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Scottish Rugby Clubs & Schools Communications

Date of issue:

19 June 2020

Dunbar RFC

In this latest edition of Club Communications there are details on a Return to Rugby for Clubs and Schools regarding the Scottish Government's Phase 2 guidelines, news of this week's Club Hardship Fund announcement, as well as the latest from the COVID-19 Threat Management Group.



Clubs and Schools Return to Rugby: Phase 2 Guidelines

In line with the Scottish Government announcement yesterday (Thursday 18 June), Scottish Rugby has updated the Return to Rugby guidance for clubs and schools.

This Phase 2 guidance comes into effect from today (Friday 19 June) with the specific Government guidance on outdoor pitches applying from Monday 29 June.

From Monday 29 June, clubs will be able to open their outdoor pitches for players (in maximum groups of eight from no more that three households) to undertake training on an individual basis. During this time, indoor areas (including toilets) are to remain closed.

Scottish Rugby will announce further guidance next week to allow clubs to plan ahead for 29 June.

During Phase 2 players cannot participate in traditional rugby activities such as touch rugby or contact games due to the physical distancing measures still in place.

Players must only undertake individual training activities and take responsibility for maintaining physical distancing and regular hand hygiene at all times.

Read more

Club Hardship Fund to benefit 82 clubs across Scotland

Scottish Rugby has announced details of the recipients of its Club Hardship Fund (CHF) with each of the 82 applicant clubs across the country set to benefit from the financial support initiative.

Set up in March of this year in immediate response to the threat posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the CHF was designed to help with club running costs between then and July, a period during which no rugby was expected to be played and no income earned.

Almost £400,000 has been allocated from an initial fund of £500,000 with the remaining money ring-fenced for supporting other projects around the club game in the near future.



Outgoing Player Clearances

We are conscious that a number of New Zealand / Australian players returned home at the start of the current restrictions (and will need an Outgoing Clearance from us before they can

Regulatory Contacts

We would remind clubs to use the following email addresses for their regulatory queries:

Club insurance: clubinsurance@sru.org.uk

International clearance: clearances@sru.org.uk

play again in their own country).

You can help these players by encouraging them to complete an <u>International Clearance</u> Form as soon as possible.

Rugby disciplinary: discipline@sru.org.uk

Tour approvals: tourapprovals@sru.org.uk

COVID-19 Threat Management Group update

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you and your families are all keeping well. Hopefully we are all beginning to see some positive indications on the horizon. It was a positive sign to get the dates of the resumption of the Pro14 for the GW and ER teams to aim at announced yesterday. Hopefully this is just the start of the journey for restarting rugby at all levels in Scotland.

There is an enormous amount of work ongoing in the background to support Scottish Rugby in dealing with the challenge we are all facing and as ever I start with a heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in supporting the work of the TMG and the work groups.

Please find below our weekly update from the Threat Management Group.

We are beginning to see some good news regarding the pandemic and are pleased to say that over the last seven weeks, the number of deaths in Scotland has continued to decline, including the number of infected people. This is going in the right direction for society as we start to see some movement in the easing of lockdown. It was heartening to see the announcements from the First Minister yesterday as we move into Phase 2.

Whilst we continue to cover off the main core topics of **Government**, **Medical**, **Operations**, **Stadia**, **Our People**, **Performance Rugby**, **Community Rugby** and **Finance** we have also received important updates from all the work groups ongoing to support the work of the TMG.

This week the work of the Return to Community Rugby and Return to Train sub-groups have been the main focus.

Community Rugby

A detailed route map for Return to Train for clubs and community rugby, along with appropriate guidance, is being finalised ready for circulation. This will include all the information the clubs need to support them through the various Government phases over the coming weeks and months.

Sheila Begbie and the work group have done a tremendous job here and we look forward to sharing this as soon as we are able to do so and the timeframes are signed off by the Scottish Government.

There will be an update next week on follow-up meetings we have with the Scottish Government. Topics we will be discussing include a grassroots roadmap and our plans to restart the wider event industry through small-scale test events.

Finally, even as lockdown measures ease ever so slightly, the Scottish Government has launched a public awareness campaign called **FACTS** – which is designed to help us all remember the things we should be doing as we move into Phase 2.

F – Face coverings in enclosed spaces

- A Avoid crowded places
- C Clean your hands and surfaces regularly
- T Two metre distancing
- S Self isolate and book a test if you have symptoms

I wish you and your families well and hope you have a good weekend.

Dom McKay, Chief Operating Officer

For more on COVID-19

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