

KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT SEPT 2020



1. RETURN TO RUGBY ROADMAP

The reintroduction of limited contact training has been approved by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport ('DCMS') and moves The Return to Community Rugby Roadmap from Stage C to Stage D. Clubs will be able to start limited and restricted contact rugby training and organise inter-club non-contact fixtures.

The reinstatement of some contact activity is important to ensure players can continue to practise core skills and are able to start preparing and conditioning themselves appropriately as the game starts to return to normality with regular training and matches.

Varied training conditions will allow the return of tackling, lineouts, and rucks, ensuring players are prepared to perform these skills safely and effectively with some restrictions. Mauls, scrums, opposed lineouts or upright tackles are still not permissible as the transmission exposure risk remains high. Contact training sessions have to be carried out in small groups of no more than six players.

Detail of the permitted training activity is available in the return to contact training guidance [HERE](#).

01/09/2020

RETURN TO RUGBY STAGE D: A GUIDE TO ADAPTED CONTACT RUGBY ACTIVITY



Return To Contact Training Guidance.

Read More >

A helpful infographic to help understand the parameters of what you can do in training can be accessed [HERE](#).

 STAGE D - ADAPTED CONTACT RUGBY ACTIVITY THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF RUGBY ACTIVITIES AND WHAT IS/ISN'T PERMITTED DURING TRAINING SESSIONS.	
TOTAL TIME OF ALL CONTACT ACTIVITY MUST NOT EXCEED 15 MINUTES PER SESSION ALL CONTACT ACTIVITY MUST BE CARRIED OUT IN SMALL GROUPS (MAXIMUM 6 PLAYERS PER GROUP).	
ROCK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum 2 v 2 players in a ruck (ball carrier and tackler, plus 1 v 1 on their feet over the ball). • No team game play activity. 	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: auto;">✓</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: auto; margin-top: 10px;">✗</div>
LINEOUT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unopposed lineout drills. • Lifting of a jumper (under 4ft and above only). • Ball thrown to a catcher. • Reduce the time the ball sits in the air and a jumper can take to have in hand set up to under 2 seconds. • No opposed jumping. • No need to be formed after ball secured. 	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: auto;">✓</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: auto; margin-top: 10px;">✓</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: auto; margin-top: 10px;">✗</div>
TACKLING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackles at the waist or below only. • 1 v 1 tackle only. • Small group activity preferably with players working in pairs for the entire activity. • Use of tackle bags, shields and pads that are cleaned and sanitised after each player use. • No upright tackles. • No tackling above the waist including trying to hold the ball carrier up or prevent an offload. • No team game play activity. • No equipment such as tackle pads, bags and shields to be used for multiple people without cleaning and sanitising. • Coaches must NOT hold pads or bags for age grade players. 	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: auto;">✓</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: auto; margin-top: 10px;">✗</div>
SCRUM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. • No scrum practice allowed, including use of scrum machines, sleds and unit practice. 	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: auto;">✓</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: auto; margin-top: 10px;">✗</div>
MAUL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. • No maul practice activity allowed, including from a lineout. 	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: auto;">✓</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: auto; margin-top: 10px;">✗</div>

2. CLUB APPROVAL FORMS (U17 PLAYING ADULT RUGBY)

Clubs must fill out an online club approval form before submitting a player approval form. However, each Club Approval submission will be assessed and consideration will be taken for the difficulties in completing accreditation, etc with Local RFU staff on furlough over the last 5 months.

Should you have players who you wish to include in adult contact training, you must complete a Player Approval Form. All forms can be accessed online [HERE](#).

3. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Clubs are reminded that their annual subscription for Season 2010-21 must be paid by 1st November at the latest. Most clubs pay by standing order, and that is the method which Kent County RFU would encourage you to use. That way, nobody has to remember to make a payment each year and your club does not run the risk of any sanctions for non-payment.

Please remember to include the name of your club in any financial transaction as it is becoming increasingly difficult and time-consuming to trace payments without a reference.

