

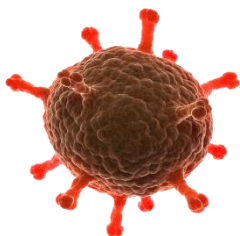
Leicestershire Society Of Rugby Union Referees Newsletter:



In the October edition:



Members Meeting



Covid and where we
stand? Hopefully some
bloody rugby!



Ready4Rugby



Youtube channel



A coaches Dream...



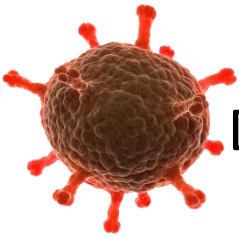
Members Meeting

There is an end of months meeting on:

Monday 26th October

via zoom which will finish with a training session on “the role of the referee”.





Delayed until January 2021 at the earliest.

Under powers delegated by Council, the RFU Governance Committee have made the difficult decision that, with the exception of Premiership, Championship and Premier 15s rugby, no organised* RFU or non-RFU Leagues including merit tables, adult or age grade competitions will be played before January 2021 at the earliest.

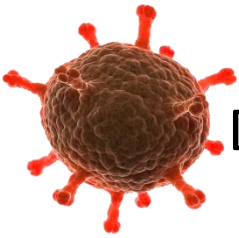
[A statement from RFU CEO Bill Sweeney following Government announcements](#)

[The Eddie Jones Coaching Podcast: Joe Roff](#)

With the increased uncertainty caused by Government's additional restrictions to curb the increase in Covid-19 cases across the country, the decision has been made so that we can provide clubs with some certainty over the next few months.

The rugby community can continue to organise non-contact fixtures with other clubs using Ready4Rugby and other touch rugby activity. Limited and restricted contact rugby training can also be continued. The RFU continues to be in active dialogue with government about moving to Stage E on the [Roadmap](#) should we reach this point at any time before Christmas, competitive friendly matches could commence.





Delayed until January 2021 at the earliest.

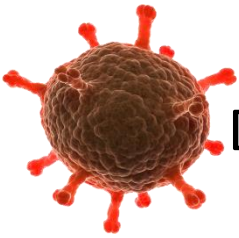
The Adult and Age Grade Competitions Groups will be making recommendations to Governance on what they can do to ensure that any competitions from January are meaningful, including whether to make changes to the structured season.

Governance also agreed that any decision to suspend promotion and relegation for the 2020/21 season would be referred to Council once the nature of the competitions is known.

Further guidance will be provided in due course to support clubs, schools, colleges and universities in playing to the relevant stage of the appropriate Roadmap stage.

Jeff Blackett, RFU President, comments: “We are very keen to see competitive rugby being played again. However, given the introduction of further restrictions to curb the increase in Covid-19 cases, we will not be able to move to Stage F on the Roadmap until a later date. This announcement gives clubs clarity over the immediate term to help them with their planning. We will continue to liaise with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Public Health England to accelerate a return to competitive play as soon as it is safe to do so.”





Delayed until January 2021 at the earliest.

STAGE D

Although social gatherings of more than six people were banned in England from Monday 14 September and a number of local lockdown restrictions put in place in some areas of the country, the Government has confirmed that organised sports and activities that have been through return to play protocols can continue. With the exception of clubs impacted by local lockdown restrictions, we continue at **Stage D** on the [Roadmap](#).

Clubs in areas where additional local lockdown measures have been introduced may need to limit their activities in line with any local restrictions. All are advised to consult with their local authority should they be in any doubt.

**Organised competition in this instance includes any competition organised by the RFU, its delegated competition organising committees, or any other league or cup organiser.*





Ready4Rugby

As the season is not starting until January 2021. The RFU have created an adapted game called Ready4Rugby. Please find the following information on the game on the next few pages.

The training officer has a created a training video where a link will be sent out to you all in the near future.



