



SCHOOL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

Season 2026/27



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Dear Headteacher/Rector,

I hope you and everyone involved with your school are well and looking forward to the season ahead.

The inspiresport Schools Conferences are an integral part of Scottish Rugby's annual competitions programme as we work collaboratively with clubs and schools to create a bright future for the game. To be able to participate in rugby in Scotland and to be eligible for funding connected to the inspiresport Conference competitions, your School must meet the standards set out below and accept and comply with the terms and conditions attached to those standards.

As always, minimum standards are embedded to ensure we continue to support a safe and well governed game and evolve the experience for our players.

Travel Support remains a key investment area through the School Participation Agreement and therefore we are pleased to confirm that for the season 2026/27 the travel framework will now provide funding to all eligible journeys over 50 miles, expanding the mile range from 100 miles last season. This means more fixtures and shorter journeys will be supported through the funding framework.

Please consider the Schools Participation Agreement 2026/27 and discuss with the relevant people in your school before confirming you accept its terms by returning a signed acceptance form before 31st October 2026 to rugbydevelopmentadmin@sru.org.uk.

All funding must be used to contribute to the costs incurred through your involvement in the Schools Conference competitions, or to develop your school rugby programme.

Good luck for the season ahead and should you have any questions about the Schools Participation Agreement please do not hesitate to contact your Regional Manager.

Yours sincerely

Gavin Scott

Director of Rugby Development

1. REWARDING TEAM PARTICIPATION

Schools will be rewarded with £850 per team outlined in the table below.

To receive the full funding amount per team, the criteria within each of the sections below must be met.



Youth Boys

(U13, U14, U15, U16 & U18)

Maximum £850 per team

Team Participation	Keeping the Game Safe	Evolve Player Experience
 Participation in Scottish Rugby Competition*	 Minimum Player Welfare Standards	 Minimum Coach Development Standards
 100% Team sheet Submissions	 Minimum Safeguarding Standards	 Minimum Match Official Development Standards
 100% Fixture Fulfilment		

*List of eligible Scottish Rugby competitions are found [here](#)

2. SCHOOL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT STANDARDS

KEEPING THE GAME SAFE

The table below outlines the Keeping the Game Safe standards that all schools must aspire to achieve throughout the 2026/27 season.

Failure to meet the standards may result in a reduction of participation investment at the end of the season.

 PLAYER WELFARE	
 Serious Injury Reporting	Schools follow the Serious Injury reporting procedure, accessed here: Player Welfare Action Plan
 Concussion Management	Schools follow the Concussion reporting procedures. Follow and actively promote the Return to Play protocols. Resources found here: Concussion Hub
 First Aid Cover & Equipment	For all Matches & Training, there must be: First Aid cover & equipment Access to a telephone Clear access for an ambulance
 Age Banding	Schools must follow and promote Scottish Rugby Age Banding policies and processes. Click here for Age Banding
 Injury Surveillance Project	Open Competition (U18 & U16) ONLY Each school participating in the Open Competition shall participate in any injury surveillance programme designated by Scottish Rugby. To satisfy this requirement, each school must: - Appoint a nominated individual responsible for the collection and submission of injury surveillance data; - Record and submit injury and player exposure data in the format and timescales prescribed by Scottish Rugby; - Ensure that all data submitted is accurate, complete, and provided in accordance with any guidance issued in relation to the injury surveillance programme; - Cooperate with any audit, review, or verification process relating to the collection or submission of injury surveillance data; - Comply with all applicable data protection, confidentiality, and player consent requirements associated with the programme.



SAFEGUARDING



Safe Recruitment

Schools must have the relevant paperwork in place in order to process [PVGs](#).
100% of people in regulated work (teaching, instructing, supervising children as part of their duties) must have the appropriate rugby PVG in place.
Schools must follow safe recruitment practices Guidance and resources [available here](#)



Safeguarding Officer

All Schools with Youth activity must identify and appoint a Safeguarding Officer. They must be visible on school website/social media and registered on SCRUMS.
School must ensure SO performs Scottish Rugby's required safeguarding processes and procedures as outlined in the [handbook](#)
SO must complete required safeguarding training every 3 years, including Introduction to Adult Safeguarding e-learning module.

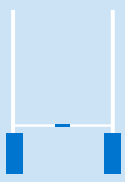


Safeguarding Policies

Schools must operate and have an easily accessible Safeguarding Policy visible via their website. Templates can be found here: [Safeguarding Policy](#)
Newly appointed Committee/Board members should complete Scottish Rugby's [Child Wellbeing & Protection in Sport e-learning module](#)

EVOLVE PLAYER EXPERIENCE

The table below outlines the Evolve Player Experience standards that all schools must aspire to achieve throughout the 2026/27 season.

