

WOODBIDGE RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB LTD

Policy for Transition of Male and Female Players from Under 18 to Senior Rugby

Woodbridge Rugby Club is aware that the transition of a youth player into senior rugby needs to be made in a bespoke manner relating at all times to the ability, development, welfare and safety of each player.

The RFU Governance Rule 15.3.7 states:

A player can play adult contact rugby, or train with other adults in contact rugby, when they reach their seventeenth birthday provided: (a) they have been assessed as capable of playing with adults; (b) the RFU's Playing Adult Rugby Form has been duly completed and signed; and (c) the player does not train or play in the front row of the scrum. Once a player has reached the age of 18, the player may play in any position.

Woodbridge Rugby Club will aim to follow all RFU guidelines during a player transition as follows:

The decision to allow a 17 year old to play adult rugby in accordance with RFU Regulation 15.3.7 lies with the person in the best position to assess all the relevant circumstances.*

- 1. The ultimate consideration must be for the welfare and safety of the player and those with whom the player will be playing.*
- 2. There has and will be clear communication with all those involved in and affected by the decision.*
- 3. The following aspects must be taken into consideration when making the decision:*
 - i. The physical development of the individual and the player's playing colleagues*
 - ii. The skill level and experience of the individual*
 - iii. The individual's playing position in the team*
 - iv. The competitive standard of the particular match and playing conditions.*

**PLEASE NOTE THAT PLAYERS MUST BE 18 YEARS OLD TO PLAY SENIOR WOMEN'S RUGBY.*

The process at Woodbridge Rugby Club will be:

At the point a player reaches their seventeenth birthday he or she will have a meeting with their Under 18 Coach to discuss the period of transition during the following year. Ideally this meeting should take place in the presence of the player's parent or guardian so that everyone is fully involved in the process.

The Under 18 Coach will advise if they consider the player ready or not to make the step up to Senior rugby and taking into full account the above RFU rules and guidelines.

Ultimately the decision to play senior rugby before the age of 18 rests with the Player and their Parent or Guardian. If after having received advice from the Under 18 Coach they decide the player is ready to play senior rugby, then the player and parent or guardian will be required to complete the Playing Adult Rugby Form and pass it to the Head of the Junior Section of Woodbridge Rugby Club.

During the season, if the player and/or the parent/guardian feel they wish to revert to Under 18 rugby they can consult with the Under 18 Coach and arrange to play Youth rugby for the remainder of the season or until they consider the player is ready to make the transition again.

Rob Simpson
Chairman

John Leming
Junior Chairman