Ready4Rugby

READY4RUGBY

01/09/2020

**GAME
GUIDANCE**





Ready4Rugby

READY4RUGBY :

PURPOSE

- A GAME THAT REWARDS GO FORWARD AND SUPPORT IN BOTH ATTACK AND DEFENCE
- DEVELOP PLAYERS' CORE SKILLS OF CATCH, PASS AND SUPPORT
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLAYERS TO MAKE DECISIONS RELATED TO THE GAME OF RUGBY UNION
- ADAPTABLE DEPENDENT ON AGE AND STAGE OF PLAYERS





Ready4Rugby

UNDER 7s & UNDER 8s

- Under 7s and under 8s will continue to play under their current rules of play with the exception of the tag tackle. (see regulation 15 appendix 1 and 2).
- The tag tackle will be replaced by a touch tackle on the waist or below of the ball carrier by an opponent.
- After a touch tackle by an opponent on the ball carrier, they must stop and pass the ball to a support player.
- Game progression can lead to the player having the option to pass or continue running after the first touch tackle until a second touch tackle is made, based on the stage of the players in the game.
- Progression of the ball carrier throwing the ball in the air and catching after a second touch tackle before passing can be introduced at an appropriate stage for the players.





Ready4Rugby



MIN	70M X 50M PLUS IN GOAL AREA
MAX	80M X 70M PLUS IN GOAL AREA
AGE GRADE RUGBY	FOLLOW PITCH SIZE GUIDANCE, PLAYING NUMBERS AND DURATIONS FOR EACH SPECIFIC AGE GROUPS
*A min of 5m and max of 10m in-goal area must be provided	



GAME RECOMMENDATIONS

- MINIMUM 6 PLAYERS V 6 PLAYERS*
- MAXIMUM 10 V 10
- ROLLING SUBSTITUTIONS
- BALL SIZE 3/4/5
- MAXIMUM 15 MINS CONTINUOUS GAME TIME

* UNDER 7s 4V4





Ready4Rugby

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Action	Descriptor
A Try	Ball carrier grounding the ball in the opposition's in-goal.
In touch	The ball or ball-carrier touches the touchline, touch-in-goal line or anything beyond = Turnover in possession with a restart pass approx. 5 metres in field where the ball crossed the touchline.
Ball Dead through in-goal	Ball or ball carrier reaches the dead ball line or touch-in-goal line = Turnover in possession with a restart pass on the nearest attack zone line.
Knock on	When a player loses possession of the ball and it goes forward, or when a player hits the ball forward with the hand or arm, and the ball touches the ground or another player before the original player can catch it = Turnover in possession with a restart pass from where the knock on occurred.
Forward Pass	The ball travels towards the opposition's dead-ball line = Turnover in possession with a restart pass where the forward pass occurred.
Restart	Team in possession make a pass of no more than 2 metres in distance. Opposition must be 5 metres back at all restarts.
Offside (defence)	Defending Team not retreated minimum of 2 metres after a double touch or 5 metres from a restart = Penalty
Offside (attack)	Attacking Team in front of the ball carrier = Penalty





Ready4Rugby

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Action	Descriptor
A Touch tackle	A legal touch tackle is on the waist or below of the body, clothing, or ball. A player must claim a touch by raising a hand and shouting, "Touch!"
A Simultaneous Touch	Two single handed touch tackles by two separate opponents on the waist or below on the ball carrier.
A Phase	When the ball carrier has been touch tackled by two different opponents and the ball has been moved away.
Attack Zone	Area in front of the goal line you are attacking.
Attacking Team	Team in possession of the ball.
Defending team	Team not in possession of the ball.
Ball carrier	Player in possession of the ball.
Throw above the head	Ball carrier throws the ball in the air above their own head height.
Penalty	Free Pass and reset of phase count for non-offending team.



