**Rugby Development Report**

Date – 04.07.23

Report compiled by Dave Challenger

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| Key events, issues, and achievements since the last report. |
| **Current and impending issues, events, and work streams**<br><br>Planning now well underway for coming season. AGC nearing completing with inputting dates as we get them from required editors.<br><br>Info yet to be received from RFU regarding dates of comps next season and whether a change of rules based on difficult representative year. Once this is in we can make relevant decisions on playing division. Also relates to budgets, spent 3 hours with Claire sorting rugby budgets, some yet to be completely finalized due to not fully knowing fixtures based on the above.<br><br>Meeting with RFU later in the week to conduct season review with them.<br><br>Rep rugby reviews underway to determine successes and shortfalls over season just gone. Some personnel being moved around and some coaches not staying so others likely to be sought out to replace them, important to get right people in right positions.<br><br>Waiting on funding streams info from RFU, should hopefully be positive in supporting delivery next season, will apply as much as possible to budget projection to support where possible. |
| **Issues requiring Decision, Discussion or Dissemination**<br><br>See attached from Claire. Player approaches process revised an updated policy based off Mags initial formation - we've had a club denied access to a player for conversation so needed to reword process based on this. Club has done everything correct, club being approached will be informed that the conversations need to be allowed to happen, need board approval on rewording so it can be published. |

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Girls league has been created without CB knowledge. Set up initially by individuals in Lancashire, RFU staff for their area and an interest in women's and girls rugby has helped expedite the creation of said league. Progress has been halted on any more planning or dissemination of info until all 3 (Cumbria, Northumberland and Durham) Counties have approved. I have requested more info as projected spend was too vague and I wasn't prepared to give approval without this information, revised email came back at almost 2000 pounds, wasn't satisfied with this as a figure. League structure also looks concerning with a 9th and 10th playoff place, would question value of this. I believe it's an important step to run this sort of league, but feel it has been thrown together, very quickly, without much thought.

NB – This report must not include personal or identifiable data as it may be appended to the Board Minutes. If there is a need to report on a Confidential matter, please forward that communication separately, marked 'Confidential'.

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**Player Recruitment and Retention: Approaching Players from Another Club**

(suggested amendments in red)

The development of the game of rugby union is one of the core principles of Northumberland Rugby Union. It is essential that the grass roots of the game are protected and individual clubs are not put in jeopardy by losing valuable player resources.

It is accepted that movement of players is inevitable for a number of reasons including individual player development, and these guidelines are not intended to hinder the free movement of players between clubs within the County. However, it is essential that clubs who promote and develop talent should be aware of any approach by another club for one of their club members.

Player Approach Guidelines:

1. Where a club wishes to make an approach to a player who is registered as a club member with another club, then the approach MUST be made from the Head of Section / Head Coach to a counterpart of the other club.

2. No direct approach to any individual player by a club official is to be made until point 1 above has been completed.

   Point one is a courtesy to the current club to make them aware that a player approach is being made.

   Once the contact has been made with an official from the current club, the approaching club shall be afforded 48 hours to contact the player. ~~and make them aware of the approach~~.

   The current club for the player being approached **cannot stop contact from another club** as players should always have choice and the freedom to move should they wish to.

3. Once the player has been contacted, if they have declined the approach, then no further approach should be made by the approaching club ~~shall be carried out~~ during that season.

County Coaches and Team Managers

~~In addition,~~ It is NOT acceptable for approaches to be made by county officials including coaches to any representative player whilst the player is on representative duty.

Please adhere to the guidelines stated above.

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