

PITCH UP FOR RUGBY

12 & 13 SEPTEMBER

YOUR EVENT GUIDE

The Pitch Up for Rugby weekend is all about getting your members, players and local communities to do exactly that - Pitch Up and enjoy themselves.

We've all been off the pitch and away from the club for too long, and we want to shine a spotlight on the return of rugby. This guide will help you to plan a local event, whilst following RFU and Government guidance on how to do so safely.

HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND MITIGATING THE RISK OF COVID-19 IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR PLANNING.

CLUBS SHOULD ALWAYS FOLLOW THE LATEST RFU AND GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

WWW.GOV.UK/CORONAVIRUS
WWW.ENGLANDRUGBY.COM/CORONAVIRUS

THIS GUIDANCE IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGAL ADVICE OR REPLACE ANY GOVERNMENT OR PHE ADVICE.

WHILE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF THIS INFORMATION AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION, CLUBS SHOULD CHECK THE GOVERNMENT AND THEIR LOCAL AUTHORITY WEBSITE TO OBTAIN THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.



SAFETY FIRST

Facilities that are able to open must follow government guidance regarding health, social distancing and hygiene, including ensuring that;

- ✓ Good hygiene is facilitated and promoted
- ✓ Cleaning practices are in place and equipment is disinfected regularly.
- ✓ Clubs have an action plan in place to implement the government guidance in the event that a recent visitor to the facilities tests positive for Covid-19.

Operating licences should also be checked to ensure they are appropriate for the services the club would like to offer.

The RFU has produced facility reopening well as detailed resources on risk, facility specific checklists and how to create an action plan.

In partnership with RFU insurers, we have created an example risk assessment framework, & a Liability Insurance FAQs for clubs.

For more information about duty of care and Covid-19, go to Sport England's guidance.

READY4RUGBY

Our return to competitive rugby will initially be through non-contact game. Ready4Rugby is an adapted form of rugby union that encourages go forward, support, continuity and pressure, all driven by decision making. It's still fun, it's still competitive, it's suitable for all ages and will help in preparing for full contact rugby once government guidelines permit.

The rules are simple and we have produced a video & infographic to help with any questions.

Other Touch Rugby activity (including O2 Touch centres) will also be able to recommence. Touch rugby is played by two teams of six players with a match official with a duration of 2 x 20- minutes halves. The aim is to ground the ball on or over the opposition try line. Each team gets six touches to attempt to score. More information can be found here.

ON-FIELD ACTIVITIES

Pitch Up for Rugby will be about celebrating being back with your teammates, being back with friends and members. It is an opportunity to reopen the clubhouse and generate some revenue.

Think about your schedule, and what your members and local community may want by way of food and beverage and socialising, perhaps screening past games or giving out end of season awards which may not have been possible up until now.

Do you have sponsors who could help you with some products or giveaways in return for some exposure in local media or on the club's social media?

ON-FIELD ACTIVITIES

Once you have planned your pitch schedule, there are a number of ways to get your members and new people from the community involved:

Make sure you are catering for your adult men and women who may have last been at the club in March. Your mini and junior sections will be eager to return.

You may have reached new members of the community during the last few months, so putting on some introductory offers could be useful.

Think about any support you need from coaches and match officials to be able to enjoy some internal club activity.

EVENT PLANNING

Planning a successful Ready for Rugby weekend will involve many details - venue, food, entertainment, guest list - and those are just the big four! Take the time to put together a plan you can follow step-by-step before, during and after your event.

PURPOSE - what is the reason for your event.

PLAN - Map out the day, identify who will be needed to help, update the website and complete risk assessments.

DELEGATE - Once you have written your event plan, engage your volunteers to help to deliver it.

ENGAGE - Promote your event to your members and community ahead of time.

FOLLOW UP - send thank you emails, publish photos, thank sponsors, issue a press release.

The RFU has a range of resources to help with planning your event including publicity guidance, digital toolkits for your social channels, risk assessment and workforce planning template

EVENT DAY CHECK LIST

BEFORE

- ✓ Complete & update Risk Assessments health & safety measures
- ✓ Plan activities within current government guidelines
- ✓ Identify skills required and delegate responsibilities
- ✓ Email existing members Invite local MP/VIPs
- ✓ Promote your event via social media, press releases, website, leaflets/posters for local businesses

DURING

- ✓ Take photographs
- ✓ Collect short quotes from attendees
- ✓ BE THE BEST HOST
- ✓ Update social media throughout the day

AFTER

- ✓ Issue press release
- ✓ Share photos and videos on social media
- ✓ Send an email to all attendees and membership
- ✓ Publish story on website