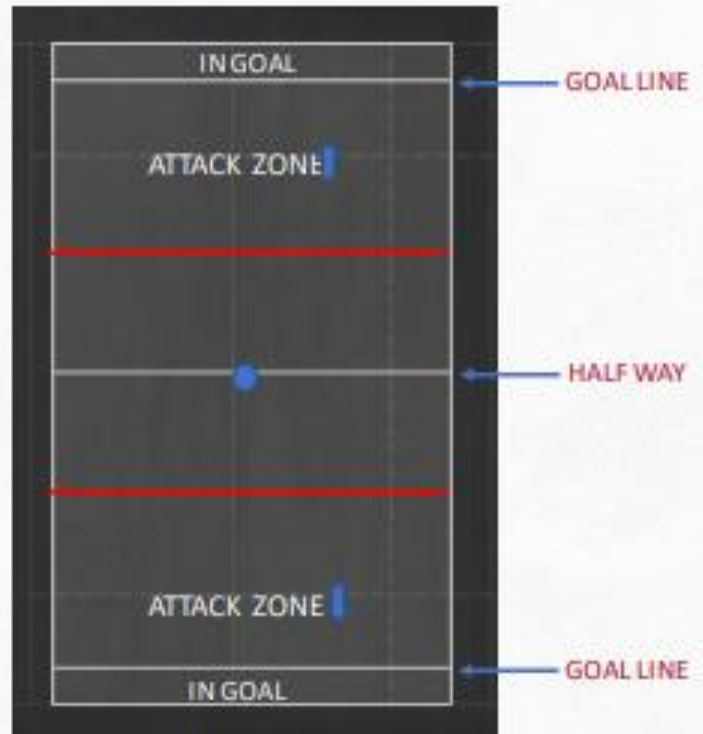


Ready4Rugby

ATTACK ZONE

Players (Age / stage)	Recommended
9- 13 Novice	Half-way line
14 – 16 Mixed ability Low experience.	30 – 20 metres (distance from the goal line)
16 – 18 Experienced/ competent	20 – 15 metres (distance from the goal line)
18+ Skilled/ highly competent	15 – 10 metres (distance from the goal line)

Adaptations: Attacking zones do not have to be the same size for each team.
Organisers can increase or decrease one team's attacking zone to challenge a team or to keep the game competitive (*result in doubt for as long as possible*)





Ready4Rugby

READY4RUGBY: GENERAL GAME PLAY

- Objective is to score a try by grounding the ball in the opponents' in goal.
- 1 Point is awarded for a try.
- Defending team aim to stop the attacking team from scoring by making a touch on the ball carrier on the waist or below by two different defenders.
- Each team has an attacking zone in front of the goal line they are attacking.
- Once the ball crosses the attack zone line the attacking team have 4 phases to score.
- Teams can be mixed (male and female).





Ready4Rugby

READY4RUGBY: ATTACK

- After first touch tackle, the ball carrier can run, pass or kick (**kick = attacking zone only**).
- Ball carrier touch tackled once cannot score and must pass to a support player to score.
- After a second touch tackle from two different opponents, ball carrier must stop running, throw the ball above their head, and catch it before passing to a support player.
- Pass after second touch tackle must be no more than 2 metres.
- Dropped ball during throw above head and catch = turnover.
- Attacking team have 4 phases to reach their attacking zone. Otherwise = turnover.
- Once the ball enters the attacking zone, attacking team have a further 4 phases to score. No score = turnover.
- Ball carrier may kick the ball in the attacking zone and below head height.
- Ball goes dead through in goal from attacker kicking = restart to defending team on attack zone line.





Ready4Rugby

READY4RUGBY: DEFENCE

- The team not in possession of the ball must retire 2 metres to the offside line after each phase (two touch tackles).
- Possession is turned over if the attack does not reach the attacking zone or if a try is not scored within the allocated number of phases.
- After a try, the non-scoring team restart play with a free pass at the centre of the half-way line
- If a defending player throws or takes the ball into the in-goal, and a defending player grounds it and there has been no infringement, play is restarted by the attacking team on the attack zone line with 4 phases.
- If the attacking team loses possession of the ball and it goes to ground in the field of play and subsequently moves into the opposition team's in-goal and is made dead by the defending team, play is restarted by the non-offending team 5 metres from the goal line.





