

SQUAD LEADER FAQ DOC

THE
**TOUCH
UNION**
WELCOME TO THE SQUAD



What is this?

We want to support young people to organise and deliver non-contact rugby activity in their school, college or university.

Non-contact (Touch Union) is simple to play, can be played on any surface, and develops social skills, teamwork, connection and gets students active.

For the young leaders (“Squad Leaders”) this is either a route into leadership or a an opportunity to link their volunteer hours to another programme e.g. Duke of Edinburgh or to link it to PE focus – e.g. supporting with a block of rugby delivery for a year group.

What do you need them to do?

1. Organise and deliver a 6-week block of Touch Union activity, either a series of “pitch up and play” activities or a more “formal” festival/competition. These activities should be aimed at students new to rugby – not necessarily additional activities for those who currently have existing provision.
2. Complete a simple online report at the end of the programme – letting us know what they did, what went well and how many people played throughout. On completion of this, the squad leader will receive a RFU certificate.

Why do you need a staff member and what do you need from me?

For safeguarding reasons all correspondence with the squad leader should be through a DBS and safeguarding trained adult. This doesn’t need to be a member of PE staff, just someone able to act as point of contact.

Whilst the activity is non-contact and should be driven by the squad leader, it is also important that within a school setting that an adult is aware of the activity and available.

What training and support will the Squad Leaders get?

We will provide kit and equipment to enable them to deliver. We will also provide on-line resources, such as coaching cards/videos to enable them to be able to run activity and deliver Touch Union

- If they are already part of a leadership programme, we will ask them to complete a simple on-line module to upskill them on Touch Union. We will provide resource to the staff member should they wish to deliver this.
- If the school wants to deliver a Leadership Programme, England Rugby have a free young leader resource that staff can download and deliver.
- If there is no leadership training, the RFU will provide a series of local training opportunities for the Squad Leaders to attend, which will cover how to organise, coach and referee – this will need to be completed prior to any in school delivery.

Is this activity covered by RFU insurance?

As this activity is taking place within an education setting, it is our expectation that this activity would be covered within your liability insurance, as would other young leader activity. If a squad leader is a member of a community rugby club, the activity would be also covered under the RFU Club insurance. If there are any doubt please check.

Can we have more than one squad leader per school?

Yes!

What other support is there for staff?

We will keep in contact with you and provide examples of best practice to share. For staff we will also be contacted via schools@rfu.com for any enquiries.

You and the squad leader may also benefit from the support of a local rugby club who will be delighted to help – you can find your local club contact via findrugby.com

Is there a cost to the school?

No.

TO SIGN UP YOUR SQUAD LEADER – PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#)

