



2020 Women's Age-Grade Critical Success Factors

To open the 2020 season, USA Rugby has identified key areas for improvement across all women's age-grade programs to maximize player development and improve player retention. The following points span High School All-American (U18), Under-20 and Collegiate All-American programs.

STRUCTURE

Shift age-grade structure from being built around one-off events to providing consistent year-round programming that gives players meaningful development on and off the field

REGIONAL RUGBY

Leverage the regional rugby structure to verify & develop athletes by:

1. Aligning regional rugby events with the senior Women's National Team XV's regional development programming to improve talent tracking and to provide clarity for players around what their next steps may be.
2. Giving athletes who are leaving one age-grade team the opportunity to take the next step in their pathway.
3. At the Girls High School All-American and Collegiate All-American levels, target specific regions and events for regional development/talent identification opportunities to allow a broader reach into the player pool.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATION

To ensure transparency and clear understanding for all stakeholders including:

- a. The athlete: on where they are in their journey and the next steps in their individual progression

- b. The community: on the pathway, the goals of each age grade team, entry points, verification points; clearly define age-grade programs and program approach.
- c. Between programs: increase integration between the age-grade teams to ensure alignment and maximization of long-term athlete development

For more information about Critical Success Factors and key goals for 2020 across Women's Age-Grades, please contact Emilie Bydwell at ebydwell@usa.rugby.

To nominate an athlete for a USA Rugby age-grade program, please visit hiperforms.com/member/login.