



COMMUNITY GAME UPDATE

Distribution list: **Thursday 4 June**

Constituent Bodies Chairmen, Constituent Bodies Honorary Secretaries,
Constituent Bodies Treasurers,
Club Chairmen, Honorary Secretaries, Treasurers

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update

Please find below the twenty-second edition of our Coronavirus (Covid-19) update.

We have today published our roadmap for a return to community rugby activity and have therefore brought this edition of the CGU forward by one day.

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

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



RFU headlines

Return to Community Rugby Roadmap

We have today published our roadmap for a return to community rugby activity. This roadmap consists of six stages, Stage A relating to individual training with one other person, moving through to Stage F when there can be a return to competitive matches against other teams. We are currently at Stage B following the government's announcement of Thursday 28 May.

A [roadmap infographic](#) and more [detailed guidance](#) has been produced to clarify the six stages of the roadmap.

Timescales to allow progression between stages will be carefully managed and will be determined by medical and government advice. We will issue regular updates, along with detailed guidance, as each progression takes place.

Bill Sweeney, Chief Executive Officer at the RFU, comments:

"A great amount of work has been undertaken since rugby was suspended in March to align the various stages of social distancing announced by the government, with our decision making focused on the best interests of players, volunteers and clubs."

"When considering the roadmap for a return to community rugby, we were aware that some clubs wanted to get back quicker than others as a major concern of clubs is to retain their players and preserve their revenue streams. We also recognise that other sports may return quicker in England and that rugby may return quicker in other countries. However, we will stay focused on what is right for rugby in England. Whilst we are keen to have rugby being played and members returning to their clubs, we need to be cautious and will therefore only move from one stage to another when guidance and advice says that it is safe to do so."

"There are many implications of a staged return to play, including the impact on the competitive programme, rugby activity in clubs, schools, colleges and universities and also the use of clubhouses and indoor facilities. We remain committed to addressing these challenges in the run up to the 20/21 season."

The roadmap focuses on a return to community rugby activity and not the reopening of clubhouses. As these are indoor spaces, they will be subject to separate government advice and guidance. In parallel, we will continue to develop advice and guidance on when and how clubhouses may reopen. The current position is that clubs are able to open indoor facilities only to allow access through the building to pitches, access to toilets and a facility (should appropriate licenses be held) for the serving of takeaway food and drinks.

All RFU Regulations must still be adhered to, including **Regulation 15**. This means that during the present "out of season" period all age grades can do non-contact training but if they choose to do so, it must be in line with our latest guidance. For more information please email clubsupport@rfu.com.

We also want to reassure clubs that normal RFU insurance cover is in place subject to the adherence to regulations and our latest Covid-19 guidance.

Other important matters

Webinars & Podcasts

Coach & Referee Training - Tuesday 9 June at 7pm

Wayne Barnes and Matthew Carley, who are both RFU referees, will discuss Refereeing the Scrum. Click below to register.

[Register](#)

Coach & Referee Training - Thursday 11 June at 7pm

Ian Peel, Saracens forwards coach and former England U20 head coach and full international scrum coach, will discuss coaching the front row. Click below to register.

[Register](#)

SNAP Sponsorship 'Making Sponsorship Work' for grassroots rugby clubs - Thursday 11 June at 7pm

This webinar from SNAP Sponsorship will inform you about how you can increase your chances of attracting new sponsors. Find out how rugby clubs large and small are already taking advantage of new sponsorship opportunities with SNAP Sponsorship. Joining SNAP Sponsorship on the webinar are member clubs, one who turned last year's £300 into £9,000 this season and another who has raised over £40,000 with SNAP Sponsorship. Register below to find out how your club could do the same.

[Register](#)

Webinar on demand: Furlough - the next phase and how to prepare for when it ends

The Government has extended the furlough scheme until the end of October with further guidance provided last week. This webinar delivered in partnership with Irwin Mitchell provides guidance and support on the next phase of the furlough scheme and how to prepare for when it ends. Register to watch on demand below.

[Register](#)

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](#)

Rugby community doing great things

There's been no sign of rugby clubs flagging during the coronavirus pandemic, as across the nation they continue to help their communities in any way they can. Many are fundraising for charities who need this help more than ever, others continue to support their local hospitals, the NHS and key workers. There are some tough challenges being set, not just by the current crisis but by clubs wanting to keep players fit while making a real difference. **Click here** to read more.

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 stories and videos with **VeeMontebello@rfu.com** or **PatriciaMowbray@rfu.com**.

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

Recognition Programme