

KENT COUNTY RFU INFORMATION SENDOUT OCTOBER 2023



1. RFU LAUNCHES NEW INCLUSION & DIVERSITY TOOLKIT

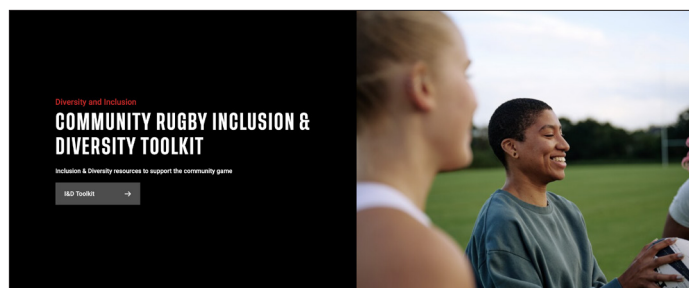
The RFU has announced in its 10 October Community Update that it has launched a new version of its 'Inclusion & Diversity Toolkit'.

INCLUSION

&

DIVERSITY

Clubs will each want to determine their respective approaches about how they engage with and encourage greater participation, reflecting their local communities. How they do this will be for them to judge based on their individual circumstances. Nevertheless, the new Toolkit provides a comprehensive set of resources covering all aspects of the I&D landscape and is accessible from the Governance (Resources) pages of the RFU's website.



2. RFU & KENT COUNTY RFU CLUB CLUSTER EVENTS

There will be face-to-face 'cluster' meetings across the County during November, to which all Kent clubs have been invited to attend. If you have not yet booked your place, please do so using the booking links below for your closest cluster. The events will:

- Provide an overview of last season
- Review the start of the season
- Identify your Club needs for 2023-24 both on & off field, to enable us to target support
- Provide information on RFU & Kent RFU programmes and support
- Reminder of Age Grade Regulation and oneline application (camps, etc) requirements
- Networking with other Clubs
- Question & Answer session

Host Club	Date	Booking Link
Canterbury RFC	23 rd October 7pm-9pm	Event Completed
Bromley RFC	1 st November 7pm-9pm	https://forms.gle/UkLsd264SWzRJmb67
Maidstone RFC	6 th November 7pm -9pm	https://forms.gle/5VPJkBKLHFRKYiM99
Tunbridge Wells RFC	8 th November 7pm-9pm	https://forms.gle/eAKrpgEUZ9gvkSUi8
Gravesend RFC	13 th November 7pm-9pm	https://forms.gle/brtmvmnjzPoTYE5AFA
Gillingham Anchorians RFC	15 th November 7pm-9pm	https://forms.gle/W3WLMfZ7YBykFDhT8
Charlton Park RFC	22 nd November 7pm-9pm	https://forms.gle/seSy15Zx5VvSZYfN6
Dartfordians RFC	TBC	TBC

3. THE RFU VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT PROGRAMME

The RFU Volunteer Recruitment Programme is now open for applications until Friday 24 November, providing clubs with the opportunity to apply for funding (£500) and access a range of resources, to help plan and deliver a volunteer recruitment activity. This could be a volunteer open evening, a volunteer work party, targeted marketing & communications, or another idea that meets the aim of the programme.

The objectives of the programme are to help:

- Create new opportunities to recruit volunteers
- Raise awareness of volunteer opportunities amongst new audiences
- Embed volunteer management in clubs working practices

Clubs (National League 1 & below), Constituent Bodies and Referee Societies can apply for the fund **HERE**, with the opportunity for up to 130 organisations in the 2023-24 season to receive a support package of £500, along with access to online learning modules and resources to plan a successful volunteer recruitment activity.



4. THE COMMUNITY RUGBY SUPPORT FUND 2023/24

The purpose of this fund is to support voting member clubs, CBs and referee societies which are in greatest financial need.

Voting member clubs, CBs and referee societies with a 2022-23 turnover of less than £125,000 are eligible to make a claim of £500 from the fund using the claim form below.

Please note that turnover does include international ticket allocation revenue. Clubs that have an additional need, for example to help with one-off essential costs can indicate this on the form and should the fund be undersubscribed, an additional £375 may be available.

The window to make a claim is now open and closes on 7 November 2023.

Payments will be made by the middle of December.
This fund is for the 2023-24 season only.

Make a claim **here**.

