



THE ARMY RUGBY UNION

10 Jul 17

Director of Army Academy Directive 2017/18

Vision

At the Army Rugby Union Academy, we want to set the bar high. We want to take soldiers and officers from across the Army and turn them into top class sportsmen and junior leaders working in a high performance environment. We aspire to see our people think big, brim with ambition and work hard to achieve their goals, truly assisting them to “Be the Best”. We want our players to develop the foundations that will one day see them playing at the highest levels. We expect to see our players playing at Twickenham.

Mission

To develop young soldiers and officers to be rugby players capable of performing at the very highest level they can achieve in order to secure the cultural legacy of the Army Rugby Union.

Our Focus

The Army Rugby Union Academy will focus on:

- Long term athlete development principles.
- Identifying the most talented players.
- Instil an ethos of excellence through continuous development.
- The development of an integrated approach that optimises player opportunities. through civilian clubs, UKAF and Senior XV teams to ensure progress to the highest possible levels.

2017 Objectives

The objectives for the 2017 Academy season are as follows:

- Develop players to compete at the highest level in order to compete and win the Academy Inter Services Championship and increase participation in Senior Army Rugby, specifically:
 - Increase the number of players participating in club rugby, year on year.
 - Deliver 8 players into the UKAF U23 team.
 - Deliver 3 players into the Army Senior XV Inter Services final 30 Squad.
 - Deliver a further 5 players into the Army A team for additional Senior XV development.

2017 Fixtures

1 – 3 Sep 17	Army Academy Trial	Brunswick Camp
10 Sep 17	Army Academy v Hampshire U20	Aldershot
01 Oct 17	Army Academy v Ealing Trailfinders	Aldershot
7 Oct 17	London Scottish v Army Academy	Richmond
22 Oct 17	United Hospitals v Army Academy	Rosslyn Park
5 Nov 17	Moseley Academy v Army Academy	Moseley RFC
15 Nov 17	Army Academy v RAF	Aldershot
29 Nov 17	RN v Army Academy	Portsmouth

Development

The Army Academy Season provides a significant opportunity for younger players to develop appropriately to be of the standard to play senior XV rugby. Key to developing Academy Players to maximise their potential is the ability of the Academy Coaching Staff to mentor, nurture and develop players both whilst in the Academy Camp and whilst back in unit. In addition, focus by coaching and management staff to identify areas of Academy playing and management practice for improvement must be constant. Specifically, coaching and management must focus on the following areas:

- On field Leadership.
- Individual and collectives rugby skills.
- Individual fitness and conditioning.
- Professional attitude.

The Academy Head Coach is to implement a coaching programme, influenced by Army Senior XV attitudes and patterns of play, but based on individual personal profiles and Academy team cohesion that delivers against the set objectives and is in keeping with the Academy's vision. The Team Manager is to underpin this programme with a straight forward and easily understandable Academy Standards Charter, which should be agreed by the players and implemented across the board.

Selection of the Inter Service Squad

Due to the very short period of time that the Academy has between trials and the first Inter Services game, and the fundamental requirement to develop players, the squad for the Inter Services will be announced prior to the Ealing Trailfinders fixture. Movement in and out of the squad will be at the discretion of the Head Coach based on fitness, motivation and attitude. This focus will enable more direct coaching, aimed at the individual and team level, in line with the overarching mission of the Academy. The Academy season provides the platform for Academy players to showcase their ability to the Senior XV management and coaching team.

JA Kennedy
Lieutenant Colonel
Director of Academy Rugby