies coach Emily Hunter coach her last game for Rovers Ladies. Emily has been an integral part of our journey over the past 6 years. After the success of our girl's teams, we took the plunge to form a ladies team. Emily came along to our first Inner Warrior as a representative DMP

Sharks and she soon got on board coaching. In that time, she has helped develop our Ladies team and leaves them in a strong position.

However, as one chapter ends another begins.

3 Jun 2021: [GIRLS V HOUGHTON REPORT](#)

On a glorious evening Rovers Girls hosted Houghton to play games at under 13, 15, and 18 level.

It was a fantastic night for the club and a real advert for female rugby at Rovers.

16 Jun 2021: [ROVERS NEW STAND OPENING](#)



BY ALLAN JOHNSTON

6 Jun 2021: [Today the ladies welcomed Darlington to Rovers](#)



Today the ladies welcomed Darlington to Rovers, It was a fantastic match (despite the heat) with a final score of 27-17 to Darlington Ladies Rugby Club! Once again that you for coming over its always a pleasure

Houghton

30 Jun 2021: [This Week at HRUFC](#)

Houghton produce an article every week covering all aspect of the club.

[11 May](#) [6 May](#) [18 May](#) [26 April](#)

Jarrovians

4 May 2021: [Jarrow at West End Rugby Club](#)

Great to be back this weekend away at Jarrovians RUFC. A hard fought 42-26 win! Nice to see so many faces after such a long time away. A nice debut for our new away shirts sponsored by Pizza & Co Westgate Road & Praetorian Aviation Ltd! #howaywest #westend #rugby #rugbyunion

5 Jun 2021: [Jarrow v Washington 5th June 2021](#)

FULL TIME: Jarrovians 19 - 38 Washington Rugby Football Club

[Pitchero](#)

Stockton

30 Jun 2021: [Junior Summer Rugby Camp for Boys and Girls](#)

Contact Details are on the poster, new players are very welcome too #OURTOWNOURCLUB

Sunderland

20 Jun 2021: [Sunderland Flames at County 10s](#)

What an amazing day

[@DurhamCityRFC](#)

 for the Durham 10s. 2/3 victories 15 tries 1 gazebo All the rugby again after so long! Huge thanks to

[@DURFC](#)

 & Big Col for organising & well done to all teams for some excellent rugby. Keep it coming!

[#flamesfamily](#) Huge thanks to

[@DURFC](#)

& Big Col for organising & well done to all teams for some excellent rugby. Keep it coming! [#flamesfamily](#)