 COACHING	
 Active Coaches	100% of Active Coaches (of contact rugby) are Qualified within 4-months of becoming active on SCRUMS 100% of Active Coaches are registered on SCRUMS
	100% of Active Coaches complete RugbyRight by 31 October 2026
 MATCH OFFICIALS	
 Active Match Officials	Schools to submit referee information via the SCRUMS team sheet process upon completion of the fixture (new for season 2026/27)
 Contact Rugby Fixtures	All fixtures from U13 should be officiated by a qualified referee (minimum ITMO or equivalent)
	All qualified match officials complete RugbyRight by 31 October 2026

3. TRAVEL SUPPORT

Mainland Travel – Long Journeys and School & Youth Multiple Team Travel

If a club or school is required to fulfill a Scottish Rugby (league or cup) fixture with a return journey in excess of 49 miles on the mainland of Scotland, Scottish Rugby may make a travel contribution in respect of each of these journeys (excluding visits to the Scottish Islands which are covered below) as follows:

BETWEEN (MILES)	AMOUNT	
	1-3 TEAMS TRAVELLING	4+ TEAMS TRAVELLING
Return journey of 50 miles to 99 miles	£175.00	£350.00
Return journey of 100 miles to 249 miles	£250.00	£500.00
Return journey of 250 miles to 349 miles	£350.00	£700.00
Return journey of 350 miles to 599 miles	£500.00	£1,000.00
Return journey of 600 miles or more	£600.00	£1,200.00

Youth Travel Payment Process

Long Journey Travel Payments for inspiresport Schools Conference or Schools Cup (including Shield, Plate and Bowl competition fixtures will be made by BACS transfer to the account held on file by the Scottish Rugby finance department. For Schools participating in schools and youth conferences with multiple teams travelling, a cumulative approach to individual team travel will be adopted. Payments will be made by the end of January 2027 for inspiresport Schools Conference or Schools Cup fixtures played. Payment for fixtures following January 2027 will be paid at the end of the season in May 2027.

Mileages will be calculated based on information from the AA. The AA route planner can be found at:
<http://www.theaa.com/route-planner/index.jsp>.

For more information on the above Travel Scheme or Island Claims please follow the link to our website [here](#)

4. REGULATORY & LEGAL & COMPETITIONS

Regulatory & Legal & Competitions	
Regulatory & Legal	Registration Requirements: Comply with any and all of Scottish Rugby's requirements in respect of SCRUMS nor any other relevant Scottish Rugby registration system and provide accurate and up-to-date information in respect of the same. This must include registering (or procuring the registration) of all the School's players at all levels of rugby (mini to adult, male and female), together with all the School's coaches and other requested individuals, key contacts or office bearers. Player Education: Prior to the start of the competitive season, the School shall positively promote the following topics to their player members and coaching staff: • Concussion - based on the World Rugby Concussion Guidance and the Scottish Sport Concussion Guidelines • Anti-Doping - based on SDR 21.1 (Anti-Doping). • Illicit Drugs - based on SDR 21.2 (Illicit Drugs); and • Anti-Corruption - based on SDR 6 (Betting and Anti-Corruption). Note: 1. Scottish Rugby recommends that all participants in the game complete the following Scottish Rugby online training modules which are available free of charge which can be accessed here: • Concussion: Concussion Education for Scottish Rugby • Anti-Doping: Clean Sport and the following World Rugby online training module which is free of charge, accessed here: • Integrity: Keep Rugby Onside
Competitions	Discipline Record: Maintain a disciplinary record to Scottish Rugby's satisfaction In respect of Scottish Rugby Schools and Youth competitions or organised play programmes: • complete all fixtures to the reasonable satisfaction of Scottish Rugby; • participate in the relevant competitions in accordance with Scottish Rugby Rules and Regulations; • return a copy of each team sheet to the relevant competition Secretary no later than 48 hours after the relevant match kick-off time. a. Should a School fail to submit a teamsheet fully, accurately or on time (within , a team will be deducted £25.00. In the event that a team fails to submit 5 or more teamsheets a deduction of £150.00 will be made. Scottish Rugby reserves the right to make deductions where the decision of the Championship Committee or relevant Competitions Committees determines that a team and/or School have failed to adhere to the Rules and Regulations.

5. SCHOOL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT STANDARDS TERMS AND CONDITIONS 2026/27

1. Definitions & Interpretation

1.1 In this Agreement, the following definitions shall apply unless the context requires otherwise:

“Agreement” means the 2026/27 Schools Participation Agreement and these Terms;

“Funding” means the funding paid or payable to you under the Agreement;

“Confidential Information” means information that is designated as ‘confidential’ or which by its nature is clearly confidential. Confidential Information includes (without limitation) the terms of the Agreement and any information concerning the business processes, procedures, Personal Data, business affairs, financial affairs and finances of either Party, in any form or format;

“Party” means each of Scottish Rugby and you (together the “Parties”);

“Scottish Rugby” means the Scottish Rugby Union Limited, registered number SC132061 with its registered office at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh, EH12 5PJ; and

“Terms” means these terms.

