



Distribution list: **Tuesday 18 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-sixth edition of our coronavirus (Covid-19) update.

We have provided a reminder that we are at Stage C on the Return to Community Rugby Roadmap, of our advice to clubs in local lockdown areas and 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.

There's also a last call for the rugby community to take part in our Diversity and Inclusion Survey.

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

Update on the return to community rugby

We remain at **Stage C** on the **Return to Community Rugby Roadmap**.

If they wish to, the rugby community can now 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, enabling two teams of up to 10 players to engage in training and match activity in their own club environment. Other touch rugby activity (including **O2 Touch centres**) will also be able to recommence.

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

Having reached Stage C on the Return to Community Rugby Roadmap, let's celebrate in September, with NatWest Rugbyforce on weekend of 5th and 6th, when more than 800 clubs will improve facilities ready for the following weekend's Pitch Up for Rugby on 12th and 13th.

During the Pitch Up for Rugby weekend players will enjoy touch and Ready4Rugby on the pitch. Make sure you register [here](#) and read this [helpful guide](#).

Clubs should only take part in these activities if they feel ready to do so.

Join our webinar at 7pm on Thursday 20 August to get advice and tips on making both of the September weekends a success. Click below to register.

More information on the NatWest Rugby Force and Pitch Up for Rugby weekends is also available below.

[Webinar](#)

[More Information](#)

Local lockdown guidelines

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

Currently, all clubs in North lockdown areas can continue to operate at **Stage C** on the Return to Community Rugby Roadmap as the government website makes it clear that those sports that have action plans approved by government may continue to operate as per NGB guidelines.

North of England local restrictions - [read](#)

However, clubs in Leicester are currently restricted to groups of no more than 6 in socially distanced activity and hence must remain at Stage B.

Leicester local restrictions - [read](#)

All clubs may need to limit their activities in line with any local restrictions and 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.

Lockdown News

Other important updates

Diversity and Inclusion

Time is running out to complete the survey before the deadline of 11.59pm on Wednesday 19 August 2020. If you haven't already done so, please give your feedback by clicking on the link below and also share it with other members of your club or constituency.

Findings from our survey will inform the development of a new Diversity and Inclusion Plan, which will be published in the autumn.

Take Survey

Adult Male Future Competition Structure

The Future Competitions Structure Group (FCS) has released a Recommendation Paper regarding the adult male competitions structure (English Club Championship Level 3 and below), for implementation in the 2021/22 season. This follows frequent engagement with the game over the last nine months and the collection of extensive evidence, both providing critical insight into the challenges identified. Click below to read the plan.

Your feedback is welcomed ahead of any RFU Council decision on 2 October 2020. Please click below to give your views. Please also share with your members so that they can have their say too.

Please contact Competitions-Development@RFU.com if you have any questions.

[Read Plan](#)

[Take Survey](#)

Other important updates

Training Course Updates - August 2020

Face to face training courses will re-start when it is safe to do so, and when the Return to Community Rugby Roadmap has progressed sufficiently for us to carry out components of the training courses such as use of tag belts, simulated tackle and scrummaging.

As we have not yet progressed into any contact or tag rugby, the Kids First webinar courses planned for August have been pushed back.

TackleSafe and new Headcase eLearning courses are due to go live by the end of August.

As announced last week, the new Introduction to Safeguarding eLearning course is live. Please register below.

[Register](#)

Eddie Jones' webinar series - 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 a RFU Council member, on one the following webinars – just click on the date to register:

24 August 7-8pm Level 5/6

26 August 7-8 pm 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 all the events have taken place, an on demand version will be made available on englandrugby.com.

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. Titled Volunteer Experience, this workshop will aim to provide top tips in 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](#)

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](#)

Other important news

Re-open right with Britvic

Britvic, Official Soft Drink Supplier to England Rugby want to Pitch In and help rugby clubs across the country to re-start their businesses by ensuring they have all the support and information at hand, making the re-opening of on-trade and bar operations as smooth as possible. Just click on the Britvic Sensational Drinks portal below to access the latest trends, guides and advice to help your club recover from lockdown and move towards growing your business, making more money from your returning players and supporters.

[Britvic Portal](#)

Rugby community doing great things

Today we highlight the merger of East Dorset RFC and Dorset Dockers who have become East Dorset Dockers, a development which will help grow the player pool. Click [here](#) to read more.

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.

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 or patriciamowbray@rfu.com.

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

[Recognition Programme](#)

