

SUSSEX SCHOOLS RUGBY LEAGUE

2026 COMPETITIONS INFORMATION PACK



SUSSEX SCHOOLS
RUGBY LEAGUE



INTRODUCTION

Since 2023, Brighton & Hove Rugby League have been growing the schools game locally. There's an ever-increasing number of Sussex-based schools taking part in the sport, and the game across London & South East is growing, with the rejuvenation of the London Broncos professional side and the recent international Ashes series between England and Australia where over 60,000 people watched the first test at Wembley.

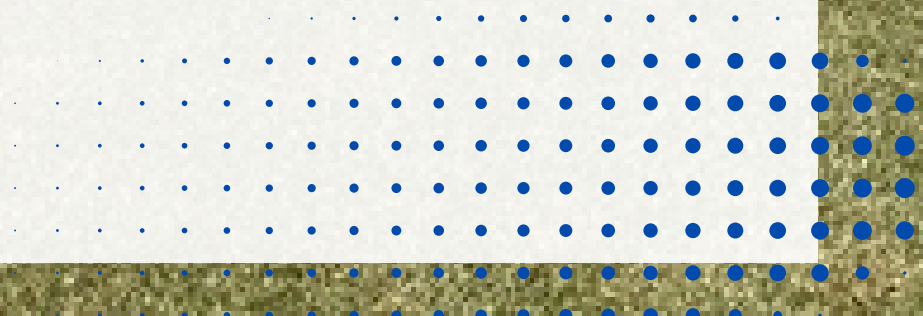
This Competition Pack gives you all the information you need to know to get your school involved in our local competitions as well as how to qualify for the bigger regional and national tournaments.

The main Rugby League competition pathway is the RFL Champion Schools. This starts off with local qualifiers, progresses to a regional festival and then a regional final, after which the best team in the South East goes on to play against teams from across England and Wales. The Y7 final, the Stephen Mullaney memorial, is held annually at Wembley Stadium on the morning of the Challenge Cup final.

For those schools that just want to establish some Rugby League in their school, there are local competitions that allow your students - both male and female - to jump in and play.



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RECENT SUCCESSES

Despite our relative infancy in the Champion Schools, we've already seen a number of schools qualify for the National Rounds of the competition.

2025/26 (National Cup still going to good luck to both schools!)

Dorothy Stringer Y9 Boys - London & SE Winners, National Quarter-Finals

St Oscar Romero Y9 Girls - London & SE Winners, National Festival

St Oscar Romero Y7 Girls - London & SE Winners, National Festival

Kings Y7 Boys - London & SE Runner-Up

2024/25

Dorothy Stringer Y8 Boys - London & SE Winners, National Round of 16

St Oscar Romero Y8 Girls - London & SE Winners, National Festival

St Oscar Romero Y7 Girls - London & SE Winners

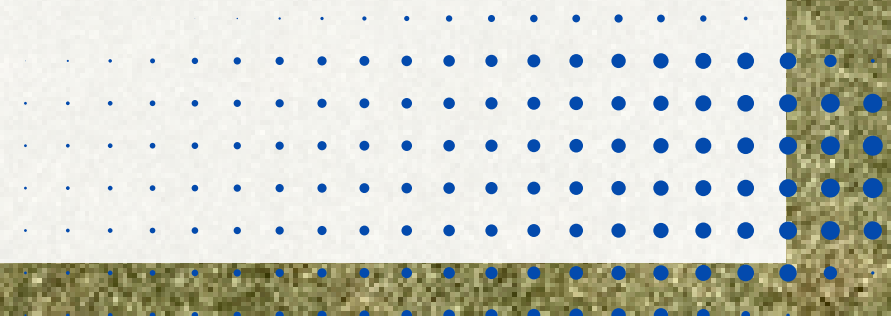
2023/24

Cardinal Newman Y9 Boys - London & SE Winners, National Round of 16

St Oscar Romero Y8 Girls - National Festival



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COMPETITIONS & TIMELINE

The club Rugby League season runs over the summer, broadly between April and October, with the professional game kicking off around February. Because of this, we've split our season into two parts.

Sussex Schools Rugby League 9s Tournaments

The InspiredBy 9s is a simpler format of the game and is ideal for new players to learn the sport. The tournaments at Y7 and Y8 also act as qualifiers for the Y7 and Y8 South of England 9s.

RFL Champion Schools

This is played 13-a-side and is close to the full version of the sport.