Our Handbook states:

The Annual Subscription of this Union shall become due

on the 31st October in every year and shall be:

£50 for Members
£10 for Individual Associates
£20 for Associated Clubs
£250 for Corporate Associates

(any member failing to pay the subscription by 1st November shall cease to have a vote for any purpose whatsoever in accordance with Rule 5.8.1.)

Should you wish to pay by standing order in the future, please contact honsec@kent-rugby.org for the appropriate form.

4. RUGBY CAMPS

Clubs are reminded that applications to host Rugby Camps are now done online and can be accessed [HERE](#).



In addition, due to the current pandemic, clubs must also submit a separate COVID Risk Assessment to honsec@kent-rugby.org.

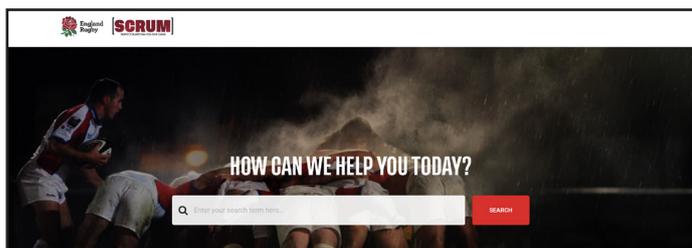
Applications will be considered on an individual basis. Clubs are also reminded that they should not advertise any Rugby Camp until approval has been received.

5. RUGBY TOURS

Clubs should note that due to the current pandemic, the RFU has advised that permission for tours must not be given at the current time, and any approval already given be rescinded.

Once the current situation changes, clubs are reminded that application for tours is now done online and can be accessed [HERE](#).

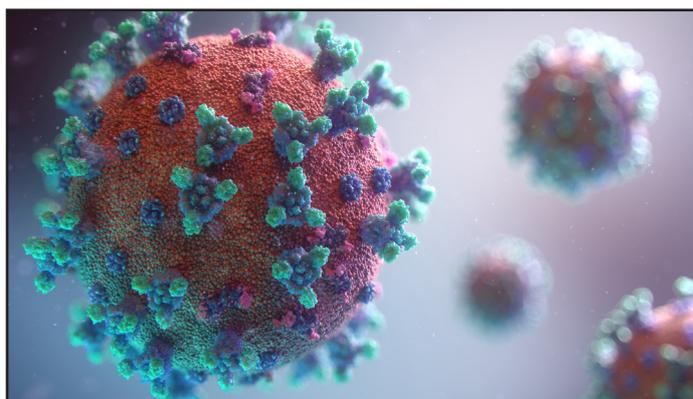
6. GMS SUPPORT



From Thursday 1 October 2020, anyone who requires GMS support will need to go to the new Help Portal and click on the Submit A Help Request option to register an issue

as the email address of gms@rfu.com will be turned off on Wednesday 30 September. You can find more details through the GMS Help link [HERE](#).

7. COVID RELIEF FUND



Is your club facing financial difficulty as a result of COVID? If so, clubs are reminded that the window for applications to the COVID Relief Fund remains open and will remain open all season.

Applications will be considered in terms of actual need resulting directly and demonstrably from the lockdown.

Clubs that have previously applied for and were unsuccessful in receiving funding may reapply, provided that there has been a significant and material detrimental change to their financial position as a direct result of COVID that threatens their viability and medium to long-term sustainability.

Applicant clubs will be notified as soon as possible, as to whether or not their applications have been successful, consistent with clubs ensuring that they provide all necessary information and financial data at the time of application. (see [HERE](#) for information on how to apply)

To apply please contact the office for an assessment form. office@kent-rugby.org

8. INTOUCH

Kent County RFU is considering producing a digital copy of our Intouch publication around Christmas. To do this we do need articles from you of around 100-400 words supported by quality photographs.

I think we can all agree it has been difficult times for us all so we would like to know how you have been coping, do you have any successes, unique ideas during the lockdown?

