



## COMMUNITY GAME UPDATE

Distribution list: **Tuesday 25 August**

Constituent Bodies Chairs, Constituent Bodies Honorary Secretaries, Constituent  
Bodies Treasurers,  
Club Chairs, Honorary Secretaries, Treasurers

### Coronavirus (Covid-19) update

Please find below the thirty-seventh edition of our coronavirus (Covid-19) update.

We have provided a reminder that in September the NatWest Rugby Force weekend will take place on the 5th/6th, followed by the Pitch Up for Rugby weekend on the 12th/13th. We have also provided an update regarding the impact of various local restrictions on rugby activity.

**Please visit our dedicated web portal on the England Rugby website to access coronavirus information and updates [here](#).**

**Past editions of these weekly updates can be found on this part of the website. Click [here](#) if you need to find a previous edition.**



# RFU headlines

## Community Rugby – current position

With the exception of clubs impacted by local lockdown restrictions, we remain at **Stage C** on the **Return to Community Rugby Roadmap**.

The rugby community can, if they wish, recommence some larger group rugby activity, initially non-contact, subject to adherence with **RFU guidance** and also continuing to follow **Government Coronavirus (Covid-19) Guidelines**.

The return is initially through **Ready4Rugby**, a non-contact game, and other touch rugby activity (including **O2 Touch**).

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## Join the NatWest Rugby Force and Pitch Up for Rugby weekends in September

The NatWest Rugbyforce weekend takes place on 5/6 September, when more than 800 clubs will improve facilities ready for the Pitch Up for Rugby weekend on 12/13 September. During the Pitch Up for Rugby weekend players will enjoy touch and Ready4Rugby on the pitch.

You can register below, but clubs should only take part in these activities if they feel ready to do so.

More information on the NatWest Rugby Force and Pitch Up for Rugby weekends is also available below, or read a **helpful guide**.

[Register](#)

[More Information](#)



## Return to Rugby Kitbag – support for schools, colleges and universities

We're pleased to share all of our guidance on the return to rugby for schools, colleges and universities in one kitbag.

We will continue liaising with our national stakeholders to regularly update and develop this information. Click below to view the PDF for more information.

[Kitbag](#)

### Local lockdown guidelines

Clubs are reminded that the powers around local restrictions lie with their local authorities. We are advised that unless local restrictions specifically mention restrictions on team sports and/or rugby, clubs should follow the NGB guidelines.

Clubs may need to limit their activities in line with any local restrictions and all are advised to consult with the local authority in which their facilities are located should they be in any doubt. Information regarding any new local lockdown restrictions will be posted on the Government website below. We will provide an update to the game if there is any change in guidance to playing rugby union. You can read more information on the [Government local lockdown updates](#).

#### **The following local restrictions are currently in place:**

Clubs in Leicester City are currently restricted to groups of no more than six in socially distanced activity and hence must remain at Stage B on the Return to [Return to Community Rugby Roadmap](#). Read the [Leicester City detailed guidance](#).

In Northampton, an outbreak of Covid-19 has been identified at certain Greencore factories. Any club member who has undertaken work in affected areas listed in the guidance at any point since Friday 7 August 2020, and the people they live with (or have formed a support bubble with), should self-isolate at home for two weeks and should not visit a rugby club. Read the **Northampton detailed guidance**.

Currently, all clubs in Greater Manchester, East Lancashire, Preston, and West Yorkshire can continue to operate at Stage C on the Return to Community Rugby Roadmap as the Government website makes it clear that sports that have action plans approved by Government may continue to operate as per NGB guidelines. Read the **North of England guidance**.

**It is important that clubs in Blackburn with Darwen, Oldham and Pendle read local authority guidance as different restrictions may apply, depending on the location of a rugby club. Read the **Government guidance**.**

From tomorrow, Wednesday 26 August, local restrictions in the following parts of Blackburn with Darwen will be lifted and clubs in the following areas can operate at Stage C on the Return to Community Rugby Roadmap:

Blackburn South & Lower Darwen, Blackburn South East, Darwen East, Darwen South, Darwen West, Ewood, Livesey with Pleasington, Mill Hill & Moorgate, West Pennine.

