



U17/18s TRANSITION POLICY



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Rugby clubs across the country face challenges in providing continuity for players at U17 & U18, especially the timing and pace of transitioning into senior rugby.

Midsomer Norton is keen to support those players who want to transition to senior rugby. In the past a lack of opportunity to 'play up' has disenfranchised young players, whilst we understand parents' concern about introducing a player to senior rugby too early.

A successful transition from youth to senior rugby is also critical for the ongoing success of Midsomer Norton RFC's three senior rugby teams. Each season there is a natural turnover of senior players due to retirement. Due to the club's location recruiting new players is very difficult, Midsomer Norton RFC is proud of its identity and particularly the fact the majority of its senior playing members have progressed through its youth section. Midsomer Norton RFC appreciates some of these young players have great aspirations of playing at the highest level possible, whilst others are unsure about their rugby future or just want to play social rugby, Midsomer Norton RFC intends to provide opportunities for both.

Senior weekday training is on Tuesdays & Thursdays, while U17/18s training will be held on Wednesday evenings, with some pre planned sessions being integrated with senior training, contact sessions will be appropriately divided, and be conducted side-by-side, not altogether to help in integrating the young players with the senior teams. This will minimise the risk of injury caused by physical inequality by complying with the RFU's Regulations.

The club would like to include U17/18s players in as much senior rugby activity at Midsomer Norton RFC as the player and parents are happy to permit. Alongside training and playing together, we will also be inviting U17/18s players to senior socials, where appropriate, which we hope will further the sense of inclusion in the senior side of the club and foster friendships so that youth players step up into teams with players they already know.

Once a player is 17 they may play for a Midsomer Norton senior side as long as they have completed the RFU Adult Player Registration form and the RFU's Playing Adult Rugby Form.

RFU Guidelines

The RFU have very strict guidelines for youth players participating in senior rugby. These are all stipulated under RFU Regulation 15. The key point is:

15.3.7 A player can play adult contact rugby, or train with other adults in contact rugby, when they reach their seventeenth birthday provided:

- (a) they have been assessed as capable of playing with adults;
- (b) the RFU's Playing Adult Rugby Form has been duly completed and signed; and
- (c) the player does not train or play in the front row of the scrum.

A copy of these forms can be downloaded from the club's website