

Return to Youth Rugby Roadmap

STAGE	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
TIMEFRAME	September 2020	October 2020	November 2020 to end January 2021	February 2021	March 2021 onwards
CONCEPT	Friendlies Only	Centrally Organised Games	Gradual Return to Competitive Games	League Conclusion & Cup Preparation	Competitive Cup & Plate Competitions
DETAILS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs can begin to arrange their own friendly games as and when they are ready to do so Clubs can only play other teams within Connacht as per IRFU directive Clubs should focus on minimising travel where possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small number of non-competitive fixtures arranged by Connacht Rugby Teams will be split into pods and play fixtures against other teams within the same pod Geography & playing standard will be the main criteria used split teams into pods Clubs/teams may choose to opt out of fixtures at this stage if they are not ready to return to playing games Clubs/teams may choose to arrange additional friendlies outside of their pod if they wish This period will also act as a trial for clubs and Connacht Rugby to adjust to the new fixture procedures that need to be in place due to Covid 19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A gradual return to competitive fixtures Fixtures set by Connacht Rugby Focus on flexible formats via mini leagues Playing standard will be the main criteria used to split teams into mini leagues Clubs should only enter teams at this stage if they are confident they will be able to complete all games Clubs must be able to field all teams they enter on a given weekend as refixes due to weather will be likely during this period <p>*U13 Boys & U14 Girls leagues remain non-competitive as in previous seasons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This stage will be used to bring leagues to a conclusion This window will allow some room to get outstanding games played if leagues have experienced delays due to weather and/or Covid 19 issues League finals will be held in this window <p>*Teams entering leagues will need to stick rigidly to the dates provided to avoid additional backlog of games as the season progresses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal cup/plate competitions set-up by Connacht Rugby <p>*Pool based formats may be considered to provide all teams with a minimum number of guaranteed games at the later end of the season</p>

Date	Event/Action	Notes
28/07/2020	Youth Committee Meeting Youth Roadmap presented to club delegates	
31/07/2020	Return to Youth Rugby Roadmap & team entry form sent to clubs	
21/08/2020	Deadline for clubs to submit team entries	
31/08/2020	Review by Youth Committee to determine if stage 1 can proceed	
05/09/2020	STAGE 1 begins	
11/09/2020	Confirmed structures & fixtures for stage 2 released	
18/09/2020	Youth transfer deadline	
28/09/2020	Review by Youth Committee to determine if stage 2 can proceed	
03/10/2020	STAGE 2 begins	
14/10/2020	Confirmed structure & fixtures for stage 3 released	
02/11/2020	Review by Youth Committee to determine if stage 3 can proceed	
07/11/2020	STAGE 3 begins	
30/01/2020	STAGE 4 begins	
10/02/2021	Cup draws take place	
22/02/2021	Review by Youth Committee to determine if stage 5 can proceed	
27/02/2021	STAGE 5 begins	

Important Points:

- Movement from one stage to another is subject to review throughout the season and could be delayed depending on the public health situation at the time. This will also be subject to the latest government and IRFU guidelines at the time.
- This flexible approach also allows room to adjust the season plan to accommodate schools rugby as and when schools are in a position to engage in formal competitions once again.



Key Dates											
DRAFT SEASON LAYOUT											
Season 2020/21	STAGE	Date	U14 Girls	U16 Girls	U18 Girls	U13 Boys	U14 Boys	U15 Boys	U16 Boys	U17 Boys	U18.5 Boys
		W/E of Sat/Sun									
		15th/16th August									
		22nd/23rd August									
		29th/30th August									
	STAGE 1	5th/6th September	DRAFT ONLY								DRAFT ONLY
		12th/13th September		FRIENDLIES ONLY							
		19th/20th September									
		26th/27th September									
	STAGE 2	3rd/4th October					Org. Game 1		Org. Game 1		Org. Game 1
		10th/11th October		Org. Game 1		Org. Game 1		Org. Game 1		Org. Game 1	
		17th/18th October	Org. Game 1		Org. Game 1		Org. Game 2		Org. Game 2		Org. Game 2
Bank Holiday W/E		24th/25th October		Org. Game 2		Org. Game 2		Org. Game 2		Org. Game 2	
		31st Oct./1st Nov.	Org. Game 2		Org. Game 2						
	STAGE 3	7th/8th November		League 1			League 1		League 1		League 1
		14th/15th November	League 1		League 1	League 1		League 1		League 1	
		21st/22nd November		League 2		League 2		League 2		League 2	
		28th/29th November	League 2		League 2	League 2		League 2		League 2	
		5th/6th December		League 3		League 3		League 3		League 3	
		12th/13th December	League 3		League 3	League 3		League 3		League 3	
		19th/20th December	Refix Window	Refix Window	Refix Window	Refix Window	Refix Window	Refix Window	Refix Window	Refix Window	Refix Window
Christmas		26th/27th December	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas
New Year		2nd/3rd January	New Year	New Year	New Year	New Year	New Year	New Year	New Year	New Year	New Year
		9th/10th January		League 4		League 4		League 4		League 4	
		16th/17th January	League 4		League 4	League 4		League 4		League 4	
	23rd/24th January		League 5		League 5		League 5		League 5		
	30th/31st January	League 5		League 5	League 5		League 5		League 5		
	STAGE 4	6th/7th February	DRAFT ONLY								DRAFT ONLY
		13th/14th February		TRANSITION PERIOD (to conclude leagues & get cups underway)							
		20th/21st February									
		27th/ 28th February						Cup 1		Cup 1	
	STAGE 5	6th/7th March		Cup 1		Cup 1		Cup 1		Cup 1	
		13th/14th March	Cup 1		Cup 2		Cup 2		Cup 2		Cup 2
		20th/21st March		Cup 2		Cup 2		Cup 2		Cup 2	
		27th/28th March	Cup 2		Cup 3		Cup 3		Cup 3		Cup 3
Bank Holiday W/E		3rd/4th April		Cup 3		Cup 3		Cup 3		Cup 3	
		10th/11th April	Cup 3		Cup/Plate SF		Cup/Plate SF		Cup/Plate SF		Cup/Plate SF
		17th/18th April		Cup/Plate SF		Cup/Plate SF		Cup/Plate SF		Cup/Plate SF	
		24th/25th April	Cup/Plate SF		Cup/Plate Fin.		Cup/Plate Fin.		Cup/Plate Fin.		Cup/Plate Fin.
	1st/2nd May		Cup/Plate Fin.		Cup/Plate Fin.		Cup/Plate Fin.		Cup/Plate Fin.		
	8th/9th May	Cup/Plate Fin.		Cup/Plate Fin.		Cup/Plate Fin.		Cup/Plate Fin.		Cup/Plate Fin.	
		15th/16th May									