However, additional restrictions have been introduced in the following areas of Blackburn with Darwen, Oldham and Pendle which mean that residents should not socialise with people that they do not live with. Therefore, no rugby activity should take place outside of your own family bubble until local authority advice changes.

**Blackburn with Darwen** - (areas affected): Audley & Queen's Park, Bastwell & Daisyfield, Billinge & Beardwood, Blackburn Central, Little Harwood & Whitebirk, Roe Lee, Shear Brow & Corporation Park, Wensley Fold.  
**Oldham** - (whole area)

**Pendle** - (whole area subject to wider restrictions, but the following parts have additional restrictions): Whitefield, Walverden, Southfield, Bradley, Clover Hill, Brierfield, Marsden.

Please see local authority guidance below:

**Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council**

**Oldham Council**

**Pendle Borough Council**

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## Webinars and Podcasts

### Eddie Jones' webinar - Leading High Performing and Effective Rugby Environments in the Adult Game

Join Eddie Jones, England Head Coach; Bill Sweeney, RFU CEO; Steve Grainger, RFU Rugby Development Director and John Inverdale, the newly appointed Chairman of the NCA and an RFU Council member, on the below webinar – just click below to register:

**26 August 4-5pm Level 7-12**

Eddie will chat to John about his experiences in managing and adapting to change and how to stay ahead of the game.

Given the level of interest in the webinar, we ask that there are no more than five representatives from each club. Please share the invite with those who might be interested.

Once this event has taken place, an on demand version will be made available on [englandrugby.com](http://englandrugby.com).

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## Running your Club – Virtual Workshops September to November 2020

The first of the next round of Club Matters workshops will take place on 2 September between 6.30-8.30pm. This Volunteer Experience workshop will provide top tips on recruiting, retaining and rewarding volunteers. Places are limited to 18 attendees, allocated on a first come, first served basis. Click below to discover details of all of the workshops and also to register for the 2 September event.

[Workshop Details](#)

[Register](#)

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## Using GMS for Start of the Season Club Tasks - 3 September at 7pm

This webinar will build on last month's introduction to Player Profile & Age Grade Registration. We will update progress since the July Webinar and also on further enhancements to the Help Portal. We will also discuss how clubs can utilise GMS effectively for online membership payments, club communications and team management tasks.

Register below both to join the event and to view on demand after the webinar has finished.

[Register](#)

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## The Eddie Jones Coaching Podcast

The Eddie Jones Coaching Podcast gives you an insight into elite-level coaching. England head coach Eddie Jones and RFU director of performance Conor O'Shea discuss their methods and techniques, from half-time team talks, to how to motivate a squad after a defeat, as well as telling some of their favourite rugby stories.

[Listen Now](#)

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## Catch up on previous webinars

For those who want to catch up on previous webinars, these are available on the England Rugby website. Please click on the links below:

[Club Webinars](#)

[Referee Webinars](#)

[Coach Webinars](#)

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## Rugby community doing great things

Today we highlight **Aaron Beesley from Portsmouth RFC** who started the charity Rugby Against Cancer two years ago and has raised almost £58,000 from events benefitting different cancer charities.

We also share **Anselmians RUFC's story** behind the opening their new club on the Wirral and how Chairman, Ravi Sibal, and club executive director, Jim McKenzie, fought for three years to get the £2 million development ready for launch in September.

And you can read about **Chobham RFC**, one of Surrey's leading community rugby clubs, and how it prides itself on offering the sport to as many people as possible. Having weathered lockdown, they are now bringing rugby back

to their Fowlers Wells pitches, while following all government guidelines.

In addition to clubs helping their communities, we are now highlighting clubs' self-help initiatives, as well as activities being undertaken to improve diversity and inclusion at clubs, on [englandrugby.com](http://englandrugby.com).

Mitsubishi Motors in the UK are proud supporters of the rugby volunteers across England who make up an integral part of the game. Help us recognise your work by sharing your club and individual stories and videos with [veemontebello@rfu.com](mailto:veemontebello@rfu.com) or [patriciamowbray@rfu.com](mailto:patriciamowbray@rfu.com).

Click below to find out more about the Mitsubishi Motors Volunteer Recognition Programme.

**Recognition Programme**