



BOYS & GIRLS U15 PLAYER DEVELOPMENT HUB PROGRAMME

Nomination Information 2023/24



Introduction

The Player Development Hub programme will provide additional training and playing opportunities for nominated U15 boys and girls.

Nominated players will take part in a series of training sessions and festivals throughout April and May (dates tbc) at venues throughout Scotland.

The programme aims to:

- Provide nominated players with quality coaching and additional playing and training opportunities.
- Support club and school coaches to improve the quality of their training environments.
- Develop players and coaches understanding of the Scottish Rugby Blueprint 'Change our Game' ([more information can be found here](#)).
- Engage with parents to help them support the player development process.
- Provide an avenue for players to be identified for performance programmes.

Programme overview:

- Each player development hub is overseen by a Scottish Rugby Regional Manager and supported by colleagues from within the Rugby Development and High Performance departments.
- Sessions are delivered by qualified and experienced coaches who will follow a national syllabus, aligned to the Blueprint.
- Alongside the hub training sessions and festivals, coach and parent workshops will be delivered to support the player development process.

What can players expect from the programme?

CHALLENGE	ENJOYMENT	LEARNING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coaches will deliver sessions which are intense and focused on improving skills and game understanding• Players will be supported to challenge themselves to continually improve and may find some of the activities hard at first.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coaches will do everything they can to make sure all players enjoy the programme.• Players have an important part to play in helping others enjoy the programme - make new friends, support each other and keep feedback positive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Players will be asked to reflect on their performances during games and training to help them develop.• Coaches will provide feedback throughout the programme and share this with the player's club/school coach.

Player nomination criteria:

Player Eligibility

BOYS U15	GIRLS U15
<p>Player must meet the eligibility criteria below to be nominated for the PDH programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current member of a rugby club or school in Scotland. • Be a registered player on the SCRUMS system. • Have actively played rugby during the 2023/24 season. • Born between 1 January 2009 – 31 December 2009 (1 year age group)* 	<p>Player must meet the eligibility criteria below to be nominated for the PDH programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current member of a rugby club or school in Scotland. • Be a registered player on the SCRUMS system. • Have actively played rugby during the 2023/24 season. • Born between 1 September 2008 – 31 August 2009 (1 year age group)*

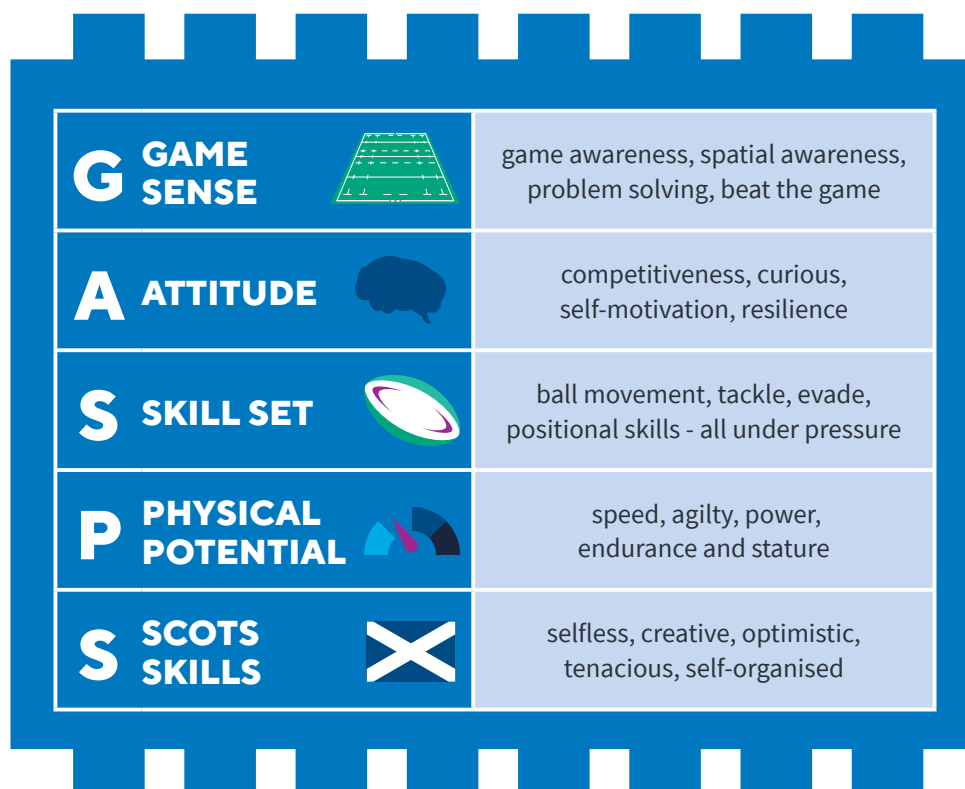
*Please note that the age eligibility criteria is different for the Boys and Girls programmes due to the differences in international representative eligibility criteria.