5. WEBINARS AND VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS DURING NOVEMBER

TOPIC	DATE
Click on listing to Book Developing your Strategy	31 st October 6:30-8:30pm
Rugby Club Business Transformation Event	8 th November 7:00-8:30pm
Effective Committees & Boards	15 th November 7:00-8:00pm
Grant Funding	21 st November 7:00-8:30pm
Growing Your Social Media Audience	23 rd November 6:30-8:30pm
Engaging your Community	28 th November 6:30-8:30pm
Sport & Stereotypes: Creating a Positive Start for Primary Girls	30 th November 7:00-8:00pm

6. WHO'S THE REF (WTR)

Please note that the Kent Referees Society (KSRFUR) has a separate system/database for referee appointments. This is **NOT** linked to GMS. Updating GMS does **NOT** mean that WTR is automatically updated.



It is early days for the two systems to work cohesively, something the techs at WTR and the RFU are working on. Therefore, it is important that clubs notify the Society of any change of contact and/or any cancellation of games to the appointments team (appointmentsteam@kentrefs.co.uk). Also, failure to cancel a confirmed game could mean that you are still charged. Failure to confirm a game within 24 hours of the match taking place means the referee will be appointed elsewhere. This applies to all fixtures (men, women, U18 boys and girls).

It is very important that clubs follow the protocol. The Society has fewer referees this season and it is a waste of referee resources when a referee turns up to a cancelled game, when he/she could have been re-appointed to another fixture.

To check that the correct referee liaison contact is held on WTR, please get in touch with admin@kentrefs.co.uk.

7. YOUTH COMPETITIONS

Following the first rounds of the competition, at all age groups, some issues have been brought to the CB's attention.

Combined Teams

The few clubs that have received CB approval to combine teams must inform the opposition prior to match day of this fact. This is not, however, a valid reason for the opposition to refuse to play but should be done in any event as a courtesy to your opposition. Clubs are reminded that all matches should be played in the spirit of the game. If any

club has a combined team but has not received written confirmation from the CB (via Alan Erskine, Chair of Youth Rugby) that this has been approved, then it should not be combining teams in either contact training or matches.

Electronic Match cards

It is a requirement of the youth competition rules that the Electronic Match Card (EMC) is completed in full before and after the match. This is to include all players in the match day squad. Failure to complete all parts of the EMC can be subject to points deductions within the competition.

If any team still has issues accessing or managing the EMC process please contact myself to discuss how this can be rectified. Data from the EMC is used to ensure that the Half Game Rule is being complied with and that all players are registered. Only registered players are eligible to play in the competition.

Match Points Scoring

There is currently a glitch in GMS whereby try bonus points are not being applied consistently. This is being dealt with by the GMS team and all try bonus points will be applied in due course once the fix is in place.

Touchline behaviour

The CB and KSRFUR have a zero tolerance of poor touchline behaviour and referee abuse. Sadly, we have experienced a few instances of poor touchline behaviour, including referee abuse. Clubs are reminded of their duty to control their parents, spectators and coaches and that the only acceptable comments from the touchline are those which celebrate good play. Serious sanctions can be applied to both individuals and clubs should they be found guilty of unacceptable touchline behaviour.

8. VISITING KENT CLUBS SEASON 2023-24

During the season, the KCRFU's President, Doug Hursey, Chair, Roger Clarke, and Hon. Secreatry, Nigel Fray would like to visit clubs across Kent, to meet officials and volunteers and to discuss views on the game, any issues and/or requests for support they wish to raise.

If you have dates on a Saturday and would like us to attend, please let us know (office@kent-rugby.org) suggesting 2 or 3 alternative dates and we will ensure, given diary availability, that one of Doug, Roger or Nigel visit you. Last season we covered some 25 visits.

Thank you to those clubs who have already sent an invite.

Roger Clarke- Chair KCRFU Executive Committee and RFU Councillor



Injured players fund

Had a serious Rugby injury that prevents you from working? Then you may be eligible for some time-limited and discretionary financial support from the KCRFU's Injured Players' Fund. Details of how to apply were set out in the July 2023 edition of the Information Sendout. Applications should be sent to HonSec@kent-rugby.org



Wooden Spoon
The children's charity of rugby



Henderson Rowe



SINCE 1698
**SHEPHERD
NEAME**
BRITAIN'S OLDEST BREWER