Summer

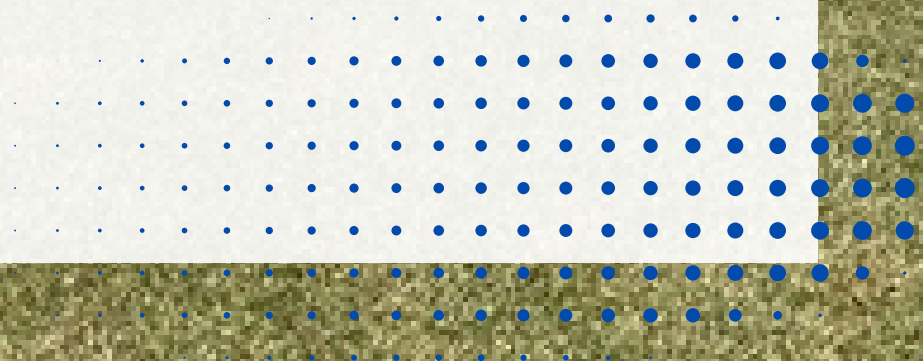
- April - May: Development Events & Friendlies
- May/early June: Sussex Schools Rugby League 9s Tournaments
- End of June: South of England 9s for Y7 & Y8 Boys & Girls

Winter

- September - October ½ term: Boys Champion Schools - Sussex Qualifiers
- November/early December: Boys Champion Schools - London & SE Festival
- January: Boys Champion Schools - London & SE Final
- February/March - Girls Champion Schools - London & SE Festival
- February - June - Champion Schools National Rounds for Boys & Girls



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SUMMER 2026 SEASON

Sussex Schools Rugby League 9s Tournaments

Thursday 14th May - Y7/8 Girls

Wednesday 3rd June - Y7 Boys

Thursday 4th June - Y8 Boys

Tuesday 9th June - Y9 Boys

Wednesday 17th June - Y9/10 Girls (Development Event)

South of England 9s - normally top 2 teams in Sussex qualify

Tuesday 23rd June - Y7 Boys & Y7 Girls

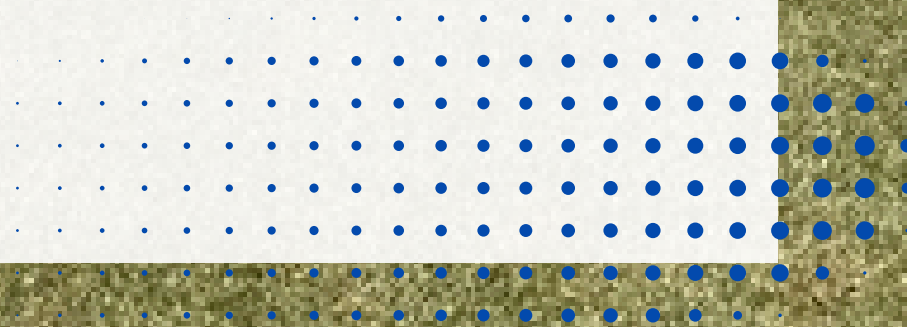
Thursday 25th June - Y8 Boys & Y8 Girls

Friendly Fixtures

We encourage schools to create friendly fixtures, either under the 9s format or even the full 13s format. Please get in touch with us if you're organising a fixture and we will try to support with a referee where possible.



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HOW TO ENTER

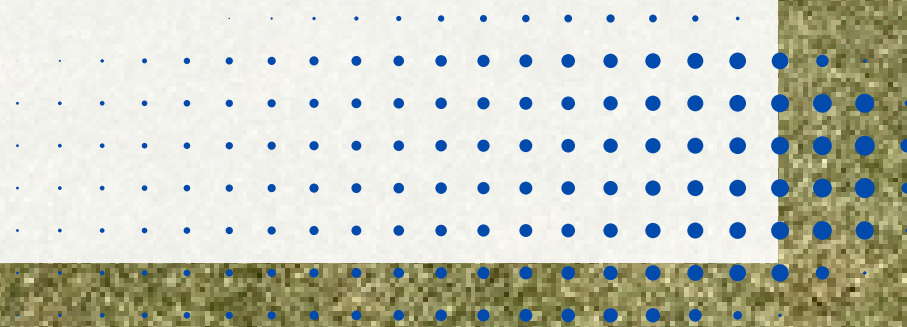
To enter any of the Sussex Schools Rugby League 9s Competitions, please head to this link:

<https://forms.gle/XKMNsZbr3NcBE6pG6>

There is no charge for any of the competitions and any school who attends 3 or more of these tournaments will receive a free set of 10 rugby league balls, for use by their school.



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ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Brighton & Hove Rugby League was founded in 2021 which reintroduced the sport of Rugby League to the city after the previous club folded. The club's mission is to create a sustainable Rugby League club, community and culture within the city of Brighton & Hove and the wider Sussex area. We see the development of Rugby League in schools as an absolutely key part of what we do.

If you're looking to develop a Rugby League offer in your school, we will be able to help in some way - whether that's because you're starting from scratch and you need some CPD and coaching support or because you're trying to fine tune your tactics to take on the national rounds of the Champ Schools!

