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## Scottish Rugby Clubs & Schools Communications

Date of issue:

**29 January 2021**

### Dunbar RFC

In this latest edition of Club Communications Scottish Rugby confirms the departure of Chief Operating Officer, Dominic McKay, and includes a reminder notice of the current Return to Rugby guidance, along with an update from the Threat Management Group.



## Dominic McKay to leave Scottish Rugby

Scottish Rugby can confirm Chief Operating Officer Dominic McKay will leave the organisation this summer having accepted the role of Chief Executive of Celtic FC.

McKay leaves Scottish Rugby after 13 years having been appointed as Director of Communications & Public Affairs in January 2008, before taking on wider group responsibilities from 2011 and joining the Scottish Rugby Board as an Executive Director from 2013.

McKay became Chief Operating Officer in 2015 and has been responsible for the management of BT Murrayfield stadium as well as all commercial, marketing, ticketing and communications activity, alongside heading Scottish Rugby's Threat Management Group in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He has also overseen the commercial activities of Scotland's two professional teams,

Glasgow Warriors and Edinburgh Rugby, and is currently Chair of the Guinness PRO14.

He leaves Scottish Rugby with the organisation's thanks and very best wishes as he takes up one of the highest profile roles in Scottish and UK sport.

Dominic McKay said: "I can honestly say I have enjoyed the best 13 years of my life at Scottish Rugby and made life-long friends across the sport and all its numerous Unions, partners, broadcasters and sponsors.

"It has been a huge privilege to work with such a talented and passionate group of people over this time and I'd like to pay special thanks to Mark Dodson for his support, friendship and leadership.

"I am incredibly proud of the progress the organisation has made in recent years and hope I have contributed to the strong foundations now in place, which I believe will serve Scottish Rugby well in the future.

"Joining Celtic FC as Chief Executive is a once in a lifetime opportunity and a new challenge I am very excited about taking on later this year. I have been incredibly impressed with the vision and people within the club and I look forward to working with them."

Scottish Rugby Chairman, John Jeffrey said: "I'd like to congratulate Dom on his new role. He has been instrumental in making Scottish Rugby a more attractive and viable commercial partner for a wide portfolio of sponsors and supporters, which in turn has helped us to increase investment across the game at all levels. Dominic has also worked to develop our positive relationship with the Scottish Government, which has been increasingly important during the pandemic.

"He can be proud of the legacy he will leave behind and we thank him wholeheartedly for his hard work and commitment to driving Scottish Rugby forward during his tenure."

[Read the full story](#)

## Return to Rugby guidance

Scottish Rugby would like to remind clubs of the current Return to Rugby guidance which was updated at the beginning of January as a result of the Scottish Government's decision to move mainland Scotland and some island areas from Level 4 to a temporary lockdown.

At this time, we would encourage everyone to **stay at home** as much as possible and maintain daily, outdoor physical activity within the Scottish Government temporary lockdown guidance of **no more than two people from two households**.

### Areas in temporary lockdown - Level 4

- All group rugby activity **must stop for people aged 12 and above**. Individual, physically distanced, outdoor exercise can continue with no more than two people per 1/4 pitch. Equipment sharing (incl. balls) is **not** permitted.
- Children **under the age of 12** are permitted to participate in physically distanced group activity in groups of **up to 15 people, including two coaches**. It has been approved that up to two coaches may be present for safeguarding purposes, which is deemed essential for this activity to go ahead. Balls may be used and shared as long as strict hand hygiene and ball cleaning is followed.
- Participants of all ages **cannot** travel out of their local authority area to take part in rugby activity.

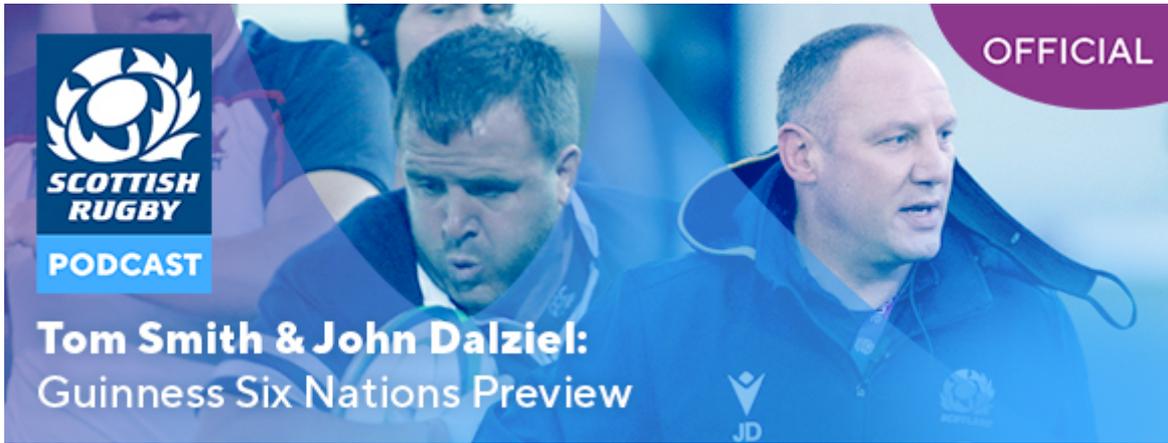
### Island areas in Level 3 (Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands, Western Islands)

- **Can continue** rugby activity within the Scottish Rugby Return to Rugby Level 3 guidance.

