



ARMY RUGBY UNION
President
General Sir Richard Dannatt KCB CBE MC ADC Gen

Colonel M C H Underhill OBE
Chairman Discipline Army Rugby Union

ARU/CHMN/1

Commander
The Royal Logistic Corps Territorial Army
Prince William of Gloucester Barracks
GRANTHAM
Lincolnshire
NG31 7TJ

Telephone Civil: 01159 573200
Telephone Mil: 94452 3200
Fax: Ext 3214
Mobile: 07917 556845
Email: mark.underhill211@land.mod.uk

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SPORTSMEN/WOMEN WITHIN THE BRITISH ARMY PLAYING PROFESSIONAL RUGBY UNION

References:

- A. DCI No 130 dated 17 Nov 00 (pages 1-5).
- B. AGAIs Vol 3 Chapter 111 – Professional Sportsmen and Women in the Army – Issue No 142 (pages 1-11).
- C. AG Army Information Note 28/06 dated 26 Oct 06.

BACKGROUND

1. There has been recent correspondence and discussion within the Army Rugby Union (ARU) Management Board concerning those sportsmen and sportswomen serving within the Army who are undertaking the game of rugby union with a civilian club and if receiving any remuneration could be classed as playing at professional level. In recent years, the numbers of individuals playing professional rugby union at this level has not been captured as the necessary procedures are not being carried out correctly at unit level. It is also believed that there may be individuals playing rugby at a professional level who are not playing for their own unit, regiment, corps or cab badge and again, are not known to the ARU. The ARU Management Board fully supports players playing rugby union professionally but wish to ensure that all procedures are correctly carried out. References A – C, whilst they cover much of the same ground, are however quite clear, and state the procedures that must be adhered to.

2. The necessary staffing to comply with the requirements stated in the various references is very much a CO through brigade/divisional G1 chain of command to the Director Army

Sports Control Board (DASCB) and onwards procedure. It is only at the DASCB stage that the ARU will receive a copy of the necessary paperwork. The necessary database can then be populated and the Chairman ARU informed.

AIM

The aim of this letter is to remind the chain of command down to unit level that all are fully compliant with the rules and regulations as laid out in the various references. It will also ensure that the correct information is given to the PPO Senior Finance Officers for submission annually to the MOD through AGs Land Forces Assurance (AG Business Assurance Manager). If the procedures are carried out as directed, the ARU Management Board will then have full visibility of all professional players playing rugby union and the necessary support can be given.

ACTION REQUIRED

It is requested that copies of this letter are distributed through the chain of command to all unit/clubs by action addressees, copied as necessary to Bde/Div G1 staff so that all Cos/players are made aware of the requirements as listed in references A-C. For ease, the flow chart at Appendix 1 to Annex A Chapter 111 (Reference B) lays out the process.

M C H Underhill
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Enclosures:

1. References A- C.

Distribution:

External:

Action:

*All UK Divisional/LONDISR/UKSC(G)/HQ BFC RFU Chairman

*All UK Corps Secretaries

*OICs of all Army level teams

Sec ARU – please ensure that this is placed on ARU website and copied to all RFU/ARU affiliated teams and those action addressees

Information:

DASCB

HQ AG – For Land Forces Assurance Team

G3 PAT in UK Divisional/LONDIST/UKSC(G)/HQ BFC HQs

UKSC(G) Sports Board

Chairman ARU

ARU Council