

KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT DECEMBER 2021



1. KENT COUNTY RFU: INJURED PLAYERS' FUND

The RFU's Injured Players Foundation provides support for/to rugby players who sustain a catastrophic spinal cord or traumatic brain injury.

To complement the Foundation's work and for lower grade, though no less distressing injuries, the KCRFU runs its own Injured Players' Fund. The Fund provides financial support, on a discretionary and temporary basis, to those players who are injured playing rugby and who, as a result, are prevented from working and being paid for the period in question. In essence, the Fund exists to relieve temporary financial hardship. The fund is sourced from a proportion of Member Club subscriptions and is accounted for separately.

The Fund does not have charitable status. As such, this allows the fund and those who administer it to have flexibility in the awards it makes, both in terms of amount and by taking into account the nature of the injury that has prevented the player from working.

Application process

Applications from clubs for temporary financial support for one of its players must include the following information:

- Name of player
- Club
- Personal details (address, date of birth, email address, phone/mobile number) GDPR
- Occupation
- Employer
- Nature of the injury and date it occurred
- Proof of injury sustained, e.g. A&E attendance and/or if admitted to hospital, the dates and copy of discharge note, copy of GP sick/incapacity to work certificate
- The period during which the injured player has been unable to work
- The amount of temporary financial support sought
- Proof of loss of pay (if employer does not provide sick pay and/or full payment of salary)

Retention of personal data will be in accordance with GDPR and the KCRFU's **Data Protection policy**.



Application criteria

Applications from member clubs for financial support are assessed on merit and on a case-by-case basis by a panel of three individuals (currently, Robert Horner, Tony Power, and Peter Dessent).

The panel will take account of the nature of the injury and likely recovery time, the impact that it has had on the player and the duration that he/she has been unable to work.

All applications for temporary financial support will be considered sympathetically. However, any award may not amount to the sum applied for. This will depend upon such things as the number and nature of any other current applications and funds available within the County at any given time.

2. GAME ON

With many clubs postponing games or cancelling games due to low numbers have you considered using 'Game on' which can be applied to all games from Level 8 and below which has the backing of the league secretaries. This includes Kent 1 and Kent 2.

To keep your player base isn't it best that they play a game to keep their fitness and conditioning to prevent injury? If

players don't play you can lose them from the game. You can play with 10 a side, uncontested scrums, shorter playing time. You can use part or all of the Game On options. For more information use the link [HERE](#).



3. KENT COUNTY RFU ONLINE APPROVALS

A reminder that we have our online approval forms for festivals, rugby camps, touring, club approval for U17 playing senior games, etc.

Please ensure that your submission is not rejected due to insufficient information and all requested evidence is attached.

For all approvals, our online forms can be found on our website [HERE](#).

4. MANDATORY CLUB SAFEGUARDING SELF-AUDIT

DEADLINE 7th January

A reminder that the Safeguarding Audit is mandatory for all clubs who offer Age Grade activities, or who wish to have 17-year-olds playing up into adult the game (Reg 21.1.6) The deadline for completion has been extended to 7th January 2022.

5. KENT YOUTH COMPETITION

All fixtures and invoices have now been sent out to the teams that have entered. Clubs are reminded that it is a mandatory condition of entry that the club safeguarding audit has been completed prior to 7th January and that the invoice has been paid.

Clubs are reminded that the entry fee is non refundable and having entered the competition the fee remains payable in the event of subsequent withdrawal.



Any queries regarding the competition should be directed to either Alan Erskine (Youth-rugby@kent-Rugby.org) for U15 to Colts or Ricky Marler (u13-competition-manager@kent-rugby.org) for U12 to U14.

6. 17-YEAR-OLDS PLAYING ADULT RUGBY

Following the suspension of approval for 17-year-olds playing adult rugby by the RFU for the first part of this season the process is now open again for playing after January 1st, 2022.

Clubs are reminded that within Kent the process for Club and Player Approval has moved online and paper-based forms will not be accepted. The online forms can be found [HERE](#).

Clubs are reminded that the RFU considers that 17-year-olds should generally play with their peers and should not be used to bolster the senior side playing numbers if there is a more appropriate provision within the club.

The restrictions also apply to training with adults.

Club Approval will automatically fail if:

- a) the safeguarding audit has not been carried out and registered on GMS since the most recent requirement was issued in November 2021
- b) if the Club Honorary Secretary has not confirmed their adherence to the Age Grade regulations in response to the Email sent to all clubs by the Kent Youth Chair on 4th November.



This information was sent to all Honorary Secretaries and Club Chairs on 17th December 2021. To date, only 15 clubs have responded.

Once Club approval has been gained each player will need to go through a similar online approval process only after which 17-year-old players will be able to play in adult teams (but not in the front row).

The sanctions for playing an underage player without CB approval can be very severe.

7. CHANGES TO AGE-GRADE REGULATIONS FOR SEASON 2021-22

A reminder that the Age grade regulation changes made for this season will allow each team to play to their respective game rules after 1st January (i.e. u13 play u13 rules not u12).

This also means that teams who have combined age groups within them should review the regulations and ensure that they are compliant with the new age grade rules.

The U19 provision remains for the rest of the season but clubs are reminded that where an U19 player is in the team all players (including those in the opposition) must be at least 17 years old.

The same sanctions apply here as for playing an underage player in an adult setting.
And Finally...

Merry Christmas to all involved in youth rugby in Kent. Thank you for your hard work and dedication over what has been an extremely challenging year. Let's hope for some normality in 2022.

Alan Erskine
Kent County Youth Chair.
youth-rugby@kent-rugby.org

8. SAFER RECRUITING

As we move in and out of lock downs something that has no doubt been on your mind is how do I ensure my recruiting of coaches is effective and safe.

Some guidelines:

Ensure they have an RFU ID and account

They must undertake the online safeguarding awareness training

They must, and only after completing the safeguarding course, undertake a DBS check. Currently these only last for 3 years so you should also check all of your current coaches and volunteers DBS status.

Ensure that they are able to provide 2 references

Only after you have received back all of this information and you are satisfied, should they commence as coaches.

These checks are in place to protect our players of all ages. I have included the direct link to the RFUs safeguarding recruiting volunteers [HERE](#)

9. GAME VALUES

So far this season there have been some incidents of referee abuse not just from players but also spectators and coaches.

Please remember that referees are also returning to the game after a long period and referee abuse can seriously affect referee retention.



Please be vigilant and report anybody that is not showing games values, do not leave it up to the referee to report it, if you see it, report it to the Kent Rugby discipline committee.

If you feel that you could be a referee, please do book yourself onto the next set of courses which will be advertised in the summer.

10. KENT COUNTY RFU CLUB VISITS

Many of the Kent County Executive Committee have been travelling around the county visiting clubs to be more visual and available to clubs to be able to express any of their concerns.

If you would like a visit in the new year please contact the Kent County Office.

office@kent-rugby.org

The Kent County office will be closed from Thursday 23rd Dec until Tuesday 4th January 2022. If you need to contact anybody urgently please see our website for contact details of various volunteers working for Kent County Rugby, which can be found [HERE](#).

Kent County RFU wishes you a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year !

