



Middlesex Representative Rugby Policy

1. Objective of this policy

To outline the approach under the Middlesex Representative Playing Programme, managed through two main channels, namely Middlesex representative playing sides and the Developing Player Programme (DPP). The programme is overseen by the Middlesex Player Development Committee (MPDC).

2. Scope

All representative rugby associated with Middlesex County.

3. Audience

All members of Middlesex rugby community, in particular:

- Girls aged U15s, U18s and Women
- Boys aged U14s, U15s & U16s (including those within the DPP)
- Boys aged U17s, U18s, U20s and Men (excludes Academy Players)
- All coaching and related staff.

4. Team Middlesex Representative Playing Programme

The Middlesex Representative Playing Programme is partnered with London Irish Academy, Middlesex Clubs, Middlesex Schools and Middlesex Universities and is managed through two separate and independent pathways, namely the:

- Middlesex Representative Playing Sides
- The Developing Player Programme (DPP).

5. Middlesex Representative Playing Sides

The Representative Programme is open to all Middlesex players in the following age groups:

- Girls aged U15s, U18s and Women
- Boys aged U17s, U18s, U20s and Men.

Objectives are to promote a high-quality playing programme that:

- Engages all clubs, schools and universities to maintain and develop the player pathway
- Enables players to perform to their fullest potential and to the highest level of their aspirations, skill and experience
- Promotes full transparency in the Identification and selection of players

- Promotes ongoing development in its appointment of managers
- Provides training and supports skill development from the best coaches
- Middlesex Representative Rugby is committed to the RFU half game initiative at U18s, compliant with Regulations 9 player safety, Regulation 15 Age Grade Rugby and Regulation 21 safeguarding.

Selection Process

- Middlesex clubs, schools and universities are invited to nominate players to participate In the Middlesex representative playing programme.
- Requests for nominations will be made by the Middlesex Office or Middlesex Team Managers
- Players who have been nominated are invited for a trial
- Those who have been successful are invited to the relevant Middlesex Squad
- Those who are unsuccessful are given feedback on why they have not been selected
- Selection for the Representative Playing Sides will be managed by Middlesex Team Managers and Coaches.

Right of appeal

- If a player is unhappy about selection or any other related issue this should be discussed firstly with the Team Manager and Coach, and if no solution can be found this should be escalated to the Middlesex Transition and Integration Manager.

6. Developing Playing Programme (DPP)

The DPP is a 3-year national programme managed by the RFU and delivered locally in partnership with the RFU, Regional Academy and Constituent Bodies.

Middlesex is in partnership with London Irish.

Players are invited to trial for a place in the DPP via their schools and clubs. The entry age is U14s and runs until U16s. Some players are invited to join the Academy which runs from U16s to U18s.

London Irish DPP objectives are to:

- To engage with Middlesex players aged U14 to U16s and provide a greater opportunity to support their development
- The DPP will help players find the right direction, whether through professional rugby or long-term participation
- The focus will be on nurturing a player's skill development, promote game understanding and their athleticism
- The programme is committed to providing a safe and holistic learning environment where individuals can develop as players and people
- Players who are involved in the DPP will represent Middlesex in their relevant age groups.

Selection process

- Entry into the DPP is open to all male players from Middlesex Clubs and Schools for those aged U14, U15s & U16s
- Middlesex Schools or a Middlesex Club are invited to submit nominations by London Irish DPP

- Assessment and entry are managed by the London Irish DPP Manager, who works closely with the Middlesex DPP Liaison Officer
- Notification of DPP trials and DPP sessions will be made by London Irish DPP Manager
- Players who are in the DPP will be able to represent Middlesex in their relative age group
- Selection in the representative playing programme will be managed by the DPP Manager
- All matters in relation to the DPP programme are discussed at the Regional Playing Pathway Group (RPPG) which meets three times each year. Middlesex is represented at the RPPG by the Middlesex DPP Liaison Officer.

Location of the DPP

The DPP programme is run at the following three sites in Middlesex during term time.

- Chiswick - Each Monday in Term Time - 17.45 hrs. - 19.00hrs
- Hazelwood London Irish, Each Tuesday in Term Time - 18.15hrs - 20.30hrs
- Harrow School - Each Wednesday in Term Time - 18.30hrs - 20.00hrs.

Right of appeal

If a player is unhappy about selection or any other DPP related issue this should be discussed firstly with the DPP Manager and Middlesex DPP Liaison Officer and if no solution can be found, this should be escalated to the Academy Manager.

7. Team Middlesex Representative Playing Committee (TMRPC)

The TMRPC is made up of the following positions:

- Middlesex Transition and Integration Manager, who is responsible for the Team Middlesex Representative Playing Programme
- Team Managers of each of the representative playing sides
- Lead coaches from each age group of the representative playing sides
- A School representative
- Middlesex DPP Liaison Officer.

Terms of Reference

- Ensure that all TMRPP objectives are met
- Meet bimonthly and jointly with the Rugby Development Committee which is chaired by the Chair of Rugby Development which reports back to management
- All positions of administration, coaching and managing positions for each Middlesex Representative Playing Team is by 'Application and Interview'.

8. Continuity of the Middlesex Representative Playing Programme

The programme may be subject to change, year on year.

9. Owner of this Policy

This policy is owned by the Middlesex Transition & Integration Manager and approved by the Middlesex Management Board.

This policy will be reviewed and updated annually.

10. Document Approval History

| Date | Version | Approved by: | Comment |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 7 July 2020 | Version 1 | Middlesex County Management Board | To be updated in August to September 2021. |