January 2026 - College Update



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to the new year after what was a long first term As we enter into the Spring term the season really does accelerate with us working to fit all of the remaining games and festivals into what is a very busy and short term.

May I thank all of the festival coordinators around the country who have excelled themselves this season providing outstanding opportunities for so many young people to try out the game in various formats. These programme have been hugely successful. Please do support the remaining two events during this term.

Completion of fixtures is very important not only for England Colleges producing data to present to the RFU with regards to funding but also in ensuring regular participation opportunities for the learners in our colleges. Please do remember calling off a game does not affect only the players in your college as it also affects those in your opponents college.

We are looking forward to the England Colleges 7's competition on 4th March taking place at Doncaster and Trowbridge. This is always a great day and opportunity for all colleges to get involved.

This year we aim to run a conference on 3rd June 2026 so please put the date in your diary. More details about this will be circulated very soon so please do look out for the information to book a place.

Best Wishes

Martin Tucker
ECRFU Chair
(Principal, Truro and Penwith College)

England Colleges Festival Programme 2026

Thank you to all of the festival coordinators who have run a series of events up until Christmas with some outstanding outcomes.

- **1411 players** have taken part in the 'Regional College Festivals' up to December 2025. This is nearly DOUBLE the number of players taking part across all of 2024/25.

- Each set of festivals has had over 400 players attend.

What do the learners say:

- *"Absolutely superb afternoon… some training, exercises and then a full 15 a side game."*
- *"Festival went well and all girls were engaged… focused on basic skills which we can develop in the next festival."*
- *"This was a real success. We played 10 a side full pitch. The girls had a great time and were able to apply skills from training sessions"*
- *"Our boys really enjoyed it and would be very happy to attend again"*
- *"Thanks for today, our team loved it and was great to give 4 new boys to rugby their first ever game"*

Join in the Festival Fun and introduce the game in your college. These festivals are taking place all around the country, join the one in your region.

- **4th February 2026 Festivals – 7's Format**

- **11th March 2026 Festivals – T1 Rugby format**

The dates are the same for both boy's and girl's. Neither of the above dates clash with any of the girls fixtures.

If you wish to get involved please do contact katycuddington@rfu.com who will link you directly with your regional coordinator to ensure you can get along to take part.

England Colleges 7's Tournament Wednesday 4th March 2026

The England Colleges Rugby 7' Tournaments will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2026 at two venues to accommodate the north and south regions.

North Venue: Doncaster Knights RFC
South Venue: Trowbridge RFC

Both rugby clubs will provide ample parking, changing facilities and refreshments. There will be 4 rugby pitches available at both venues to ensure a positive playing experience for all players at all levels.

There will be 4 separate tournaments at each venue:

1. Girls ACE Colleges (Can enter two teams)
2. Girls all other non ACE Colleges
3. Boys ACE and AoC Prem Colleges

4. Boys AoC Championship and other colleges

Please complete the Microsoft form England Colleges 'U18 Sevens' Tournament Wednesday 4th March 2026 – Fill in form to submit your intention to enter.

The draw for both tournaments will not be circulated until 10 working days before the tournament date. As such please do ensure you organise your transportation around the start time of the day which will be kicking off with the first game at 10am.

England Colleges are very much looking forward to seeing you all at the tournaments.

T1 Rugby Series

T1 Rugby, is the world's first non-contact sport that fully reflects the unique characteristics of rugby union, aiming to supercharge participation and engagement by making the sport more relevant and accessible to young people.

With the mantra of 'a game for everyone, played by anyone', T1 Rugby has an emphasis on fun, fitness and inclusion and will provide a fun, welcoming, time efficient and safe environment for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, reflecting the international federation's mission of a global sport for all"

Sign Up to receive a T1 kit pack and launch the game in your college. Sign up here link.

Online Resources
To support you in driving T1 Rugby across the college a range of online resources has been developed. They can be found here.

How to Play T1 Rugby
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfNL6F8TuW8&t=37s

How to Introduce and progress T1 Rugby
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFatKPpteOs&t=1s

IMPORTANT: Regulation

It is the responsibility of all coaches to be fully aware of the RFU regulations. All of the regulations can be found through this link: RFU Rules & Regulations | Rugby Football Union

The following are those you may require the most often and should be fully acquainted with.

- Regulation 9: Player Safety
- Regulation 10: Tours, Cross-Union Matches, Sevens and Tens Competitions
- Regulation 15: Age Grade Rugby
- Regulation 19: Discipline

Please ensure you are aware of regulation and note any changes that come in each season

England Colleges Conference 2026

3rd June 2026 – 'Save the Date'

On Tuesday 3rd June 2026 England Colleges intend to run a conference that will be open to all colleges to attend. The full details of the programme and venue will be shared very soon via the GMS link so please do look out for this detail and the booking process.

