



RFU COMMUNITY GAME UPDATE

Distribution List, Pre-Send:
Council Members and Board of Directors
CB Chairmen
CB Honorary Secretaries
CB Facility Co-ordinators
RFU Staff

Distribution List, Send Out:
Club Chairmen
Club Honorary Secretaries
Club Facility Co-ordinators
Club Volunteer Coordinators
University & College Club Honorary Secretaries
Referee Society & Federation Honorary Secretaries

Welcome to the 7th Community Game Update. Many thanks to those of you who completed the Community Game Update Survey. We will feedback on the results in the New Year and incorporate any changes thereafter. May we take the opportunity – as this will be the last Update of the year – to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a fantastic 2015!

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

10th December 2014 - Update No.7

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For Action

All CB & Club Chairmen & Honorary Secretaries; Club Volunteer Co-ordinators

1. Register for NatWest RugbyForce 2015

This year NatWest RugbyForce 2015 is offering so much more. Clubs that register by **11th January 2015** could be selected to attend the new and improved programme of free workshops and receive more support and benefits than ever before, including financial support and a package of 'Get Behind England' materials. There is also the chance to be selected for one of six 'Ultimate Club Experience' prizes.

CBs also have the opportunity to purchase the 'Get Behind England' packages for their clubs. Further details have been attached to this email.

The always popular NatWest RugbyForce DIY weekend is on June 27 – 28 this year. It's a great opportunity to bring the rugby family and local communities together to get the local rugby club ready to be the place to watch England take on the best in the world.

To register your club for NatWest RugbyForce 2015 click [here](#).

CB & Club Honorary Secretaries; CB Facility Co-ordinators

2. Rugby Groundsman Connected

We have had a great response to the newly launched Rugby Groundsman Connected programme with 284 groundsman now registered. A list of those clubs with someone registered is attached to this communication; a club with multiple entries means that more than one person works on the grounds and pitches. A brand new and unique online training and education programme for all groundsman registered with Rugby Groundsman Connected will be launched in March 2015, so please encourage your groundsman to register by emailing groundsmenconnected@rfu.com

For Distribution

CB & Club Honorary Secretaries: distribute to Youth Chairmen

3. IMPORTANT: Age Grade Competition Review (AGCR)

There has been some good progress with the AGCR in recent weeks, following six months work by the Implementation Group of practitioners from across the rugby spectrum in clubs, schools, colleges and counties. I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to their great effort, commitment and objectivity. The progress includes reaching an important milestone in November when the Community Game Board approved the Implementation Plan, recommending it to the RFU Council meeting in February 2015.

The Implementation Plan includes twelve actions under three headings:

- a) **Framework** – this includes more consistency in age bandings, formats and rules as well as the progression to 15-a-side rugby across clubs, schools and colleges and a rationalising of the competition menu to increase access for players of all abilities.
- b) **Enablers** – these are actions to ensure the Framework can be delivered such as a regulated playing calendar/season, fixture support tools, integration with the player pathway and rep rugby, training and CPD, plus communications and support resources to help the rollout.
- c) **Opportunities** – a set of actions required to enhance its impact such as clarifying priorities for young players, developing post-18 age graded playing opportunities and a more co-ordinated RFU structure for Age Grade Rugby.

In the next three months, we will continue to engage with key stakeholder groups on how the plans can be supported best in our clubs, schools and colleges. This will help to inform the Council discussions in February when it is hoped the plan will be agreed.

Our timescales are targeted at the 2016-17 season for implementation of the majority and bigger Implementation Plan actions. The aim is for an 18 month period before September 2016 to work right across the Age Grade game with support tools, resources and sessions across the country to help ease the rollout and transition to a more player-centred youth game.

We will continue to keep everyone updated on all the progress in the next few months, particularly the result of the RFU Council deliberations in February.

Mark Saltmarsh – RFU Head of Education

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

4. More on NatWest RugbyForce 2015

England teammates James Haskell, Mike Brown and Billy Vunipola dropped in on Camberley Rugby Club last month to film an ad for NatWest RugbyForce 2015. Over 200 club members showed their support to the film, a light-hearted call for clubs to sign up for this year's NatWest RugbyForce, which is about 'Getting behind England' as well as being a weekend of DIY.

The players and club members joined together for several hours of filming before Billy, Mike and James took part in a Q&A, posing for photographs and doing a signing session as a thank you to the club. To see what the boys got up to, click [here](#)

For Information

CB & Club Honorary Secretaries:

5. Immediate Care in Sport

Don't forget that the Rugby Football Union/Premier Rugby Immediate Care in Sport Course (ICIS) is now available to CBs and Clubs with courses available in Dec-April across the country. This one day course is a rugby union specific course that will address the immediate care training needs of health care professionals working within rugby.

Places can be booked at [here](#)

To determine which teams need this level of support, take a look at www.englandrugby.com/firstaid for guidance on medical provision at all levels of the game.

CB & Club Honorary Secretaries: CB Facility Co-ordinators:

6. New: RFU Technical Guides for Club Facilities

Up to date RFU Technical Guides are now all available online [here](#). You will find helpful information about design, construction and maintenance of pitches, floodlights, artificial grass pitches and more. Please ensure that all relevant CB and club Officers are aware of this new resource.

CB & Club Honorary Secretaries:

7. New: Monthly "Rugby Shorts" – Positive Stories from Across the Game

We are hearing more and more examples of the great work and initiatives taking place in our clubs, schools, colleges and universities and thought it would be good to share a snapshot of these with you. These are all having a positive impact across the game and show what can be achieved when everyone works together in partnership at the local level. More "shorts" will be shared with you every month and we hope you find them a useful source of ideas.

Heads Up

11 Jan 2015 – only 250 days to go to Rugby World Cup 2015.