Scottish Rugby will continue to review the Return to Rugby guidance in line with updates from the Scottish Government.

To view all updated guidance in full, please click the link below.

[Return to Rugby guidance](#)



### Hive Learning feedback

Rugby Development are currently in the process of reviewing how coaches and match officials engage with content on our online training hub, powered by Hive Learning.

The department are looking for your thoughts and feedback on your experience as a user of Hive Learning, and have created a short survey for you to share your views with us. To submit your feedback, please [click here](#).

### International clearance

The EU transition period for the UK concluded on 1 January 2021 meaning that EU citizens (with the exception of Irish citizens) generally no longer have the right to work in the UK.

The immigration status of any incoming EU player should be checked. Please refer to the [UK Government's Home Office website](#) for further information.

## Funding opportunities



The Rugby Development department has sourced additional funding options to further help clubs during the current period of financial uncertainty.

Find the latest information on funding opportunities on our website. The page is regularly updated to ensure the latest information is available.

### Funding opportunities

## Threat Management Group update

[Sent on behalf of the Threat Management Group](#)

Good afternoon all,

I hope this weekly email continues to find you and your families all well.

Firstly, I would like to this opportunity to address you all directly regarding my departure from Scottish Rugby later this summer.

I am leaving the organisation to take up the role of Chief Executive for Celtic FC on 1 July and wanted to take this time to personally express my gratitude for your support and good wishes.

I can honestly say these last 13 years at Scottish Rugby have been the best years of my life and I have cherished every moment. Scottish Rugby and the wider rugby community in Scotland will always hold a piece of my heart.

I am incredibly proud of the progress the organisation has made over these last few years under Mark's direction and I very much look forward to seeing the incredible achievements our talented team here continue to make throughout this next exciting chapter! I will be working hard with you all to ensure a smooth transition in the weeks ahead.

Thanks, Dom McKay

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Encouragingly, we have started to see a slight tail off in the daily recorded Covid figures in Scotland and with the vaccine rollout on track to meet target it is beginning to feel more hopeful! However, it is vitally important we continue doing all we can to support the Scottish Government and assist them in their efforts to fully suppress the virus once and for all.

We remain fully committed to working closely with the Scottish Government as we continue to tackle the constant challenges the pandemic has inflicted on rugby in Scotland. Their support to date has been invaluable to us and a real testament to how much they value our sport.

Now, as we approach our biggest annual rugby challenge, the 2021 Guinness Six Nations, it is essential we continue working with the Government, maintain our high standards, lead by example and use this Six Nations campaign as an opportunity to bring some much needed joy and unity to our wider community at a difficult time.

Please see further updates from each of the TMG's subgroups below:

### **Return to Rugby Clubs & Schools**

This group, in conjunction with our Marketing department, are currently planning a volunteer recognition initiative. The purpose is to highlight some of the amazing voluntary work inspirational members of our wider rugby community have been involved in.

The team are also, along with the Scottish Rugby Council, working through on-going club questions, whilst also scenario planning for Season 2021/22.

To keep up to date with the latest Return to Rugby Clubs and Schools guidance, [please see our webpage here](#).

### **Return to Events**

With the Six Nations campaign just around the corner, this subgroup has been incredibly busy finalising preparations for our first home game against Wales on Saturday 13 February.

Many thanks to all involved in implementing our recently reinforced protocols and ensuring our robust practices are ready this next challenging period ahead.

### **Return to Rugby**

This group has been supporting training programmes and camp logistics for our national squad, who are now in camp and training at Oriam in preparation to play England in our first Six Nations game at Twickenham next weekend, Saturday 6 February.

Meanwhile, with both our professional team's fixture calendars free for the next couple of weekends, this sub-group has been planning training sessions and opportunities for Glasgow and Edinburgh to get some valuable game time.

Discussions regarding the postponement of the Women's and U20's Guinness Six Nations are still ongoing. Provisional dates are currently being reviewed and we hope to confirm these in due

course.

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Once again, we would urge you all to continue following the Scottish Government's guidance **FACTS, stay at home and protect others**.

For more clarity on the latest government guidelines, please see [the Scottish Government webpage here](#).

Thank you all again for your continuous and essential support. We hope to provide further detailed updates in due course and now look forward to the start of our 2021 Six Nations campaign!

Best wishes to you all.

**Dom McKay**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Dr James Robson**  
Chief Medical Officer



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