



The RFA (Rugby Fives Association) is delighted to announce that it will be holding the National Schools tournaments at Alleyn's School (in Dulwich, South London) between the 14th and the 22nd August. It is our hope that by setting the dates of the tournaments well in advance as many players as possible are able to attend.

For avoidance of doubt, the tournaments we are holding are the 2021 National Schools (which ordinarily would have taken place in April 2021), that is, the tournaments for the academic year 2020-21. We are however also holding a backdated U18 Open Tournament for the previous 2019-20 academic year, to give those who missed the chance to compete in their final National Schools tournament an opportunity to do so.

These tournaments will provide a much-needed opportunity for pupils to play in a national competition before the end of this academic year. Entries will be accepted for singles and doubles participation - see below. Doubles partners in the main draw will need to be attending the same school.

We hope that this event will be a very enjoyable opportunity for pupils and parents to return to playing Fives in competition, and we look forward to welcoming participants and spectators to Alleyn's School.

The dates for the different tournaments are outlined below, note depending on numbers we plan for the hours of play to be between 9am and 6pm on all days of the tournament:

Tournament	Dates	Eligibility
U13 Open	14th August	U13 = Year 8 or younger in the academic year 2020-21
U13-U18 Girls	15th August	See other appropriate rows of table
U14 Open	19th-21st August	U14 = Year 9 or younger in 2020-21
U16 Open	19th-22nd August	U16 = Year 11 or younger in 2020-21
U18 Open	19th-22nd August	U18 = Year 13 or younger in 2020-21
U18 Open 2019-20 Tournament	21st-22nd August	U18 = Year 13 or younger in 2019-20



Tournament details:

The process of deciding dates and structure of the tournaments has involved consultation with teachers. Below we outline some of the key outcomes of these discussions:

- Entry to the tournament will be done directly by parents and/or pupils in the first instance. This is to ensure that no extra organisational burden is put on teachers/club organisers during their summer holidays.
 - If a school/club wishes to make an entry on behalf of their players this is fine, however we leave this to their discretion.
- It is our full intention for the tournaments to constitute the National tournaments for the academic year 2020-21. However, the RFA board reserves the right to remove this status if it deems the draw is significantly weaker than expected due to the tournament being held in the summer holidays.
 - This decision will be made in consultation with various stakeholders (including teachers/club organisers).
- The exact structure of the tournaments will be decided based on numbers of entrants. We will however aim to provide Fives for all entrants on all days of each respective tournament.
 - The exception to this may be the final day of the 'Opens' (22nd) which may be reserved for finals.
- We plan to have other activities and events throughout the tournament week including:
 - Exhibition matches between the top players in the country.
 - Other handball related skills games/competitions with prizes taking place on the grounds (weather permitting).
- It is our hope that we can run the 2019-20 U18 Open Tournament as well, as noted above. This is to give those who missed out on the opportunity to play in their final schools' tournament a chance to participate.
 - The same considerations, as above, regarding National status will be made after receiving entries here.
- The girls tournaments are only open to female competitors, whereas anyone of the correct age can enter the 'Open' tournaments.



Entry details:

All tournaments will consist of singles and doubles. There is no need to specify doubles partners on initial entry, we will ask for these to be confirmed nearer the time. We will assume all entrants will play both singles and doubles.

To enter (unless informed otherwise by your school or club), please email the appropriate person(s) below with: name(s) of entrants, tournaments you wish to enter and contact telephone number.

Tournament	Contact
U13 Open	Sam Russell: russell.s.l@outlook.com
U14 Open	Dave Butler: david.butler@rugbyfives.com Hamish Buchanan: hamish.buchanan@rugbyfives.com
U16 Open	Dave Butler: david.butler@rugbyfives.com Hamish Buchanan: hamish.buchanan@rugbyfives.com
U18 Open	Dave Butler: david.butler@rugbyfives.com Hamish Buchanan: hamish.buchanan@rugbyfives.com
U13-U18 Girls	Alex Smith: alex.smith@rugbyfives.com

We sincerely hope that you can join us for what we hope will be a fantastic festival of Fives in August.