Nomination Criteria

Players should be nominated if they...

- Are ready to engage in a challenging development programme.
- Show an appetite to develop themselves.
- Are committed to their rugby development and work hard both at club / school training and in their own time.
- Will add value to others in the programme.

Scottish Rugby utilises a GASPS model within the player pathway. The GASPS principles will be used to guide selection decisions within Scottish Rugby male and female pathway programmes. Players will also be developed in alignment with these principles through on and off field coaching.



Nomination Process:

Nominations can be made only by coaches who are registered on the [SCRUMS system](#) as of Monday 22 January 2024.

Registered coaches on SCRUMS can then nominate players by clicking 'PDH Nominations' on the SCRUMS left hand menu.

Once a nomination is submitted it cannot be altered. Information will be communicated to the players parents/guardians once/if they are accepted onto the programme.

Nominations open **Monday 22 January 2024**

Nominations close **Sunday 18 February 2024**

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE POINTS BELOW WHEN DISCUSSING WHICH PLAYERS TO NOMINATE:

- Players who are born throughout the age range and not just the oldest (who are likely to be more physically mature and have had more exposure to rugby).
- Late developers who are going through puberty late compared to the peers.
- Front row players who may not be as skilful (yet) as their peers, but who show an appetite for playing their position.

Once a player has been accepted on to the programme, they will receive a confirmation letter from Scottish Rugby detailing the venue, date and times for their PDH sessions. A parent consent form for photography etc will also be sent and must be returned prior to starting the PDH sessions. All nominated players will be invited to attend the player development programme, with no deselection taking place throughout.

Please note: If a disproportionate number of nominations are received from any single club or school then the nominating coach may be asked to reduce the overall number of nominations.



FAQs

WHY DOES THE PROGRAMME HAVE A 1 JANUARY ELIGIBILITY CUT OFF?

The 1st January is used by World Rugby and Rugby Europe for all representative programmes. It is important for the programme to be consistent with these, as some players will progress into age grade representative squads.

WILL PLAYERS BE PROVIDED WITH FEEDBACK?

Players will receive continuous verbal feedback from coaches during sessions, with the focus being on developmental areas for the player to focus on back at their club or school.

Only players who return a self-reflection form at the end of the programme will receive feedback.

HOW WILL PLAYERS BE SELECTED FOR THESE PROGRAMMES?

All nominated players will be selected for the programme, and will be invited to take part in the sessions and festivals. Additional players may be brought into the programme once it has commenced, this will usually be due to a lack of availability or injury.

WHICH COACHES WILL DELIVER ON THE PROGRAMME?

All coaches will be UKCC Level 2 / Aspiring Coaching Programme (minimum) qualified, with many either UKCC level 3 and/or PE teacher trained. All sessions will be delivered towards a national curriculum linked to the Scottish Rugby Blueprint (information available [here](#)).

WHAT IS THE MEDICAL PROVISION AT SESSIONS AND FESTIVALS?

All sessions which involving full contact will have a qualified physio present. The physio's role is to deal with any injuries picked up during the session, and not to deal with pre-existing injuries.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS AFTER THIS PROGRAMME?

The next step for some PDH players will be the opportunity to participate in regional or national representative programmes. The regional academy staff will communicate directly with players who are to be invited into these programmes.

Players shouldn't worry if they are not selected for the regional or national programmes. This is not the end of the opportunities to progress.

Many players who go on to represent Scotland or play professional rugby weren't involved in regional or national programmes when they were younger.

