Read this week's edition of the Community Game update.

Distribution list: Tuesday 25 May

Constituent Bodies Chairs, Honorary Secretaries, Treasurers,

Club Presidents, Chairs, Honorary Secretaries, Treasurers

Return to Rugby

As a reminder, the Community Game Updates will now be fortnightly unless there are any important Government or Game updates.

This edition includes:

1. Return to Rugby – Indian Covid-19 variant - 8 geographic areas
2. Stage D2 reminder
3. NatWest RugbyForce
4. Player data
5. Dates for the diary
6. Allianz Premiership 15s Final and magazine show
7. Webinars and on-demand videos
8. Young Warrior Cheick

Indian Covid-19 Variant

If you're in an area where the new Covid-19 variant is spreading

Given the recent increase in new variants of Covid-19 across a number of Local Authority areas, we urge all CBs and clubs to be especially vigilant and to encourage members to take extra caution to ensure the safety of all participants.

Government's current guidance is that you can continue to travel to and from the eight geographic areas to play rugby and train (adapted laws, Stage D2), as long as all on-field and off-field Covid19 guidance is followed.

However, government will continue to monitor the spread of the new variant and therefore this guidance remains subject to change. Please keep an eye out for updates.

As each area may have a slightly different position, we encourage clubs to contact their Local Authority to understand the implications of any further local restrictions.

Government guidance for the listed areas includes that you should try to:

• Meet outside rather than inside
• Keep two metres apart from people you don't live with

It is also recommended you:

• Get tested for Covid-19 twice a week and isolate if you test positive. Lateral flow tests are available for free from chemists or via the NHS online
• Get vaccinated when you are offered it; and encourage others to do so as well

Affected areas

• Bedford Borough Council
• Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
• Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council
• Burnley Borough Council
• Kirklees Council
• Leicester City Council
• London Borough of Hounslow
• North Tyneside Council

Government Guidance **Helpdesk FAQs**

Stage D2 reminder

For other areas of the country, please remind club members and spectators to adhere to all relevant government Covid-19 guidance at all times.

We are all in this together and must show that we, as a sport, respect the rules. The protocols around spectators and gatherings are in place to protect people. Following the rules will enable us to keep playing and supporting, and, more importantly, it will keep everyone safe.

Summer Guidance

We are heading into the final weekend of the age-grade season. Please remember that from 31 May, the summer rugby activity framework must be followed by any clubs and schools continuing rugby. Material to help you can be found below.

Return To Rugby

NatWest RugbyForce 2021

September 2020 NatWest RugbyForce was a bumper edition, combining activity delayed due to the pandemic and plan for season, at a time when clubs needed it the most. As a result, 14,500 volunteers rolled up their sleeves to help make facility improvements at the start of the season, following months with little or no activity.

The remaining NatWest RugbyForce activity for the 2020/21 season will look a little different. Eight clubs from RFU areas across the country will be helped to improve their facilities by young volunteers, a generation significantly impacted by the pandemic.

The NatWest RugbyForce 2021 activity will be NatWest's last. However, their involvement and support for the programme leaves a lasting legacy within clubs to ensure they are equipped with the skills and knowledge to thrive as community hubs. Below is the NatWest Club Rugby Finance Guide, created by NatWest to support clubs across England, provides longer-term hints,

practical tips and guidance, to help clubs become financially self-sustaining for the future.

Finance Guide **Read More**

Player Data

With the return to rugby now in full flow, we advise clubs to take a look at their player data on GMS. Players will have joined and left over the past 12 months. Keeping this data up-to-date will help clubs understand their players' needs and profiles better as we enter summer and then the new season.

To make this process as seamless as possible, we are requesting that club administrators begin to: review and update their club Golden Roles, ensure there is a data officer listed and begin to remove records for those without an active player registration or membership. For support on how to do that please visit the GMS help portal.

GMS Help Portal **Remove A Record**

Clean Sport Week

We have some important dates that we would like clubs and CBs to be aware of in case you would like to help promote them. We can supply you with resources to pass on if you wish. Just email: **ChrisDodd@RFU.com**. Clean Sports week runs this week and more information is available below.

Future Dates

• Volunteers' Week – 1 – 7 June
• UK Coaching Week – 7 -13 June

Clean Sport Week

Allianz Premier 15s Final

After last weekend's thrilling semi finals, which saw record live stream views on England Rugby channels, this weekend we have the Allianz Premier 15s Final to look forward to. Saracens take on Harlequins at Kingsholm on Sunday 30 May, kick off 4pm. With limited availability, make sure to book soon to avoid disappointment.

If you can't make it to Gloucester, you can watch the match on BT Sport 1 with coverage starting from 3:30pm.

This Saturday, a magazine show will take a look at the Allianz Premiership 15s which can be accessed on the **@premier15s Instagram** and **England Rugby's YouTube** account.

Buy Tickets

Webinars & videos on demand

All our **Coaching**, **Refereeing**, and **Club** webinars are on-demand, alongside the webinars coming up below.

Age Grade development days

Starting next week, the England Rugby Schools Union will be hosting a number of Age Grade development days in partnership with RFU. These are aimed at those working in the Age Grade club game and within Education. While these are usually face-to-face, this year they will be hosted online and are free to attend. Sessions will feature England performance coaches and Academy staff, RFU and external presenters such as Richard Shorter and The Magic Academy.

Register

Financial sustainability – Wednesday 9 June 6:30 – 8:30pm
This virtual workshop has been designed to help club members review their leadership club structure. Identify the key principles of an excellent leadership team, methods to achieve an excellent leadership team for your club and develop an action plan to improve your club leadership..
Register

Financial sustainability – Wednesday 23 June 6:30 – 8:30pm
Although managing the day-to-day finances of your club can seem a daunting or tedious task, this workshop will support you to identify financial objectives that will help your club become more financially sustainable and resilient.
Register

Young Warrior Cheick

Project Rugby is an initiative between Premiership Rugby and England Rugby to increase participation in rugby by people from traditionally under-represented groups, including ethnically diverse communities.

Cheick Kone, one of four young players joining Worcester Warriors Senior Academy at Sixways, is the first player in England to progress from Project Rugby to the Senior Academy of a Gallagher Premiership club.

Born and raised in the Ivory Coast, 18-year-old Cheick spent time in Bologna in Italy before his family re-located to Wolverhampton. Never having watched or played rugby, Cheick was spotted by Matt Jones, Warriors' Academy

Outreach Coach, who went into his school as part of the Project Rugby programme.

You can read his story below.

Read More

Teamwork Respect Enjoyment Discipline Sportsmanship