



Distribution list: **Tuesday 19 May**

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

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update

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

We've highlighted our support for Clean Sport Week, which is focused on keeping clean in quarantine. We have also provided an update on Sport England's partnership with Crowdfunder to launch a £2 million Covid-19 support fund.

You'll find information on the adult future competition virtual consultation sessions, this Thursday's webinar, the new Eddie Jones Coaching Podcast, an update on the Payment of Players declaration, and links to previous webinars, including Irwin Mitchell's running a virtual AGM webinar, which is now available on demand.

We continue to highlight rugby clubs' great work and today we've included a thank you message from Eddie Jones.

Please visit our dedicated web portal on the England Rugby website to access Coronavirus (Covid-19) 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

Adult Male Future Competition Review – virtual consultation sessions

The virtual future competition consultation review sessions will take place via webinar during June so that we can provide further detail on the future competition structure proposals. Feedback on these proposals, and also on how to improve competitions is essential, and the virtual process will allow clubs and players to ask questions and enter a discussion forum.

The sessions will take place on the following dates from 7-9pm, unless otherwise stated, where we are running additional sessions to accommodate as many clubs as possible:

- **Wednesday 3 June - Level 3/4**
- **Thursday 4 June - Level 5/6 (Session 1: 3pm | Session 2: 7pm)**
- **Monday 8 June - Level 7 and below North**
- **Wednesday 10 June - Level 7 and below Midlands**
- **Thursday 11 June - Level 7 and below London/South East (3pm)**
- **Monday 15 June - Level 7 and below London/South East**
- **Wednesday 17 June - Level 7 and below South West**
- **Thursday 18 June - Level 7 and below South West (3pm)**

Registration details for the webinars will be communicated on Friday.

England Rugby supports Clean Sport Week from 18 – 24 May

England Rugby has thrown its support behind Clean Sport Week. This year the focus is on staying clean in quarantine. The campaign from UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) aims to educate people on the dangers of performance-enhancing drugs in sport at all levels. Click below to discover more.

There are also great videos from Tom Curry and George Furbank available on twitter, click to watch on [UKAD](#) and [England Rugby](#).

As part of this campaign, UKAD are hosting a free-to-attend webinar from 1-2pm tomorrow, Wednesday 20 May, where athletes and coaches can discuss their roles in clean sport and how they are adapting to lockdown. Click below to register.

[Discover More](#)

[Register Here](#)

Other Support Available

Sport England partners with Crowdfunder for £2 million Covid-19 emergency fund

Sports clubs and community activity groups hit by the Covid-19 lockdown can benefit from emergency funding of up to £20,000, thanks to a match-funding initiative from Sport England. The grassroots body has teamed up with Crowdfunder and has pledged to match crowdfunds of up to £10,000.

Click below to find out more and get access to information regarding support available to rugby clubs.

[More Information](#)

[Club Support](#)

Other Important Information

Webinars and Podcasts

To find the full details of the webinar programme through to Thursday 11 June, please click below.

[**Webinar Programme**](#)

Gift Aid Opportunities and Pitfalls for CASCs & Charities Webinar – Thursday 21 May – 7pm

This webinar will explore how clubs that are registered as CASCs or charities can maximise the use of gift aid on donations to raise much needed funds. Clubs such as Salisbury RFC and Dorking RFC have maximised the use of Gift Aid over the last ten years, with Salisbury raising over £25,000 and Dorking over £80,000. Register below to find out how your club can do the same.

[**Register**](#)

New Eddie Jones Coaching Podcast

The Eddie Jones Coaching Podcast this week focuses on the pressure on an international head coach and the work-life balance. Click below to listen.

[**Eddie Jones**](#)

How to run a Virtual AGM with Irwin Mitchell - webinar now available on demand

The webinar delivered in partnership with Irwin Mitchell provides guidance and support on your club's options to run your AGM, including how to run the AGM virtually. Click below to register and watch the webinar on demand.

[**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](#)

Update on Payment of Players declarations

Just over 60% of all clubs have started or completed their Payment of Players declaration for this season. Communications will be issued this week to those clubs who need to take action to complete and submit their declaration through GMS by Tuesday 30 June. Should you require any assistance with your GMS login details then please contact gms@rfu.com or if you need support with your declaration then email paymentofplayers@rfu.com.

Over the last few weeks, over 300 Clubs took the time to feedback on the Payment of Players regulations. We are very grateful for all of you who took the time to respond and give us your thoughts. The survey results are now being reviewed and recommendations will be made in due course.

Rugby community doing great things

The efforts of rugby clubs nationwide in supporting those in their communities who need help are making a big difference. Today we look at rugby facilities, including Twickenham Stadium, which are being used to support the NHS - [read here](#)

We've also heard some great stories about the work taking place in the rugby community to support those with mental health issues. As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, we've highlighted Lancashire Rugby Union who are providing specialist support for everyone in their member clubs through their 'Cauliflower Ear' programme - [read here](#)

England Head Coach Eddie Jones recognises the importance of the great work being undertaken, sending a thank you message about community rugby's values of respect and discipline and naming a few of the great examples evident right now. Click below to hear from Eddie.

We want to hear your stories so please share with VeeMontebello@rfu.com or PatriciaMowbray@rfu.com.

Eddie Jones