Training: Via Youtube and Zoom

There is an end of months meeting on Monday 26th October via zoom which will finish with a training session on “the role of the referee”.

The Leicestershire Society has the following Training sessions available online:

Refereeing the scrum
Role of the referee
Ready4Rugby

Details of how to access this training will be given at the members meeting at the end of the month so please make yourself available.

A Coaches Dream

“An interview with Rhys Davies”

What is your role within the Society?

I am a Society Referee Coach, and usually work with two referees in a season.

What does a referee Coach do at Society level?

Generally, a coach is there to develop aspects of a referees game. Sometimes that will be a general development brief, sometimes it's to address a specific element.

A coach will have a good working relationship with his referee(s), and sometimes that professional relationship becomes a friendship.

Having a good working relationship makes conversations easier when there are elements of the referee's that need improving – but that the referee disagrees. I think there has to be mutual respect though – the referees need to remember that their coach **is** their coach because he or she has strengths and a knowledge of the game that will help the referee develop and, hopefully, progress.

On the other hand, we coaches need to remember that the games changes constantly, and that the methods **we** might have employed to manage the game may not be appropriate in today's game or for this particular referee. We help by watching our referees at least once a month in a live or even a recorded game situation and offer advice regarding points for developing the referee so that they become eligible for promotion to the next level of rugby for which he, or she, is capable of officiating at.

We're there to act as a sounding board, but rather than give the answers, to help the referee find the best solution for their own style of refereeing. It's about finding what works for you, and applying that to your game management.



A Coaches Dream

“An interview with Rhys Davies”

How does having a coach benefit the referee?

It means that the referee has someone who can analyse the referee's game and their style, and see where they can add more skills in order to become a better referee. Sometimes that will be at the same level, sometimes to the next level, and sometimes to start a referee on a path to the top of the game. It also helps to have someone looking after you who knows knows, for example, a scrum expert from another part of the game - potentially a player or a player coach.

A lot of the Leicestershire coaches have connections in the higher levels of the game, and can call in favours from time to time, when it's necessary.

A coach will see changes in style and methods from game to game as opposed to the one off snapshot of the referee that an assessor might have.

It does mean that there has to be a trust that the coach can help the referee progress, but also that the referee will keep their end of the partnership as well. With that collaborative working, a referee can often progress two or more levels beyond their current capability.

A good coach/referee partnership can last for a couple of years, taking the strengths of that coach and helping the referee develop in that particular area of refereeing.

The referee / coach pairing may change, but often, the relationship becomes a friendship and can last for many years later.

How many coaches are there within the Leicestershire Society?

We have 8 active coaches in the Society at present –Mark Elliot, Duncan Wilson, Tony Gardiner, Kerrel Wills, Nick Houghton, Dave Edkins and me. We also have Steve Gammage who coaches at group level (which is the level up from Society rugby and is the stepping stone to the panel), We all know each other quite well and are familiar with our collective skills and experience in refereeing.



A Coaches Dream

“An interview with Rhys Davies”

What does your game day schedule look like?

Game day is actually the least important day for the coach. We should have done all our work following on from the last fixture and leading up to this next one, so I usually arrange with my referee to meet before the game or to travel to it together. It is important that the referee drives the timetable for this and other match day events.

We will have conversations and done our analysis in the days leading up to the fixture, so we know what we're likely to see on the field and how we're likely to manage it, so on match day, I just want the referee to be comfortable and confident in the things we've been working on and to be prepared to implement them.

