



Release

Jersey

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Children and teenage girls to benefit from specialist rugby coach in Jersey

A selection of Jersey primary and secondary schools will have a dedicated rugby coach help them to develop their sports skills and to build interest in the sport.

The Jersey Rugby Development Committee ('JRDC') has developed the new role of Community Rugby Coach ('CRC') to deliver tag rugby in schools where rugby is not yet high on the agenda. This includes primary schools where rugby is not popular and in areas where participation in rugby and sport more widely is low. The new coach will also focus on introducing female students in secondary schools and colleges to the touch and contact versions of the sport.



Sadie Ruellan has been appointed as the new CRC and will be sponsored for the next three years by Deutsche Bank, furthering the Bank's existing support of the Rugby Development Programme through the Rugby Development Officer, also run by the JRDC. At the same time, Deutsche Bank is also renewing its sponsorship of the Rugby Development Programme for a further three-year period.

In her new role working alongside the Rugby Development Officer, David Felton, Sadie aims to increase the number of students playing rugby, and their teachers' knowledge of the sport, to reduce inactivity and obesity, and to increase the number of girls playing rugby on the Island.

The States of Jersey, under the Fit for the Future Strategy, wants to encourage children to take up sport from an early age and Deutsche Bank and the JRDC wish to help with this by developing rugby where participation levels are low and where rugby facilities are not easily accessible such as some schools in the east and St. Helier. The JRDC recognises that some schools offer more rugby than others and would like to boost opportunities to learn rugby in and out of school.

Cliff Chipperfield, Chairman of Rugby Development, stated, "The appointment of a community rugby coach at this time is essential. The generous and ongoing support from Deutsche Bank allows rugby development to focus on girls and women's tag, touch and contact rugby. It also provides additional resources for our town primary and secondary schools."

Mark Osment, Head of Financial Intermediaries, Deutsche Bank commented: "The new role of Community Rugby Coach is an important step in the development of rugby education in the Island, and Deutsche Bank is delighted to be able to support this initiative and expand on our existing rugby development initiatives. We hope that in years to come we will see Jersey schools producing rising rugby stars as a result, and that it will particularly expand the horizon for girls in sport too."

Ends.