



EASTERN COUNTIES RUGBY UNION

School of Rugby

Player Release Protocol



From time to time a players may be unable to sustain the required standards, including with specific regard to commitment and attitude, having regard to the following protocols, they will be released with a clear and precise action plan; the Player Development Plan (please see note 1 below).

During the years U13 to U16 players will be encountering adolescent growth spurts which may have a dramatic affect as well as sometimes impact on performance, confidence and skill acquisition. Recognising this important aspect every effort will be taken to retain players when appropriate."

At U13 level players should have a 'yellow card' talk with their Coach as soon as the possibility for their release is identified. U13 players should not be released until the session following a 'yellow card'.

When practicable at U14, U15 and U16 levels players can benefit from having a 'probation' talk with their Coach as soon as the possibility of their release is identified. However this may not always be possible and the absence of this should not delay the player being released in a timely manner.

Where a player is released during the programme a Player Development Plan must be completed by the coach and discussed with the player, the coach may also chose to follow this meeting up with a discussion with the player's parents.

Where a player is released at the end of the programme the player must receive a summary of the key action points identified by the coach for their development.

Whenever a player is released they should be provided with contact details for the ECRU SoR Coach should they wish to discuss any points in more detail, and this can be processed via the Team Manager.

When a player is released he should be strongly encouraged to play for his sub-county squad. Best practice is for the ECRU SoR Team Manager to provide the Player with the contact details of the relevant sub-county Squad Coach or Team Manager to enable direct contact. Also the ECRU SoR or Team Manager should also notify the sub-county Squad Coach or Team Manager or failing that the sub-county Youth Chair providing full details of the player. In this way, the player will have a clear route to return to the ECRU SoR squad should his performances with the sub-county team merit it.

If the player released is also a member of an EPDG the ECRU SoR Team Manager should also notify the EPDG Coach.

Notwithstanding the above, players may be summarily released at any time at the discretion of the ECRU SoR Manager for any instances of a disciplinary nature.

The ECRU Team Manager should also ensure the squad website is kept up to date reflecting any changes in the squad.

(1) See the ECRU SoR Player Development Plan standard document

This protocol is based on the RFU Schools of Rugby Operation Manual 2011/12, the RFU Aspirational Player Programme Operations Manual and ECRU CBRDP historical best practice.

Version 3 December 16th, 2011.