

9 January 2019

Dear CBs, Clubs,

## **ALLOCATION OF INTERNATIONAL TICKETS TO THE GAME**

The RFU Council recently endorsed changes to the method for allocating tickets to England internationals at Twickenham, to various sections of the game. The new system will be introduced ahead of the 2020 Autumn Internationals, with clubs required to input data via the Team Management tool on GMS across the 2018/19 and 2019/20 seasons. The RFU will provide user guides and FAQs on the Team Management tool, in the Community Game Update from March 2019.

Please note that the total number of tickets allocated to each section of the Game and the policy that at least 50% of the tickets for each match are available to the Game, remains unchanged.

Details of the changes are as follows:

### **1. RFU Voting Clubs (not including all student clubs, Armed Services clubs, Gallagher Premiership and Greene King IPA Championship clubs)**

*These clubs are voting members of the RFU, and generally play in an RFU league at Level 3 or below, or in another competition approved by the RFU (merit table or the like).*

From 2020/21 season, the allocation of tickets to these clubs for each England international at Twickenham will be:

- Every club receives an initial allocation of **six tickets** (currently it is two)
- Each club with an aggregate total of 30 players or more at U13 and below correctly registered on GMS, will receive an additional **two tickets**.
- The **remaining tickets** will be allocated as a percentage of the total number of 15-a-side games (U14s through to adults, men and women) played nationally, involving teams from the club (over the 2018/19 and 2019/20 season).

#### Example RFU Voting Club scenario:

- Teams at example club play 143 15-a-side fixtures
- Sample club has 77 players aged U13 and below registered on GMS
- Total number of 15-a-side matches played over 2018/19 and 2019/20 season is 150,000

This particular club will therefore receive:

- The initial minimum allocation of six tickets
- An additional allocation of two tickets, because of the 77 players aged U13 and below;
- A further allocation of 0.095% (143 / 150,000) of the remaining 20,620 tickets equating to 20 tickets to that club
- The total number of tickets they receive would, therefore, be 28.

#### Please note:

- These new allocations will apply to International matches at Twickenham for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 season and will then be re-calculated for the following two seasons, based on matches played in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 seasons.

- Each age grade team will be restricted to registering a maximum of 16 matches per season, although a club with sufficient registered players at a particular age group could record two or more teams at that age group with each team registering up to 16 matches per season.
- The number of 15-a-side matches is one of the statistics that the RFU uses to measure the 'Health of the Game', and the purpose of this allocation process is to reward clubs that contribute most towards growing the game. The number of 15-a-side matches that an individual club plays in each season, will be determined by information submitted by clubs to the RFU's GMS Team Management tool.
- Further information on providing information via GMS' Team Management tool will be provided in March 2019 via the Community Game Update, including information on how to enter matches this season that have already taken place.
- These voting clubs receive a total of 29,450 tickets between them.

## **2. The 28 Geographic CBs**

*These are known collectively as the 'Counties'.*

From 2020/21 season, the allocation of tickets to the geographic CBs will be:

- Every geographic CB receives an initial allocation of **20 tickets** (as is currently the case)
- The **remaining tickets** will be allocated as a percentage of the total number of 15-a-side games (U14s through to adults, men and women) played nationally, involving their voting clubs (over the 2018/19 and 2019/20 season).

### Example Geographic CBs scenario:

- 'CB A' has 15 voting clubs, whilst 'CB B' has 20 voting clubs
- The 15 voting clubs in 'CB A' play 2,600 matches, while 'CB B's 20 clubs play just 2,100
- Total number of 15-a-side matches played nationally over 2018/19 and 2019/20 season is 150,000

The CBs will therefore receive:

- The initial allocation of 20 tickets
- 'CB A' with 15 voting clubs will receive a further allocation of 1.73% (2,600 / 150,000) of the 1,840 remaining tickets (having taken account of the initial allocation), equating to 32 tickets; a total of 52 tickets.
- 'CB B' with 20 voting clubs will receive a further allocation of 1.40% (2,100 / 150,000) of the 1,840 remaining tickets (having taken account of the initial allocation), equating to 26 tickets; a total of 46 tickets.

### Please note:

- The purpose of this new methodology is to reward those CBs who do the most to support their member clubs to grow.
- As with the RFU Voting Clubs, these new allocations will apply to International matches at Twickenham for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 season and will then be re-calculated for the following two seasons, based on matches played in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 seasons.
- These geographic CBs receive a total of 2,400 tickets between them.

### **3. Referee Societies**

From 2020/21 season, the allocation of tickets to the referee societies will be:

- Every society receives an initial allocation of six tickets
- The remainder of tickets being allocated as a percentage of the number of 15-a-side games (U14s through to adults, men and women in clubs, schools, colleges and universities) that a society appoints to (over the 2018/19 and 2019/20 seasons) of the national total of such games.

Please note:

- ‘Who’s the Ref’ will be used to determine the number of 15-a-side matches a society appoints to each season.
- As with the RFU Voting Clubs, these new allocations will apply to International matches at Twickenham for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 season and will then be re-calculated for the following two seasons, based on matches played in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 seasons.
- The Rugby Football Referees Union (RFRU) will receive 50 tickets per each home England international, a number similar to the smallest geographic CB.
- The referee societies receive a total of 525 tickets between them.

### **4. Cambridge University, Oxford University and Student RFU CBs and their Member Clubs**

- The allocations of these three CBs and their member clubs will remain unchanged at this time.
- The allocation will be reviewed when the method applied to Voting Clubs and geographic CBs has been reviewed.
- This group receives 2,200 tickets between them.

### **5. The three Armed Services’ CBs and their Member Clubs**

- Each of these CBs have a set number of tickets to allocate to their members.
- This group receives 500 tickets between them.

### **6. Schools and Colleges that are members of the ERFSU or England Colleges RFU**

- The allocation of tickets for Schools and Colleges remains unchanged at this time.
- Schools and Colleges will now be required to demonstrate proof of rugby activity and that tickets are used by an individual who contributes to the rugby activity in that school or college.
- The number of tickets this group receives varies match to match, but averages at 3,500 per game over a 2 year rolling period.
- The ERFSU and the England Colleges Union can receive up to 50 tickets per home England international, from the total allocated to schools and colleges. This is a number similar to the RFRU and the smallest geographic CB.



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In June 2019, we will provide RFU voting clubs, geographic CBs and referee societies with an indicative International ticket entitlement, based on the new process and data collected this season. This will provide an opportunity to compare with current allocations.

Kind regards,

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Interim Chief Executive Officer, RFU

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