Results Results Results!!

Ensuring your results are submitted to AoC Sport is essential. None submission of results and lengthy delays mean that fixtures when reported appear void and as such reflects very disappointingly upon the sector as a whole.

It is the responsibility of every college to ensure that you submit the result of each and every game, notify AoC Sport if the game has been re-arranged or if it has been cancelled altogether and so is void.

Planned v played data is viewed regularly by the RFU. As England Colleges seek funding to support the game across the sector this data of planned v played is absolutely vital.

Please ensure your coaches submit the results of their games on the day.

Rugby Ambassador Programme 2025/26

Rugby Ambassador Award:

We are pleased to share with you that for 2025/26 we have recruited 57 Rugby Ambassadors who will follow the AoC Sport Student Leadership programme over the academic year with training sessions held at The Allianz Stadium.

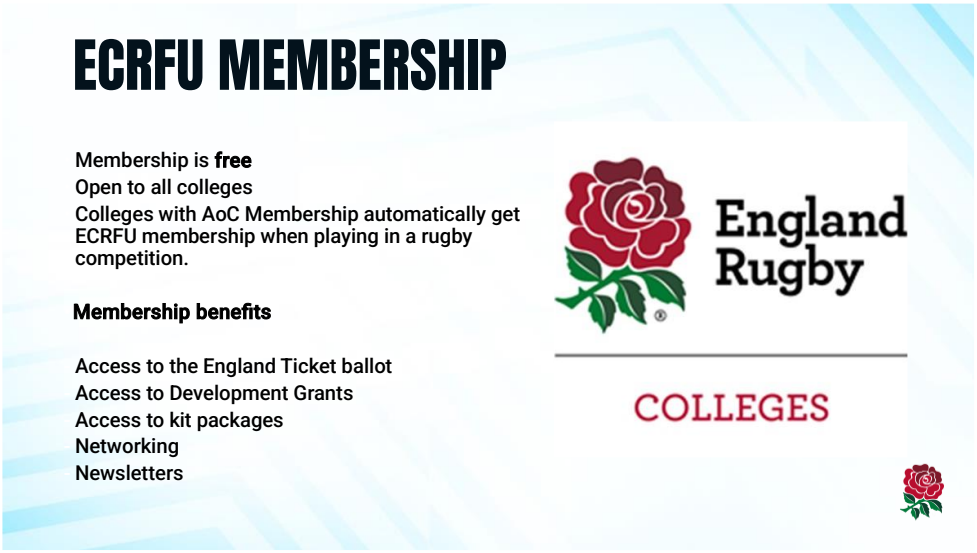
These ambassadors take on leadership roles in their colleges driving T1 and encouraging the development of the game within their college, in their region and in some large colleges working across campuses building to intra mural competitions.

We will share some example of the outstanding work these Rugby Ambassadors achieve in later newsletters.

England Colleges Membership

Colleges already registered as members **please ensure that you log onto your GMS account and update all details** to ensure that you receive all communications and information about developments as well as

details regarding the International Ticket Ballot. The individuals assigned to the Golden Roles are key contacts and need to be regularly updated when staff change or you will not receive the information you require.



Your Regional ECRFU Rep

England Colleges RFU is the advocate of College Rugby within the RFU and, as the national Constituent Body, works hard to ensure the voice of the college sector is heard.

The role of the England Colleges Rep is a key one in ensuring this dialogue takes place and all views are clearly represented.

ECRFU Reg Rep	College	Contact Details	Region
James McKeown	Runshaw College	McKeown.J@runshaw.ac.uk	**North West**
Andy Douthwaite	Hereford VIth Form	AD@hereford.ac.uk	**West Midlands**
Dale Smallman	Shrewsbury College	dales@shrewsbury.ac.uk	
Naz Deen	Corams	naz@coramsfields.org.uk	**London & Kent**
Trevor Martingell	Kent	t.martingelll@btinternet.com	
Tim Peck	Leyton	Timothy.Peck@leyton.ac.uk	**London & East**
Mark Rugman	Worthing College	M.Rugman@worthing.ac.uk	**South East**

Chris Wall Glenn Channing	Exeter College South Devon College	chriswall@exe-coll.ac.uk glennchanning@southdevon.ac.uk	**South West**
Evan Woodworth	Bishop Burton College	Evan.Woodworth@askham-bryan.ac.uk	**East**
Robert Green	Bede Sixth Form College	robert.green@stockton.ac.uk	**North East**

Stay in Touch **@EngRugColleges**

www.englandcollegesrfu.com