Have any of your members or you as a club done an incredible thing and achieved something remarkable that you would like to share with the rugby community.

We could all do with some good news stories. Please send any items to be considered for inclusion to Kent County Office. office@kent-rugby.org

9. MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

UK Coaching is offering coaches a mental health workshop for free until Wednesday 30 September. This workshop will help give coaches the knowledge, skills, and confidence to better understand and support people living with mental health problems, and create a positive environment to enjoy the benefits of being active and keep coming back for more. You can register for the workshop via the link below.

Mind, the mental health charity, is also hosting two webinars looking at safeguarding and managing risk for people experiencing mental health problems. The aim is to upskill sport and physical activity organisations and their workforce to better support and engage people with mental health problems in being active. More information is below:

Book your place [HERE](#)

Mental health and safeguarding in sport and physical activity webinar
Date: Tuesday 29 September | 11:30 am - 12:15 pm

Book your place [HERE](#)

Mental health at work in sport and physical activity webinar
Date: Wednesday 7 October | 11:30 am - 12:15 pm

10. KENT RUGBY TELEPHONE

Please be aware that the Kent County Office telephone is unmanned during this time. However, the office email is checked regularly.

If you would like somebody to call you about a matter, please send an email to office@kent-rugby.org stating the nature of your query and your name and telephone number and we will endeavour to return your call.

11. CLUB CLUSTER FORUMS

In August, Kent RFU launched our Club Cluster Forums, using key local volunteers to lead each Cluster, utilising 'Zoom' to meet online.

This is a proactive approach to facilitate an opportunity for clubs to engage and share experiences with other local clubs and Kent RFU. This initial exercise has proven very successful with six area forums held and 129 representatives from 49 clubs registering to attend, with promises from several clubs unable to attend to be at the next one.

One exciting development has been the new partnership with Club Champions with Kent RFU adding value to club county membership by providing 'free membership' for all Kent clubs to Club Champions (see more details in Club Champions article).

Our next round of Club Cluster Forums will be held in early October, when we will focus on several areas currently relevant to the Community Game including; the new RFU structure, proposals regarding the new RFU leagues restructuring, RFU funds available to the game and criteria

for a successful application, how are clubs managing visitors, what are social players doing in clubs lower teams, the changing rugby landscape and more.

12. CLUB CHAMPIONS

In these tough and economically challenging times, most community rugby clubs are nervous about their future revenues. The uncertainty about when we will be able to get clubs playing again simply adds to the difficulties clubs face. Kent County RFU has therefore entered into a partnership with Club Champions, the business club for community sports clubs.

Club Champions purpose is to educate, guide, mentor, and advise clubs in their drive to increase revenue from commercial sponsorship, and over 50 clubs, from different sports, have already joined. However, we are delighted to announce that, as of October 1st, 2020 all Kent affiliated clubs will now be eligible to become members free of charge, courtesy of Kent County RFU.

To find out about the extensive membership benefits you will receive and to register as a member simply email marketing executive Martha McKerlie on martha@clubchampions.net and she will do the rest.

All Kent Clubs who are existing members of Club Champions who have already paid the £200 membership fee will automatically be upgraded to their Advanced Commercial Programme. (ACP)

Club Champions will work personally with every ACP member to:

- Produce a clear proposition and supporting a commercial plan which will provide the framework for their drive to increase revenue
- Provide them with templates to use as communications material (brochure, newsletter, e-shots) to talk to their members, sponsors and prospects – these will be of a high professional quality
- Work with them to help their club advance through the different levels needed to achieve the Club Champions kitemark
- Progress them through the stages actively promoting them as a "best practice" club to the members of the Sports Business Network. The SBN is a mirror organisation to Club Champions and comprises over 3,000 business executives who have an interest in supporting community sport

Tuesday, September 22nd saw the last in a four-part webinar series run by Club Champions which has received rave reviews from attendees, but all members will be able to receive a link to them as they were recorded. Once you have registered just ask Martha for the links and she will send them to you.