

Read this week's edition of the Community Game update.



Distribution list: **Tuesday 6 July**

Constituent Bodies Chairs, Honorary Secretaries, Treasurers, Data Officers

Club Presidents, Chairs, Honorary Secretaries, Treasurers, Data Officers

## Return to Rugby

### **This edition includes:**

1. Government update
2. A new chapter for Touch Rugby
3. Sky Sports for RFU affiliated rugby clubs
4. Pitch Up For Rugby - 4-12 September
5. First aid
6. GMS data tidy up – more information
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## Government update

In light of the positive announcement by the Prime Minister yesterday evening, outlining the government's plan for Covid restrictions to lift from Monday 19 July, we are anticipating this will enable us to re-instate scrums and mauls and to start next season as normal.

However, it is important to note that we are awaiting government's confirmed position on sport and, in our case, permission to return to full contact rugby. We hope to receive guidance from government over the next week and will share further details as we get them.

Government will continue to monitor data and we should therefore be prepared to adapt should an increase in cases or emergence of a new variant require us to do so.

Over the coming week, we will work with government to interpret what any new guidance means for community sport and community rugby clubs specifically.

As information is confirmed, we will update our **Helpdesk FAQs** and issue further guidance in next week's Community Game Update.



## A new chapter for Touch Rugby

O2's 25-year partnership with England Rugby moves into a new phase from the start of the 2021/22 season following its pledge to equally fund the men's and women's game.

The increase in investment to support the growth and development of the women's game marks the start of an exciting new chapter of the partnership. Together, England Rugby and O2 aim to boost the profile of women's rugby, grow the army of Red Roses' fans, build crowd attendance, increase broadcast reach and inspire more women and girls to play rugby.

### **What this means for O2's sponsorship of Touch?**

The revised focus means O2's title partnership of Touch rugby will draw-to-a-close after 10 hugely successful, exhilarating years in which O2 has helped to grow support for non-contact rugby. We look forward to building on the legacy that O2 has created to encourage even more people to take up and enjoy Touch Rugby.

### **What comes next?**

O2 Touch will be known as The Touch Union from 1 September. There are a few proposed changes based on feedback from players, but these will be flexible so that rules that can be adapted to best suit your club or players, subject to final approvals.

More details will follow over the next few weeks but we know change often brings about questions and we hope to have answered any you have today in our [frequently asked questions](#) section.

**Further Information**



Sky Sports for RFU affiliated rugby clubs

We have been in touch with Sky as we know many clubs are keen to install Sky Sports to enable members to watch the Lions' Tests together.

Following the positive signs around Covid restrictions lifting, clubs may also be keen to offer members a variety of sports to watch in the clubhouse throughout the year.

Some clubs have encountered financial challenges around the subscription fee, so we wanted to let you know that a specially negotiated rate is available to RFU affiliated rugby clubs as follows:

- £313 per month, exclusive of VAT, for a 12-month agreement. This is followed by a 30-day rolling agreement. This rate represents a saving of just over 50% per month.

If you are interested in finding out more, please call Sky on 08448 244244 or visit [sky.com/business](https://sky.com/business) and say you are an RFU affiliated club.

As part of your subscription to Sky Sports you receive access to MySkySports, an online hub providing you with marketing support to promote live sport. To find out about how MySkySports can help your club please see the below user guide or watch [this video](#).

[RFU Clubs' Pricing](#)

[User Guide](#)

**PITCH UP  
FOR RUGBY**

Pitch Up For Rugby

During the England vs USA match on Sunday, you may have seen the pitch branding - Pitch Up For Rugby 4-12 September.

Clubs are reminded to register their interest in taking part, and should they wish, to nominate a social media lead via the link below. This doesn't commit clubs, it simply gives us an indication of numbers.

Your club could be like so many others that enjoyed great success at last year's Pitch Up For Rugby:

*It brought the club together at a critical time and provided unity throughout out all age groups.*

**Barnes RFC – President**

*It was a key recruitment tool, particularly for age grade rugby.*

**Bletchley RUFC – Chair**

*We found 'Pitch Up For Rugby' a really useful focus for bringing all our sections together post-Covid and for the start of the season. It was the first time we had run an event with all three sections involved. We also had BBQ, bar, ice cream, raffle, and Touch Rugby. Loads of fun was had by all. It gave the club a great atmosphere.*

**Lewes RFC - Chair**

**Below are examples of last year's Pitch Up events**

**[Tabard RFC Pitch Up For Rugby](#)**

**[Barnes RFC Pitch Up For Rugby](#)**

**[North Dorset RFC Pitch Up For Rugby](#)**

[Read More](#)

[Register Interest](#)



## First Aid

As clubs begin to plan ahead for next season, it's essential to prepare and keep players safe and in the best health possible. Over the last few months, we have updated our Activate resources which can be found below. Activate is the RFU's Injury Prevention Exercise Programme.

Following the changes to Regulation 9 First aid, the Community Rugby Pitch-side First Aid and Immediate Care Provision Guidelines supporting this regulation for the 21-22 season is available below.

There is also a **webinar to help**.

[Activate](#)

[Guidance & Information](#)



GMS Data tidy-up

Over the last few weeks, we have seen an increase in GMS usage due to the data tidy-up, with 25,000 people having logged in since Friday 18 June.

During the process, clubs have raised important questions which we have reviewed. Following conversations with clubs, we have produced a short document that we hope will help clubs and CBs further understand the need for the tidy up. This project is directly related to the "Player Affiliation" mentioned in our CGU on 15 June, with more information to follow.

Responding to feedback received, we have amended the criteria for archiving data. The following will now not be archived in this process:

- Players who have appeared on an electronic match card.
- Individuals with an active club membership.
- Individuals with an active DBS.

We will be running a live session on Tuesday 13 July for Data Officers to help answer any questions you might have. This will be an opportunity for clubs to ask any questions they may have with Programme Coordinator Alex Bowden and Senior Delivery Manager Matt Holding.

[More Information](#)

[Webinar](#)



## News round up

### **Keep Rugby Clean**

Wednesday 7 July marks Keep Rugby Clean day. We hope that clubs can show their support to World Rugby's Anti-doping campaign by adding

#keeprugbyclean on any social media posts or across your media channels.

[Read more](#)

### **Vaccination centres need our help**

Local communities across the country will already appreciate the inspirational support provided by members of the rugby family during the pandemic.

Would you like to go one step further to help the NHS #TackleCovid by volunteering at local vaccination centres? More information is available below. Hopefully, with the vaccination programme in full swing, we will see restrictions lift in the coming months and rugby can get back to normal.

[Apply](#)

# Webinars and On-Demand Videos

## Webinars & videos on demand

### **The Next Level**

As we enjoy the Summer Series, you can watch The Next Level, with behind the scenes access in England's build-up to the two tests against the USA and Canada.

[Next Level](#)

### **#SCRUMTOGETHER**

As part of the ongoing support to getting players back to rugby safely, join England Rugby for a webinar to discuss guidance to support a safe and effective return to scrummaging when permitted.

[Scrum Together](#)

### **First Aid & Immediate Care Provision**

An update and discussion about First Aid/Immediate Care Provision. We will go through the new FA/IC guidelines for 21-22 season and cover other areas

within FA/IC provision including the first aid risk assessment, facilities and equipment and first aid training.

### **First Aid**

### **Data Tidy up**

We have put together an on demand webinar to help answer questions we have received in recent weeks. We hope this helps, and we will be providing more information for clubs, players and CBs in the coming weeks.

### **Data Tidy Up**

**Teamwork**

**Respect**

**Enjoyment**

**Discipline**

**Sportsmanship**



[View Online](#)