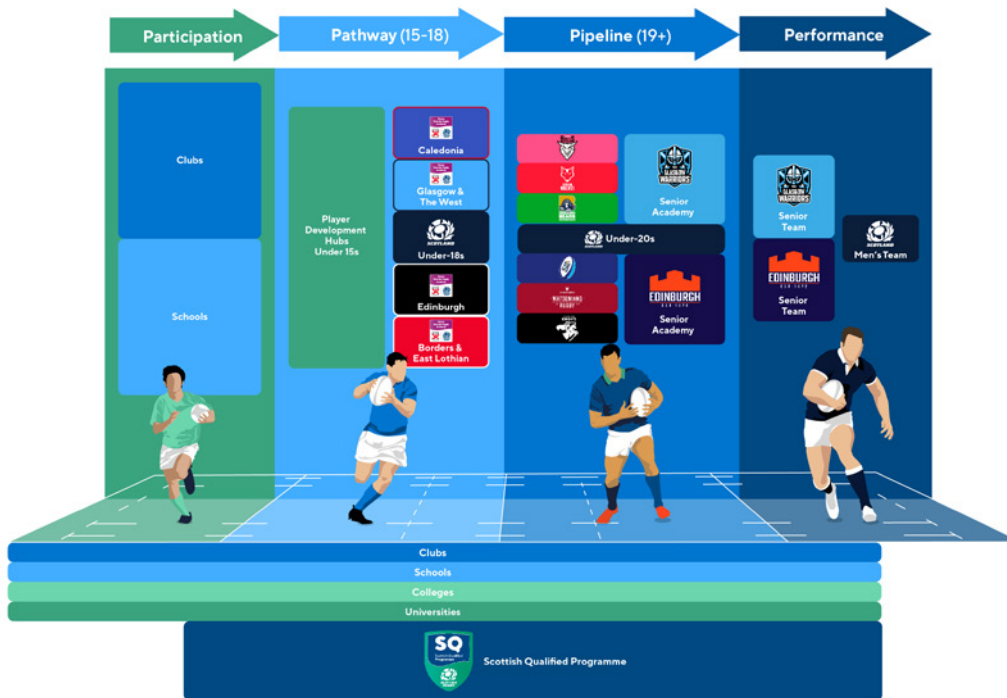
Rugby is a late development sport, so there's plenty of opportunities ahead. Some players develop later than others...just give it time. Players should keep an open mindset – take on every piece of feedback from coaches as an opportunity to improve and get better

Representative and Performance Pathways

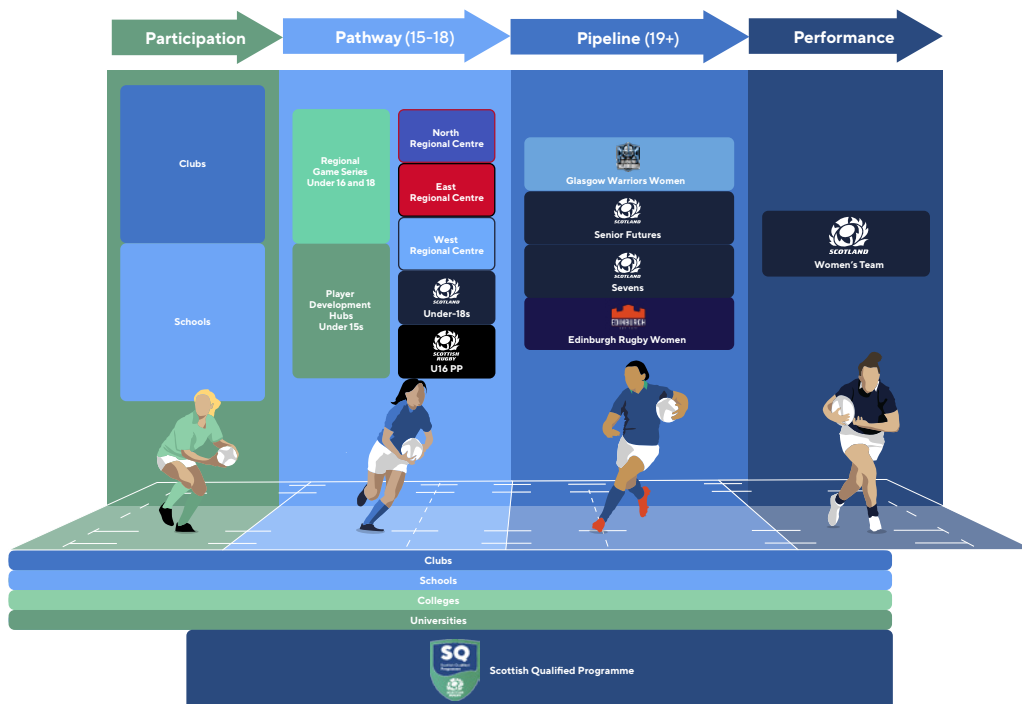
The Player Development Hubs are a stepping stone for some players to progress onto representative and/or performance pathway programmes. Players should not get disheartened if they aren't selected as there are plenty of other opportunities in future years for players to be identified.

The diagram below highlights the philosophy in which the players development hub programme will be delivered with a clear focus on creating a fantastic environment for the young players to challenge themselves and nurture their skills.

Male Performance Pathway



Female Performance Pathway



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