



CUMBRIA SCHOOLS' RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Affiliated to the England Rugby Football Schools' Union
and the Cumbria Rugby Union



22/05/2024

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Hon. Secretary & Hon. Treasurer

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To the Teacher i/c Rugby

Please treat this letter as a matter of urgency and help maintain the Cumbria Schools RFU.

This letter is quite a lengthy document setting out the situation concerning affiliation to the CSR FU & ERFSU for the forthcoming season as well reinforcing some decisions that were taken at the recently held CSU AGM, the minutes of which accompany this letter within the email and I ask that you read it carefully.

Affiliation to the CSR FU and the ERFSU is requested for the 2024/25 season. Last season a number of schools used the Game Management System (GMS) to affiliate to the ERFSU and other schools used the Typeform mechanism provided by the RFU/ERFSU to affiliate to the ERFSU and hopefully the latter will be available following the ERFSU AGM at the end of June 2024. Over the last couple of seasons given the prevailing circumstances there has, disappointingly, been a continued further fall of County schools affiliating to both the County Schools Union and the ERFSU and in Cumbria there are, as of May 2024, currently 20 secondary schools affiliated to the ERFSU. The ERFSU requests that schools do affiliate to the national organisation and points out that non-affiliation for 2024/25 to the ERFSU in particular, as well as the CSR FU, will potentially mean that some school teams may not be permitted to enter National and County competitions as well as the tournaments & festivals jointly organised by QEGS and UCC of Penrith. As hopefully you are aware affiliating to the national body (ERFSU) does afford schools and their teams a measure of insurance protection in case of unforeseen circumstances and the support of the RFU through the ERFSU.

The ERFSU has pointed out that the requirement to pay an affiliation fee to the English Schools RFU is now unnecessary. **So, for the start of the 2024/25 season once again there are no ERFSU or CSR FU affiliation fees.** At the recent CSR FU AGM it was decided by the school representatives present to continue with the entry fee for the CSR FU playing opportunities for 2024/25. The entry fee is £25:00 and payment of this amount as well as affiliation to the CSR FU and the ERFSU will enable automatic entrance to the CSR FU organised Age Grade playing opportunities for the forthcoming season. The ERFSU requests that schools affiliate to the national body by using GMS but for those schools who have issues with GMS I will endeavour to provide an alternative following the ERFSU AGM at the end of June.

The requested CSR FU playing opportunities entry fee of £25:00 made payable to CSR FU can be sent to me through the post at the above address should a school be wishing to pay by cheque or if wishing to pay by electronic bank transfer the Cumbria Schools Rugby Union sort code is 01-04-69 with an account number of 07014244. Please remember to include an 'originators ID' descriptor to identify the school/academy making the payment.

For your information this summer term, up to press, the ERFSU has not contacted me to cross reference CSRFSU affiliation returns with entrance requests to National competitions and at the end of June the draws for the National Age Grade competitions are due to be circulated to competing schools.

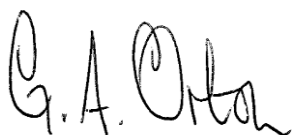
Schools should affiliate to both the County Union and English Schools and once again for this 2024/25 season, affiliating to the English Schools (ERFSU) will automatically ensure affiliation to the Cumbria Schools RFU.

Please ensure that the accompanying Age Grade Registration document for entry into the CSRFSU competitions, festival and tournaments planned for next season is returned to me for Friday 28th of June 2024 at the latest. Nil returns are respectfully requested.

There are changes from previous seasons in the way that the Age Grade County playing opportunities are to be arranged and the changes are outlined in the registration document for the 2024/25 season, but it is anticipated that schools will be making full use of the Autumn term in terms of playing and to offer flexibility for games to take place. This continued restructuring has at its heart engagement with the game and the encouragement of participation whilst maintaining flexibility in terms of when in the school year and rugby season these zonal tournaments could take place. The Committee asks that you engage positively with what we are looking to organise for the 2024/25 season so that when it starts playing opportunities can begin to be organised and take place. To assist in the preliminary organisation of all the Age Grade playing opportunities it would be greatly appreciated if returns could be sent to me by **Friday, 28th of June** and if I have not received a response then your school will find that it has not been entered into any of the County organised opportunities. The organisers of all the playing opportunities are looking for confirmed and definite numbers so that they can begin the organisation process and be in touch before the end of the school year with arrangements and organisational details.

The CSRFSU still recognises and understands the many challenges facing schools in the current uncertain financially constrained climate. The committee remains fully aware of the hesitancy by School Leaders, Governing Bodies, staff, students and their parents/carers that still exists concerning the playing of rugby both within the school as well as between schools. The future for school rugby in the county is still uncertain but the CSRFSU has sought to put in place a thoughtful playing opportunity plan containing flexibility for the forthcoming season that encourages both continued re-engagement, increased participation, and enjoyment of the game.

Yours sincerely



Garyth Orton

Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer

CSRFSU.