

RETURN TO PLAYING COMPETITIVE RUGBY

30 JUNE 2020

FAQs

ADULT GAME

When will the RFU publish fixture details?

We will publish fixture details by w/c July 13th. However this will be indicative until a return to play date is agreed and therefore subject to change. Publishing fixtures is not seen as agreement that rugby will restart at the same time it usually does.

Why have the RFU adopted a conferencing model from the start of season?

This is to keep travel down to a minimum in the early part of the season, present an opportunity for more revenue generating derby/local fixtures, support player availability and provide maximum flexibility to cater for any interruptions due to Covid-19 later in the season.

What about RFU Cups and the County Championship?

In the event of a delayed start to the 2020/21 season, completion of a meaningful league season will be prioritised over RFU Cups and County Championship.

When will the RFU ask for competition entries for knockout rugby?

This will be dependent on progression through the phases of the RFU Return to Rugby Roadmap and on competition restart date (as above league rugby will be prioritised over Cup and County Championships). Entries can reasonably be turned around in a 6 week period.

Can a club opt-out of a league this year?

We hope all clubs decide to continue in their leagues but if for any practical reason they can't, a team will need to inform their organising committee in the usual way. The implications of this happening are currently being worked through, trying to ensure a greater level of flexibility given the challenges presented by Covid19. We will update in due course.

Will there be new regulations and when will they be published?

Yes, regulations will be updated and will offer a greater level of flexibility given the challenges presented by Covid-19. We will update in due course.

How can clubs access hardship funds?

The fund will be needs driven to support those facing the greatest financial difficulties. More details will be provided next month.

What about the Championship?

We continue discussions with the Championship clubs about the timing for the start of their season.

What about promotion and relegation / league winners?

If the date for competitions to restart is delayed to the point that the proposed options are not deliverable, an alternative interim competitions structure will be proposed within the remaining season dates. The decision as to whether these alternative competitions/fixtures will determine promotion and relegation will be taken by RFU Adult Competitions Management Committee in consultation with all the organising committees. If no meaningful conclusion to the competitions is achieved, the default position for promotion/relegation for 20/21 in the Men's competitions will be the league positions at end of 19/20 season.

How will the conferences be determined?

The conferences will be determined on a geographical basis in conjunction with the Divisional Organising Committees.

How will the fixtures in later phases i.e. home or away be determined?

Home and away fixtures will be allocated on a random basis in Window 2 and then reversed for Window 3.

Why do the NCA have a different model to the rest?

Due to the nature of rugby at Level 3 and 4 with promotion, and travel less of an issue for clubs (these being national leagues), it was deemed necessary from a competition integrity perspective to try to ensure that each club had the opportunity to play every other club in the league at least once.