



Scottish Rugby Clubs & Schools Communications

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Dunbar RFC

In this latest edition of Club Communications, there are details on the second stage of Scottish Rugby's Club Hardship Fund, the latest from the COVID-19 Threat Management Group, and news of a return to rugby at Lismore RFC.



Scottish Rugby announces second phase of its Club Hardship Fund

Scottish Rugby's response to the pressure on rugby clubs across the country caused by the Covid-19 pandemic saw the creation of a Club Hardship Fund (CHF). CHF was designed to help with club running costs between March and July, a period during which no rugby was played, and clubs had no income.

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

Phase 2 of the CHF is to assist clubs with the safe reopening of their clubhouses. The purpose of the fund is to enable clubs to complete the Scottish Rugby and sportscotland recommended safety checks prior to reopening. If the checks undertaken lead to a recommendation of work requiring to be carried out, the cost of this work will be at the club's own expense, using a supplier of their choice.

Working with HF Group, a valued supplier of services to Scottish Rugby both at BT

Murrayfield and Scotstoun, Scottish Rugby has agreed a package of services that HF can undertake for clubs to help them reach the goal of opening their clubhouses safely. Clubs will have the opportunity to select from a menu of services or select a seven-service bundle of checks that HF Group can complete for the club, with Scottish Rugby covering costs up to £1,000. Clubs who already have maintenance contracts in place can apply for a grant of up to £1,000 and engage their regular supplier to carry out checks.

Any decision on whether to award a grant, and if so, the amount and any terms and conditions attached, will be at the discretion of Scottish Rugby.

Scottish Rugby Chief Executive, Mark Dodson, said: “We have seen a strong interest in the Club Hardship Fund during its first stage which has made a significant difference to clubs in need of support. I am delighted to see the remaining funds being made available to applicant clubs as we announce the second phase of the initiative.

“It’s certainly been a challenging time for everyone associated with the sport across Scotland and indeed globally, and I hope that the clubs will take the opportunity to apply for financial assistance if they need it.

Sheila Begbie, Scottish Rugby’s Director of Rugby Development, added: “We would encourage clubs to apply for the second stage of CHF assistance in order to ensure that they are prepared in the best possible manner for when rugby returns to grounds across the country.

“Our support for member clubs is unwavering at such an unprecedented time and we are committed to working with them throughout what has been such a challenging time across the rugby landscape.”

More on CHF

Threat Management Group update

Sent on behalf of Dom McKay, Chief Operating Officer, and Dr James Robson, Chief Medical Officer.

We hope this email finds you well.

As we move into phase 3 of lockdown easing and reopening of tourism, indoor hospitality, hairdressers, cinemas, museums, places of worship and childcare, we all need to err on the side of caution and not be complacent.

Tuesday was the sixth day in a row in which zero deaths were registered but the First Minister has observed that the most immediate risk is not a second wave of Covid, but a resurgence of the first. Sticking to public health guidance is now more important than ever. The reopening of services is the most high-risk step out of lockdown, as we will be spending more time with other people indoors.

The Scottish Government has launched a new Right Care, Right Place campaign to encourage the public to keep A&E departments clear to deal with real emergencies. It is encouraged that people use pharmacy for minor illnesses (coughs, earaches and common conditions), minor injury unit for non life-threatening injuries, GP practice for appointments or advice over the phone and NHS24 or out of hours services when you are too ill to wait for GP practices to open.

More information can be found here: [gov.scot/publications/](https://www.gov.scot/publications/)

Please see below the weekly update from the TMG

The Return to Events sub group - a proposal for a small pilot event on Saturday 22 August for the PRO14 1872 Edinburgh v Glasgow match was submitted to the Government on Friday last week. We hope for some feedback in the coming days. The comprehensive operational plan included all the relevant health and safety documentation, advocating the concept of physically distanced matches at BT Murrayfield.

As mentioned last week, the plan has been developed in collaboration with Celtic FC and the SEC, and Scottish Rugby has drawn upon Scottish Government medical advice and specialist international event advice in protecting all those attending our events. This concept has been shared with, and supported by, the Scottish Government's Events Industry Advisory Group, Police Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council.

The Return to Training sub group have been working on the latest transition for the players and a step closer to full fitness for the players. Glasgow Warriors players will be returning to Scotstoun on Monday 27 July to finalise their training ahead of the first PRO14 match on Saturday 22 August.

Following the publication of their six-stage roadmap for season 2020/21, the Return to Rugby Clubs & Schools sub group have been busy hosting webinars. The webinar scheduled for Friday 10 July to provide an update to clubs and schools on all aspects of the Stage 3 guidance was extremely well attended, as was the Safety coordinator Phase 3 update webinar which hosted yesterday at 7pm. Clubs are required to have a COVID-19 Safety Co-ordinator in place, and a full risk assessment carried out before pitches can open. The COVID19 e-learning course for all players, coaches, match officials and volunteers will be available from this Friday.

Dom McKay, Chief Operating Officer, and Dr James Robson, CMO.

#AsOne #StaySafeProtectOthersSaveLives

For Covid-19 updates



Consultations

Scottish Rugby is currently consulting on updated versions of four Domestic Regulations: SDR 4.2 (*International Clearance*), SDR 16 (*Match Approvals and Permission to Tour*), SDR

Outgoing Player Clearances

Many players not normally based in Scotland returned home at the start of lockdown and

21 (Anti-Doping) and SDR 23 (Player Insurance).

To see all of our open consultations, and to contribute to the process, please click [here](#)

require an Outgoing Clearance before they can start playing again in their home Union. If your club has any former player in this situation you can help them by providing them with a copy of our *Outgoing International Clearance* form.

To learn more about this and to access our Clearance Form please click [here](#).

Rugby back at Lismore RFC



Rugby returned to Lismore yesterday afternoon as Development Officer Eric Jones and Covid-19 Safety Coordinator Hamish Skene ensured a safe and enjoyable session was held. Scotland Women's Lisa Thomson was also in attendance to put the players through their paces after the long break.

Scottish Rugby's Regional Director for the East, David Drummond, said: "It was brilliant to see Lismore back in action today. The club did a fantastic job to ensure they operated a safe and fun environment for the young players to take part in an organised training session. You could see on the faces of everyone taking part, players and coaches alike, just how much they enjoyed being back on the pitch. I left feeling really positive about the thought of rugby starting to return to communities up and down the country, buoyed by how well clubs like Lismore can adapt and adhere to the clear guidelines set out by the Scottish Government and ourselves, ensuring a safe return of our sport."

Clubs are reminded that all current Phase 3 guidance for returning to training is available on the Scottish Rugby website: scottishrugby.org/clubs-and-schools/return-to-rugby.

Phase 3 Guidelines

Leadership Engagement Achievement Enjoyment Respect

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