

**We hope you had a Merry
Christmas and a Happy New
Tier**



Leicestershire Society Of Rugby Union
Referees Newsletter

Leicestershire Society Of Rugby Union Referees Newsletter:



In the January edition:



A Chairman's Note



Mental health



- Return to play - Stage by stage guidance
 - RFU Support Centre (funding available)



Training Information



A Chairman's Note



I hope yourselves and all your families managed to have a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and New Year, despite the strange times that we continue to live through.

Since my last writing, we have had the optimism of Phase E in the RFU's return to rugby roadmap and contact community rugby, under revised laws, beginning to be played locally. Several games did take place, towards the end of December.

However, with the reintroduction of further lockdown restrictions, we are now back to Phase A in the roadmap, with a cessation of all Community rugby activities.

Under these restrictions, it does make ultimate sense that community rugby activities are suspended, in the appearance of the more transmissible variant of Covid-19, but it is still frustrating for many of us.

There is light at the end of the tunnel, with the vaccines beginning to be rolled out at an increasing rate. I have just got back from taking my mother-in-law for her jab, so the roll out is well under way. I witnessed a very efficient system with an army of volunteers, assisting in the vaccination of many, many people

It may well be a long tunnel, but we will get there, I am sure.

In the meantime, your Committee are continuing to work hard in the background, meeting regularly, ensuring various projects are on course and keeping up to speed with the latest advice from the RFU and RFRU.



A Chairman's Note



Our new treasurer, Jenny Burrows, will be presenting last seasons accounts to you at the members meeting on Monday 25th January. As well as Jenny, I would like to thank John Carr for all his hard work in getting an audit of the accounts completed, despite the challenge of a lack of data. We are indebted to you John, for the work that you have done.

Our Training Officer, George Richardson, will be delivering a presentation on Foul Play, at the next members meeting, on Monday 25th January 2021. He will be assisted by members of the Development Squad, so please do try and Log In on the night.

As usual, please do get in touch with any of your Committee members, should you require any advice or assistance with anything. Remember, we are here for you.

Please stay safe and I look forward to catching up with you all on Monday 25th.

Mark Elliott
Chairman
Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

Mental Health: Help is out there



Lockdown can take its toll on people's mental health, with anxiety levels rising and many feeling isolated without their normal support network provided by club communities and team environments. Please check in with your members and team mates to make sure they are ok and that everyone knows about support available.

World Health Organisation: [Mental Health and Psychosocial Considerations During COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

NHS England: [5 steps to mental wellbeing](#)

Mind: [Coronavirus and your wellbeing](#)

FSB: [It's okay to talk about mental health campaign](#)

Time to change: [Supporting someone with a mental health problem](#)

Heads Together: [Get support](#)

Marshalling Mens Minds: Mens only support group.



England
Rugby

Restarting Competitive Grassroots Rugby: Return to Rugby Roadmap

STAGE BY STAGE GUIDANCE

September 2020

The following information provides an overview of the key components in stages A-D of the Return to Rugby Roadmap.

Before running any rugby activity, clubs should ensure they are aware of any local lockdown restrictions and/or changes in RFU and Government guidance which may affect which stage they are in and what activity can be undertaken.

All Activity (in all stages) should include appropriate social distancing, strong personal hygiene maintenance, and follow the latest RFU & government guidance.

Stage A - Current Stage

- Socially distanced activity only
- Maximum of 2 people in a session
- No equipment sharing permitted

Individual Training with
One Other Person



Stage B

- Maximum 6 players in a group per ¼ pitch
- All players and coaches must remain socially distanced at all times
- Only essential equipment sharing (ball)
- No contact activity permitted
- No touch Rugby activity permitted.
- No Tag Rugby permitted
- Maximum 15 minutes activity before a break to clean and sanitise.