After that, I will just arrange to see the referee after the game, in the clubhouse. Any more than that is entirely up to the referee. Some refs like to talk at half time, some don't. My view is that the match day belongs to the players and the referee, and that the coach is there to support, not to interfere. We leave that to the assessor!! J

If there is an assessor at the game, I like my referee to ask if I can listen into the assessment meeting after the game so I can hear what the assessor thinks, but won't necessarily be part of the conversation.

Other than that, we'll have a chat after the game and will talk more in the next 72 hours when we've both had time to reflect on the game.

It's then about looking at the areas that have been identified (regardless of who identified them) and working with the referee to improve or mitigate them.

Why did you decide to coach and how long have you been coaching?

Why? I'm not sure it was a conscious decision, to be fair. I'm not analytical enough to be an assessor, but have some experience of working at a higher level of the game, so coaching was the best logical thing to do if we were to use that experience for the benefit of younger, developing referees. I've been coaching on and off for about 5 years.



A Coaches Dream

“An interview with Rhys Davies”



How does coaching differ from assessing?

An assessor only gets a snapshot view of the referee in this one game, and will write their report based on that one game whereas a coach will have a bigger picture of the referee's abilities and will be able to see occasions where he or she has developed. On occasion, we also see where our referee has underperformed, based on previous experience.

It also means we know how to grow to know and understand our referees. We learn how they like to learn, how receptive they are to advice, and whether they respond to the carrot or to the stick!

The conversation with an assessor is likely to be an acceptance of that person's view (doesn't mean it can't be challenged though), but it's a one off occasion, whereas the referee and coach relationship is both longer term and has to be based on trust, and has to work both ways.

Who gets a coach?

In Leicestershire, Coaches are allocated to referees with the potential to referee at a level at least 2 grades higher than their current grade, and those referees are usually also placed on the Society Development Squad.

The Training Officer will look at who is on the Development Squad and who is likely to best be able to benefit the development needs of each referee. He will then approach one of the coaches and discuss pairing the coach with one or more specific referees. Once that is agreed, the coach and (each) referee should meet and at least try to find out if they can, and are happy to, work together, and to establish how they will work with each other.

We want to know what your expectations of your coach are – we'll also outline our expectations of the referee. Each coach is slightly different in the way we work and each of us has different strengths. That's why the pairing is so important. To understand why that coach has been paired with any referee, the referee should do a little research into the coach's own refereeing and coaching career. Then talk with someone who has worked with that person before, so they can understand what skills and knowledge the coach can bring to the party.

A Coaches Dream

“An interview with Rhys Davies”

Your advice to any referee, as a coach?

Crikey. Several, I guess. Number one to ANY referee would be to talk to the players after the game. That’s how you learn what the players really want from a referee.

That will often be different for each level and for different clubs, according to their playing style. Club coaches have been known to be helpful, though you’ll get a feel for the ones who recognise that referees want to develop in the same way that players do and those who just don’t care about referees at all

Two – be fit enough for the next level of rugby. If you can keep up with play the decisions get easier because physically you’re in the right place with time to spare. It means you see the first offence and can respond accordingly.

Three – if you’re not on the development squad, it doesn’t mean you can’t talk to the coaches or ask them for advice or even to watch you informally. There’s a lot of experience in Leicestershire.

Four – Be realistic. Not every new referee will make it to the premiership, and it’s a long way to get there.

If you want a coach, how do you go about finding one?

Talk to a senior referee that you know. They might surprise you and offer their own services, or be able to point you in the direction of someone else. Just don’t be afraid to ask the question.



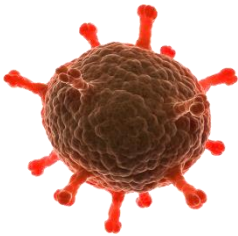
Leicestershire Society Of Rugby Union Referees Newsletter:



With thanks:

I would like to personally thank Rhys Davies and Mark Elliot for their help in making pieces for the newsletter as it is really appreciated.

In the November edition:



Still no rugby



Training Zoom
meeting



The app goes live



Stash is on its way



Meeting one of our own?