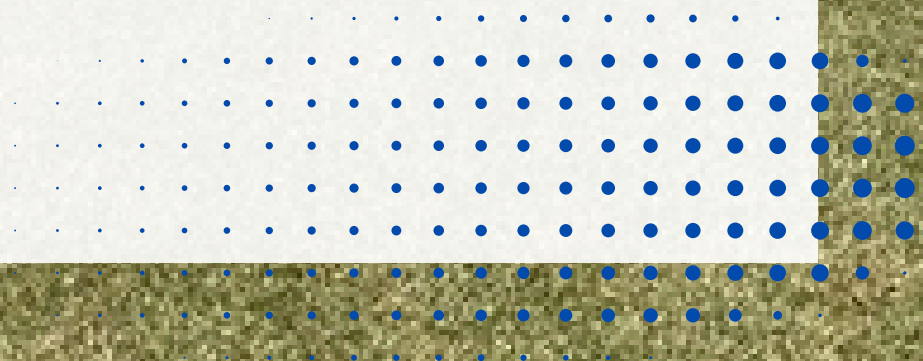
We may occasionally also be able to support with some equipment - balls, cones, tag belts - anything that helps create sustainable programmes within schools.

We're also partnered with the London Broncos Foundation who are the charity arm of the the London Broncos. They may also be able to support over and above what the club can provide.

Please get in touch with us in the first instance to discuss and we can signpost you to the right places.



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PATHWAY OPPORTUNITIES

Talent Pathway

Boys

London Broncos Development Days - open to all players in U12-U16 - during school holidays

London Origin - representative squad (North vs South) in U14 and U16 - September

London Broncos U16 & U18 - representative squad playing against Super League opposition

England U16 & U17

Girls

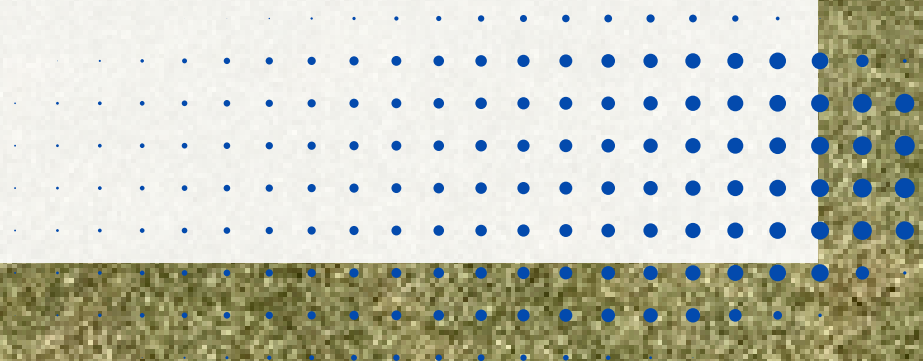
London Broncos Development Days - open to all players in U12-U16 - during school holidays

Brighton & Hove RL Futures Hub - structured summer programme for U12-U16

London Talent Hub - representative programme for players starting Y10 in September



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KEEP PLAYING...

Boys Rugby League

A 4-week programme for boys in Y6, Y7 and Y8

Tuesday 5:45pm - 7:15pm

2nd June - 30th June

Possible fixture opportunity on Saturday 4th July

Girls Rugby League

A 10-week programme for girls in Y7 - Y11

Thursday 5:45 - 7:15pm

14th May - 16th July

Fixtures

U12 & U14 Festivals

Sunday 14th June @ London Broncos

Sunday 12th July Venue TBC

U16 Fixtures TBC

U14 League Dates

Sunday 21st June

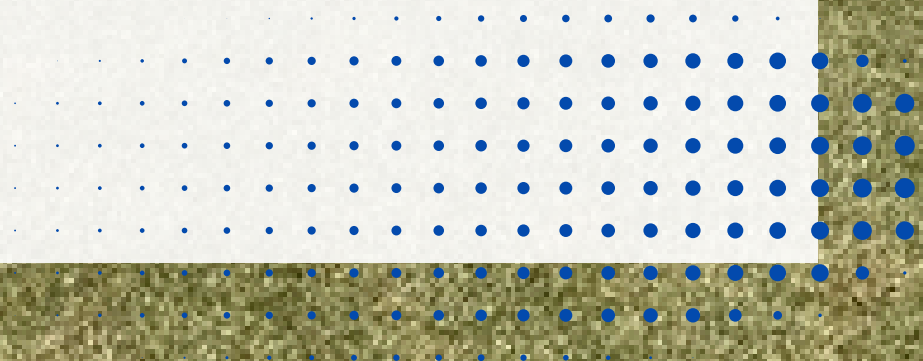
Sunday 28th June

Sunday 5th July

Grand Final - Saturday 18th July



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PREVIOUS WINNERS

2023

Y7 Boys - Cardinal Newman

Y7 Girls - St Oscar Romero

2024

Y8 Boys - Kings, Hove

Y8 Girls - St Oscar Romero

Y7 Boys - Dorothy Stringer

Y7 Girls - St Oscar Romero

2025

Y9 Boys - Cardinal Newman

Y8 Boys - Dorothy Stringer

Y7/8 Girls - St Oscar Romero

Y7 Boys - Dorothy Stringer



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