



RFU COMMUNITY GAME UPDATE

Distribution List, Pre-Send:

Council Members and Board of Directors
CB Chairmen
CB Honorary Secretaries
Referee Society & Federation Honorary Secretaries
CB Volunteer Coordinators
RFU Staff

Distribution List, Send Out:

Club Chairmen
Club Honorary Secretaries
Club Volunteer, Coach and Referee Coordinators
University & College Club Honorary Secretaries

Welcome to the 8th Community Game Update and 2015 – the countdown to RWC 2015 begins! This is set to be a busy year, with a lot of great work taking place across the Game. In these updates we aim to provide you with useful information in bi-monthly chunks, but are mindful that we do not overload already busy volunteers. We recently conducted a survey to get feedback on these updates and are very grateful to all who replied. Your opinions are really appreciated and we will look at how we can improve the flow of information to you all.

Simon Winman – Head of Club Development
Paula Rowe – Senior Communications Manager

26th January 2015 - Update No.8

Index of this month's information:

1. Check you are on the right music license
2. NatWest RugbyForce 2015 – CB purchase of club materials
3. Invitation to West Car Park 6N volunteer hospitality
4. Age Grade Competition Review update
5. CASC update
6. NatWest Schools Day
7. Male 15-a-side Game Strategy
8. Coaching & Refereeing Course Subsidies
9. Merit Table Funding
10. Rugby Shorts

For Action

All CB & Club Chairmen & Honorary Secretaries

1. Check you are on the right Music Licence ([link](#))

Historically, many amateur sports clubs did not require a licence from PPL when playing recorded music. Following a change in law, amateur sports clubs are now, in almost all cases, required to hold a PPL licence as well as a PRS for Music licence. From 1st January 2014, PPL and PRS for Music introduced a new joint licence for eligible amateur sports clubs which

is administered by PPL.

It appears that some clubs are not being charged on the right tariff (the right tariff is the joint amateur sports clubs tariff).

Things to check:

1. The Club is on the joint amateur sports clubs tariff.
2. The invoice received has both the PPL & PRS logos at the top right hand corner (administered by PPL not an invoice direct from PRS only).
3. The Club are not being charged per TV.

If you believe you are on the wrong tariff or would like to check, please contact PPL direct via email to ppcustomer.service@ppluk.com or by telephone: 020 7534 1070

CB Chairman & Honorary Secretaries

2. NatWest RugbyForce 2015 'Get Behind England' materials offer

A reminder that the closing date is 13th February 2015. Please see attached letter and order form if you would like to order additional packs for clubs. So far there has been a fantastic response, with 622 clubs from across the country already signed up to take part in the NatWest RugbyForce 2015 programme.

CB Volunteer Coordinator & Honorary Secretaries

3. Invite to west Car Park Hospitality – 6 Nations

We would like to once again offer 150 places to your valued volunteers to come and join us in the West Car Park, at the 6 Nations matches, for some food and drinks before kick-off. As with previous years this offer is for volunteers who already HAVE match tickets – Tickets are NOT available with this offer.

The invitation is attached for further details – we will confirm the exact location in West Car Park as soon as possible. Please note that places are available on a 'first come first served' basis to volunteers who have **not** previously experienced the fun of the West Car Park Pre-Match!

Nominations for all 3 matches can be sent to recognition@therfu.com and will accept up to 6 volunteers per club. If the full allocation of places isn't taken up a week before the match a waiting list will be offered for those clubs wishing to bring more volunteers. When responding, please provide information as outlined in the form attached.

For Distribution

CB & Club Honorary Secretaries: distribute to Youth Chairmen

4. IMPORTANT: Age Grade Competition Review (AGCR)

Work on the AGCR has been progressing steadily since the last update. In addition to working on the detail with groups from across the wider rugby spectrum, we have been working on the representative rugby element. This is to ensure that the development and competition structures at Under 15s and 16s also best support the England Under 16s system.

The recommendations of this strategic review were finalised on 11th December 2014 and will be submitted for approval to both the Community Game Board and the Professional Game Board in February.