Small Group Training



More Information is available in the
[Return to Rugby Roadmap: Stage B Webinar](#)

Stage C

- Maximum 20 players per half pitch
- Only Touch Rugby and Ready 4 Rugby activity permitted for the game zone
- All non-game activity must still remain socially distanced
- Intra club fixtures only permitted
- No contact rugby activity permitted
- No Tag rugby permitted

**Non-Contact Training &
Intra Club Matches**

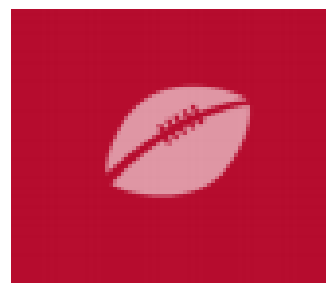


**More Information is available in the
[Return to Rugby Roadmap: Stage C Webinar](#)**

Stage D

- Maximum 20 players per half pitch
- Only Touch Rugby and Ready 4 Rugby activity permitted for the game zone
- 15 minutes specific adapted contact skill zone activity permitted per session
- Inter club fixtures permitted
- No contact training games permitted
- No scrum activity permitted
- No maul activity permitted
- No opposed lineouts permitted
- No Tag rugby activity permitted

**Adapted Contact
Training & Non-Contact**



**More Information is available in the
[Return to Rugby Roadmap: Stage D Webinar](#)**

Stage E

- Increased contact training permitted
- Contact fixtures under law variations permitted from 18th December 2020

Adapted Law Variations



Relaxations of restrictions on outdoor contact sports Law variations reduce risk of F2F & close contact exposure low enough to allow progression to adapted contact matches and training activities

More information is available on the [Return to rugby roadmap – Stage E Webinar](#)



RFU

Support

- As promised, the RFU have created a one-stop support centre to help clubs through lockdown. They have compiled information for you to use as and when it suits your club as we understand that clubs may need this information at different times, depending on individual circumstances. They will continue to update their resources in this area as they have more information.

While it sounds contradictory to suggest conducting a good governance health check during a pandemic, the national lockdown does provide a pause in the day-to-day running of clubs. This could serve as a time to assess good governance practices, so that clubs can be in as strong a position as is possible during these times, to be able to bounce back when rugby can return.

Alongside this, they have included a reminder below of funding options available to address more immediate concerns during lockdown. If you can't find the information you need on the pages below, please get in touch with them via ClubSupport@RFU.com and they will respond as quickly as they can.



Loans

Coronavirus has had a big impact on our sport and we know things have been tough for our clubs. The RFU have, therefore, created an Emergency Loan Scheme to support the game at this challenging time. This scheme is open and available to RFU voting clubs that face cash flow challenges as a result of the impact of Covid-19.

Loans of between £2,000 and £10,000 are available to provide eligible clubs at league level 3 and below with financial support towards essential operational expenditure.

The loans will be interest-free, repayable over a period of up to three years, with an opportunity to defer the first payment for up to six months

Constituent Body Grants

Funds totalling £1 million have been allocated to Constituent Bodies, enabling them to set up and administer an Immediate Support Fund to help clubs most in need. A further £400,000 has been committed collectively across CBs to further increase the level of funding available.

Please contact your Constituent Body for further details.



RFU

Sport England

Sport England have opened a £16.5m [Return to Play Fund](#) to support clubs affected by the Coronavirus Crisis.

Government Support

On 5th January 2021 the Government released various support packages, cash grants of up to £9,000 per property are available on top of the Local Restrictions Support Grants of up to £3,000 per month.

Full information on the support available can be accessed on the LSRUR website. Use the government [business support finder tool](#) to see what support is available.

Government Business Support

One off, top up grants of between £4,000 and £9,000 per property are available to help organisations in the leisure, retail and hospitality sectors through to the spring. Any club, which occupies a property and is the business rate payer, that has been legally required to close as a result of the national lockdown, may be eligible for a grant. Grants will be allocated on a per-property basis. The value of the grant available varies based on the rateable value of the property and will be administered by your Local Authority

| Rateable Value | Grant Available |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| £15,000 or under | £4,000 |
| £15,000 - £51,000 | £6,000 |
| £51,000+ | £9,000 |

These one-off grants are available in addition to existing support measures for businesses. For further details visit LSRUR website. shared via the Coronavirus hub [here](#).

Additional Restrictions Grant

The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) provides local councils with grant funding to support closed businesses that do not directly pay business rates as well as businesses that do not have to close but which are impacted. Local councils have the freedom to determine the eligibility criteria and can determine which businesses to target and determine the amount of funding from the ARG. [Find your local council.](#)

We will update the below presentation when we receive further detail from Government. [RFU tailored guide for rugby clubs regarding the government support.](#)

TRAINING



Members Meeting:

Monday 25th January 2020 at 7pm.

Followed by a training session on:

A referee version of.....What happens next

And

Foul play session lead by our development squad.

Kind Regards,

George Richardson
Leicestershire Society Training Officer

