



# COMMUNITY GAME UPDATE

Pre-send Distribution list: **Thursday 13 August**

Council Members, Rugby Development

Distribution list: **Friday 14 August**

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

## Community Game Update – August 2020

### Content:

1. Update on the return to community rugby
2. Join the NatWest Rugby Force and Pitch Up for Rugby events
3. Local lockdown guidance
4. Adult Male Future Competition Structure
5. Safeguarding update
6. Diversity and Inclusion - complete the survey
7. Register for an Eddie Jones webinar
8. Running your Club – Virtual Workshops - Sept to Nov 2020
9. 2020 Annual General Meeting – Draft Minutes
10. Share your Ready4Rugby stories and videos

Welcome to the August 2020 Community Game Update. We hope you find the update useful, and if you have any feedback, queries or content that you would like to feature, please email Vee Montebello, RFU Senior Communications Manager ([veemontebello@rfu.com](mailto:veemontebello@rfu.com)).

Our communications to you are based on the data held in the Game Management System (GMS). To ensure you receive the communications that you want to from the RFU, please check the information held on this system is up to date and active. In addition, if you know of a colleague who should be receiving these updates, but

isn't, please help them to check their details on GMS.

This communication is only sent to the roles highlighted in the distribution list above. Please share it with others in your club who need to see it.



## Update on the return to community rugby

We have announced we are now at **Stage C** on the **Return to Community Rugby Roadmap**.

As a result, 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 will initially be through non-contact rugby focused on **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. Subject to satisfactory operation through August, we hope to then be able to move to inter-club Ready4Rugby in September. Other touch rugby activity (including **O2 Touch centres**) will also be able to recommence.



## Calling on clubs across the country to join the September celebrations

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

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](#).

Join our webinar at 7pm on Thursday 20 August to get advice and tips on making both the NatWest Rugby Force and Pitch Up for Rugby weekends a success. Click below to register.

Click below for guidance and information on the NatWest Rugby Force and Pitch Up for Rugby weekends.

[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 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. 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**.

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.

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

**Leicester** local restrictions - [read](#)

Luton local restrictions were lifted on 1 August, therefore National restrictions now apply.

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

---

## Adult Male Future Competition Structure

The Future Competitions Structure Group (FCS) has today released a Recommendation Paper on 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 evidence collection.

We know that players are playing less games each season due to lifestyle reasons and modern day demands on time.

We now have the opportunity to establish a competition structure across the game that serves the interests of all of our players and clubs and underpins our game for the future. The paper recognises the significant opportunity for rugby to develop an optimal playing offer and structure which: protects the future health of the adult male game; meet the needs of current and future players; balances quality of experience and player welfare needs and limits travel, while protecting the sustainability of clubs.

The proposals include: reducing league sizes in a number of instances; introducing league break weekends, and organising leagues which minimise travel, all essential to meet the game's needs. Player feedback has highlighted the importance of knockout rugby, therefore it is proposed that we invigorate cup/knock-out rugby. 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](mailto:Competitions-Development@RFU.com) if you have any questions.

[Read Plan](#)

[Take Survey](#)

---

## Safeguarding Update

**RFU Regulations** - Club Safeguarding Officers should have received a detailed review of all Regulation 21 changes in the RFU Safeguarding Bulletin via their Constituent Body Safeguarding Manager.

**GMS Club Safeguarding Audit** - the deadline is extended for season 2020/21 to 30 November 2020. The CSO, or another officer with access to the club's organisational profile, should complete questions by that date in the questionnaire tab. The ideal is to have all clubs able to answer yes to each question, but understand that there may be work in progress. Don't forget to tick the safeguarding declaration at the end and press submit.

**Introduction to Safeguarding eLearning course** – so that all those in a position of trust have an understanding of safeguarding before starting in their role, it is now compulsory for anyone requiring DBS clearance to first complete the new Introduction to Safeguarding eLearning course. This course is free, open to all and will be recorded on GMS. It will take about 30 minutes and must be completed by anyone making new DBS applications, renewing their certificates or wishing to participate in the England Rugby Coaching or Refereeing Award courses. We strongly recommend that all

coaches, referees and volunteers working with children and young people complete this course before rugby activity resumes this season.

This course does not replace Play it Safe, but ensures that everyone has a grasp of the basics in relation to safeguarding, including being able to recognise and report concerns on the signs of abuse. Play it Safe will build on that knowledge.

To book onto the course you will need your personal GMS login details and it will appear on your GMS profile 14 - 21 days after completion. Access the Introduction to Safeguarding eLearning course by logging into the MS Course Administration Centre below.

[Login Here](#)

---

## Diversity and Inclusion

We are committed to a step change in increasing diversity and inclusion and are conducting a survey among our stakeholders as we really want to listen and hear your views and experiences. We want to understand what is already working, what we need to do to accelerate change and how to do that.

Findings from our survey will inform the development of a new Diversity and Inclusion Plan, which will be published in the autumn. This is not a quick fix, but the start of a continual drive to ensure our sport is open to all.

If you haven't already done so, we'd really appreciate you taking some time to complete the survey, as well as sharing it with other members of your club or constituency, before the deadline of 11.59pm on Wednesday 19 August 2020.

[Take Survey](#)

---

## 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 of the following webinars – just click on the date to register:

**17 August 7-8pm NCA Level 3/4**

**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](http://englandrugby.com).

---

## Running your Club – Virtual Workshops 2 September to 4 November 2020

We are working with Club Matters to deliver club support virtual workshop sessions on a number of topics. The workshops will run for a maximum of 2 hours (6:30pm-8:30pm) and will be limited to 18 attendees, allocated on a first come, first served basis. Click below to discover details of all of the workshops.

The first of these workshops, titled Volunteer Experience – gain top tips in recruiting, retaining and rewarding volunteers - will take place on 2 September. Register below.

[Workshop Details](#)

[Register](#)

---

## 2020 Annual General Meeting – Draft Minutes

The draft minutes from the 12 June virtual AGM are now available on the AGM webpage. These will be submitted to members for approval at the 2021 AGM, and you can view them.

Contact [CoSec@rfu.com](mailto:CoSec@rfu.com) below if you have any comments or questions.

[Draft Minutes](#)

---

## Calling on the rugby community to share their stories

We are now calling on clubs to send in videos of their players engaging in Ready4Rugby activities to [jamesmaden@rfu.com](mailto:jamesmaden@rfu.com), and/or post the videos on their social media channels using **#Ready4Rugby**. Please ensure anything you post on social media reflects fully the approved format of the game.