2. Data & Confidentiality

- 2.1 For the purposes of this Clause 3 the terms “controller”, “personal data”, “special category personal data”, “data subjects” and “processing” shall have the meaning given to those terms in the Data Protection Act 2018.
- 2.2 Neither Party shall act or omit to act in any way which is inconsistent with the Data Protection Act 2018 and each Party shall comply with Data Protection Act 2018 in connection with the Agreement.
- 2.3 Neither Party shall do, or cause or permit to be done, anything which may cause or otherwise result in a breach of the Data Protection Act 2018 by the other Party.
- 2.4 To the extent that the performance of a Party’s obligations under the Agreement involves or necessitates the processing of personal data or special category personal data, the processing Party shall act only on instructions and directions from the Party who is the controller and shall comply promptly with all such instructions or directions received from time to time.
- 2.5 Each Party will each take technical and organisational measures against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data processed by it on behalf of any other Party and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data as are necessary to comply with the Data Protection Act 2018.
- 2.6 You acknowledge and agree that the personal data or special category personal data you provide to Scottish Rugby under the Agreement will be processed, used and shared in accordance with Scottish Rugby’s Privacy Policy (which is available at <http://www.scottishrugby.org/domestic-rugby/privacy-policy>). By entering into the Agreement, you confirm that you have made all relevant data subjects aware of this and you have obtained their consent to such processing (where applicable).
- 2.7 Each Party shall keep confidential all Confidential Information received from the other Party in relation to the Agreement and neither Party shall use any Confidential Information or any purpose other than the performance of its obligations or exercise of its rights under the Agreement.
- 2.8 Confidential Information may be disclosed by either Party to that Party’s professional advisers, employees and officers on a need

to know basis (provided that such persons are aware of and comply with Clause 3.7 above) or if a Party is required to do so under applicable law or regulation. Scottish Rugby may also disclose Confidential Information to funding partners or potential funding partners or to third parties on an anonymised basis.

- 2.9 Notwithstanding anything else in the Agreement, Scottish Rugby shall be entitled to publicly advertise, promote or announce in any format or media, without the need to obtain your consent beforehand, the fact that Funding has been paid or offered to you. In such circumstances you agree to provide any reasonable assistance requested by Scottish Rugby from time to time.
- 2.10 You will not advertise, promote or announce at any time that Funding has been paid or offered to you without first obtaining both the written consent of Scottish Rugby to do so and the agreement of Scottish Rugby on what you intend to say.

3. Liability

- 3.1 You will indemnify Scottish Rugby at all times and keep Scottish Rugby indemnified against any and all losses, claims, damages, costs, charges, expenses (including legal expenses), liabilities, demands, proceedings and actions incurred by Scottish Rugby which arise out of or in connection with, directly or indirectly and whether in whole or part, your performance under the Agreement.
- 3.2 Scottish Rugby's maximum liability to you under the Agreement will be limited to the amount of the Funding paid to you.
- 3.3 Nothing in the Agreement shall exclude or in any way limit the liability of either Party for death or personal injury due to that Party's negligence or any other liability to the extent the same cannot be excluded or limited as a matter of law.

4. General

- 4.1 You may not transfer or assign any of your rights or obligations under the Agreement to anybody else unless otherwise agreed in writing beforehand by Scottish Rugby.
- 4.2 Any waiver by Scottish Rugby of any rights or remedies under the Agreement will only be effective if such waiver is in writing and has been signed by an authorised representative of Scottish Rugby.
- 4.3 The Agreement forms the entire agreement between the Parties in relation to its subject matter and supersedes any previous negotiations, communications or arrangements.
- 4.4 Scottish Rugby may amend the Agreement from time to time provided that it provides you with written notice. You may not amend the Agreement at any time without first obtaining Scottish Rugby's prior written approval to the amendment.
- 4.5 If any provision of the Agreement is determined to be unlawful by a court of competent jurisdiction and can be deleted without altering the essence of the Agreement, the unlawful provision will be severed and the remaining provisions will remain and be interpreted so as to give full force and effect to the Agreement.
- 4.6 The Parties are independent contracting parties. Nothing in the Agreement will be construed as creating a partnership, agency or joint venture between the Parties. Neither Party will hold itself out as being entitled to bind the other Party in any way or to make any representation on behalf of the other Party.
- 4.7 The Agreement and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation is to be governed by and construed in accordance with the Law of Scotland. The Parties irrevocably agree that the Scottish Courts have exclusive jurisdiction to determine any dispute or claim that arises out of or in connection with this Agreement, its subject matter or formation.

6. ACCEPTANCE FORM

FAO: Admin team
Rugby Development
Scottish Rugby Limited
Company Number SC132061

Dear Scottish Rugby,

We confirm that our school has read and hereby accepts the terms of Scottish Rugby’s **School Participation Agreement** for season 2026/27. Our school understands and accepts that its ability to participate in Scottish Rugby’s conference and cup competitions and to receive investment, benefits and support from Scottish Rugby during 2026/27 is dependent upon our school complying with the terms of Scottish Rugby’s **School Participation Agreement**. Failure to do so may result in Scottish Rugby, at its discretion, exercising its rights and remedies against our school as set out in more detail in the aforementioned document.

School Name _____

Headteacher’s Name _____

Headteacher’s Signature _____ Date _____



SCOTTISH RUGBY

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