We will continue to update everyone on progress of the AGCR in future Game Communications.

For more details on the England Under 16s Review, please contact AlunPowell@rfu.com; and on the wider AGCR contact MarkSaltmarsh@rfu.com.

CB and Club Honorary Secretaries: distribute to Youth Chairmen & members

5. CASC update

The new regulations were laid before Parliament on the 18th December following the short technical consultation. It is anticipated that these regulations will be enacted and new guidance issued by HMRC from the 1st April 2015. The new regulations can be viewed [here](#)

The Consultation Response, published [here](#) explains the Government's rationale for its preferred approach to the main areas of contention. All CASCs will need to review against the new regulations to ensure that they continue to meet the legislation but will have 12 months in which to do so and if necessary make any changes.

Further information will be provided in due course. In meantime please contact Dave Stubble davestubble@rfu.com or Alex Thompson alexthompson@rfu.com if you wish to discuss further.

For Information

CB & Club Honorary Secretaries:

6. NatWest Schools Day 2015 & Friday night Lights

The NatWest Schools Cup is the premier tournament in schools rugby, where school teams compete regionally and then nationally for the chance to play at Twickenham and clinch the coveted trophy.

Some 1,000 teams take part each year across the country at Under 15 and Under 18 level. All schools that enter play for the main cup and there is also a vase for teams knocked out in the early rounds, also culminating in a Twickenham final this year on **Wednesday 25th March**. This year the Schools Day is free, ticketless entry with gates opening at 10.30am.

CB & Club Honorary Secretaries

7. New: Male 15-a-side Game Strategy

The RFU is mindful that the men's 15-a-side game remains central to the sport and over the past year, the Community Game Board has been in discussion to ensure its development continues.

The subsequent strategy, together with realistic milestones for growth, has been approved by the Community Game Board, and endorsed by the Board of Directors and by RFU Council and is being mailed out to the Game this month. You can also read it online [here](#).

It doesn't set out every piece of work nor all the interventions needed to support the 15-a-side game, which remains the fundamental role of clubs, Constituent Bodies and RFU professional staff. The strategy does, however, identify three target categories and ten areas of action - all of which will be monitored closely over the next four years.

Club, CB & Referee Society Honorary Secretaries; Club and Referee Coaching

Coordinators; all Education links

9. Coaching & Refereeing Course Subsidies

The best trained coaches and referees provide the best experience for everyone playing the game, as well as having the most enjoyment themselves. That is why the RFU has increased provision and subsidies for coaching and refereeing courses which, together with the online booking system, has resulted in an unprecedented increase in numbers enrolling.

We are asking all candidates to book online so that we know how many are expected to attend each course. It also means that everyone attending has an accurate record of achievement and an updated coaching or refereeing CV. The group booking facility has also been reinstated with a user guide available to help you.

From the start of January 2015 all those booking online will avoid a levy of £5 applied to those who do not enroll this way. Closed course bookings will also be subject to a £5 per person levy. Clubs, schools, colleges and universities are usually happy to help anyone with difficulties enrolling online as they benefit from having well trained coaches and referees.

The RFU [online course booking system](#) allows you to search by course type, region, postcode or date before booking and paying for your course.

Visit www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/courses now to book your course.

CB Honorary Secretaries

8. Merit Table Funding

All grant funding towards the administration of merit table competitions has been paid to the nominated organisation as per the details on the application forms received. We would like to apologise for the delay in the first tranche being paid and thank you all for your patience. The second tranche will be paid promptly at the end of the season. As part of the Adult Competition Review we are looking at various mechanisms to further encourage participation in this crucial area of our game, details of which will follow. If you have any queries related to funding please contact: competitionfunding@rfu.com

CB & Club Honorary Secretaries:

9. Monthly “Rugby Shorts” – Positive Stories from Across the Game

Please find attached Issue 2 of “Rugby Shorts” from December, which highlights just a few positive stories from across the Game.

Heads Up

TV programmes of interest:

27/28/29 Jan: ITV evening regional news programmes (6 – 6.30pm) – 3 features about rugby, which are part of ITV’s build-up to RWC 2015.

