



Rugby Football Union – Council Member

Who we are

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for Rugby Union in England. Authority within the RFU is split between the Council, the Board of Directors and the Executive Staff. The Council has a number of responsibilities, principally:

- monitoring and oversight of the Board on behalf of the members (largely member clubs and referee societies);
- making decisions relating to the running of the game; and
- acting as a conduit for information to and from the game as a whole.

Members of the Council have a primary duty to act in what they consider to be in the best interests of the RFU and the game as a whole. There is however also a responsibility to represent the views of participants in the game as appropriate within the RFU.

Who we need

In response to a need to see greater diversity and foster more inclusive dialogue, The Council is seeking to recruit new members from under-represented groups in order to better represent the game's participants and to gain insight relating to those under-represented groups.

We are seeking up to four new volunteers to be part of our Council.

Desired personal skill sets include:

- To have an understanding of the rugby environment in England, and a keen interest in supporting the development of the sport.
- The ability to give a voice within the RFU's governance framework to under-represented groups within rugby
- To be a good communicator, both able to translate policies and decisions from the Council to participants, and to communicate issues from the rugby community back to the RFU.
- To be able to grasp complex issues and be able to make decisions in an informed, clear and timely manner.
- Ability to represent the RFU at a range of events.
- Ability to bring insights based on your wider experience within and outside rugby to the Council and other forums within the RFU and in particular to provide insight relating to your lived experiences.
- A personal drive to “make a difference” through service and volunteering.

You will be selected for your knowledge and experience as well as your desire to support the game and your enthusiasm for the role.



GAME OF OUR LIVES

In particular we are seeking applications from under-represented groups such as people from ethnically diverse communities or those who could better reflect the younger and/or female participants within the game.

We are also keen to add to the skills and experience of Council in the following areas where possible:

- Professional rugby
- Female sports participation
- Sports development
- Corporate finance
- Digital technology
- Media and marketing
- Law

Lived experience and professional skills are equally valuable.

What the role is

A Council Member is required to:

- hold the Board to account on behalf of the members of the RFU
- determine policies and regulations relating to the game that drive the wider culture of the sport
- attend and contribute to Council Meetings across all areas of the game by bringing their perspective and experiences
- to uphold and advocate the Core Values of Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship.

Council Members may also be asked to:

- serve on the Committees/Subcommittees/Task Groups/Panels of the RFU as agreed. It is not a requirement for a Council Member to serve on any group, but Council Members are encouraged to use their experience within and outside rugby where time allows
- host guests at international matches and other events held at Twickenham and elsewhere
- to attend, speak or present at Constituent Body and Club functions.

What you will gain

Whilst Council Members ultimately have a lot of responsibility, they are also supported. You will go through an established induction process, have briefings from the staff and be paired with an existing Council Member as a mentor to help introduce you to the role and support you through your tenure.



This is a valued role, without which the RFU would not be able to govern the game and keep itself accountable to its members. It is a fantastic opportunity to progress the sport and develop your personal skills and confidence in a positive and welcoming environment.

You will also gain a spirit of comradery with your fellow Council members, and likely have a good deal of fun along the way!

If you would need time off from your usual employment to undertake this role, then the RFU would be willing to discuss how to support you in this role.

Commitment required

Attendance at committee meetings, and meetings and functions at Clubs and Constituent Bodies to gain greater insight into the issues facing the game.

The Council meet for their regular meetings five times a year which would be a full day commitment. These meetings can be held remotely or face-to-face.

Council Members are expected also attend England home representative matches, and may also attend away matches on rotation (typically up to seven matches per season).

Depending on the extent of a Council Member's involvement in these, they would be expected to commit to those meetings plus preparation time, and time for meetings of any other committees that Council Members join. This could be up to 25 days or part each year season which may be both standard office hours as well as evenings/weekends.

It is a voluntary role for which expenses only are paid.

The initial term of appointment will be until 31 July 2023.

The RFU is committed to operating in an inclusive and equitable manner, representing our diverse membership and the whole of the game in a fair and respectful way. Council Members, along with staff and other volunteers are expected to understand and adopt the RFU's values to ensure that we can truly support the needs of the game and its participants.

How to apply

Please submit a short application letter expressing your interest in this role and highlighting any relevant personal experience or expertise. Advert closes 21st September 2021.

Please include in your application your response to the two questions below:

1. Why do you want to be an RFU Council Member?
2. What is it that would make you a good addition to this group of volunteers?



GAME OF OUR LIVES

First stage interviews will be held week commencing 18th October, we ask candidates to be available for this week. Selected candidates will then be recommended for approval by the RFU Council at its meeting on the 19th November 2021.

In order to ensure we achieve our aim of having a Council that is diverse and represents all including under-represented groups such as people from ethnically diverse communities or those who could better reflect the younger and/or female participants within the game, we ask that you please outline what gender you identify as, as well as your ethnicity as part of your application.

For more information about the Rugby Football Union please visit: www.EnglandRugby.com