



Introduction

Everyone was welcomed and it was noted that we had reached the zoom limit of 100 people, which is a fantastic turnout.

Action: Middlesex will upgrade so more people can attend the next meeting.

We will look to host another All Clubs Meeting when we have more information around off-field activity.

Clubs were reminded that there are a lot of resources on the England Rugby [Coronavirus section](#), the [Return to Rugby section](#) and the [Club Support Centre](#) and [FAQs section](#) of the website.

Clubs are also reminded to ensure that they have registered their Club Covid Manager with Lou and Andy so communications can be sent out regarding any changes.

Clubs are also reminded that now is the time to review their risk assessments, protocols and social distancing guidance ahead of 29th March.

[Return to Rugby Roadmap](#)

We are currently at Stage A, which means current lockdown restrictions remain with individuals allowed to exercise with one other person from a different household. This is slightly different for schools and colleges who are able to play under Stage D1 internally as of the 8th March.

For clubs, 29th March is the date when rugby returns. This means:

- You can play Ready4Rugby (10-a-side, non-contact) O2 touch and tag matches against other clubs.
- Contact training is allowed (excluding scrums and mauls).
- RFU guidance published in the next week will include more information on how long you can do contact training etc.

From 26th April, we will move to Stage D2.

- We will move to the adapted laws version of the game, excluding scrums and mauls.
- Contact training is allowed (excluding scrums and mauls).
- We don't believe the adapted laws will have changed but this will be confirmed in RFU guidance when it is issued.

Moving to Stages E1, E2 and F will be dependent on reaching the Government Roadmap requirements.

We will move to Stage E1 at the point when we reach Stage 3 of the Government Roadmap. At this point, full contact training will be allowed, including the return of scrums and mauls.

Two weeks after Stage E1, we will move to Stage E2, where full contact matches are allowed. There will still potentially be some off-field restrictions still in place.

KEEP UPDATED FOLLOW US ON :

 [Middlesexrugby.com](https://www.middlesexrugby.com)  [@MiddlesexRugby](https://www.facebook.com/MiddlesexRugby)  [@MiddlesexRFU](https://twitter.com/MiddlesexRFU)  [@MiddlesexRugby](https://www.instagram.com/MiddlesexRugby)

Middlesex Rugby, PK1 Twyford Avenue Sports Ground, Twyford Avenue, Acton, London W3 9QA
tel: 020 8896 3400 email: countyoffice@middlesexrugby.com www.middlesexrugby.com

Middlesex Rugby is the operating name of Middlesex County Rugby Football Union Ltd. Registered in England no. 29174R
Registered Office: Sproull & Co, 31-33 College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1EJ // VAT NO.223174395

Stage F will see all restrictions lifted. The government have outlined 21st June but this date is reliant on meeting Stage 4 of the Government Roadmap so may change.

Summer activity for both adult and age grade rugby will be provided in the RFU guidance that will be published over the next few weeks.

Adult Competitions

Andy Smart will look at what clubs want from a competition offering and will put on what is required. An email will come out to all clubs asking for them to inform of their intentions i.e. to play friendlies only, wishing to play in a Ready4Rugby or adapted laws cluster competition.

Potentially there are only nine weeks of the season under the revised roadmap. If you exclude Easter, Bank Holidays and half term then this reduces down to six weekends.

Last year there the County arranged Ready4Rugby tournaments, involving 40 clubs, but many clubs didn't like the format and pulled out.

Different options were presented for clubs to consider:

Option 1:

- Three team clusters - Team A, Team B, Team C - playing Ready4Rugby. Linked geographically. Each weekend, all three teams go to one of the clubs and play 40-minute games. Each team ends up playing 80 mins and there is a total of 120 minutes of rugby. Repeat the following two weeks.
- Each team plays every weekend. You can extend it; if the same cluster wants to change to adapted laws come April 26 they can do so. So will have six weeks of rugby. Or they can stay in R4R.
- Advantage: Only need one pitch, possibly one ref. Every club gets to host once.
- Disadvantage - play the same opponents all the time.
- You could have mini leagues where the winner of a cluster plays the winner of a different club cluster, either under Ready4Rugby format or Adapted Laws.

Option 2:

- Cluster of four clubs. Play home and away. Get three home and away games and there's a mini league. Can only be Ready4Rugby.
- Clubs need to let Andy Smart know if they have an appetite for any of the above.

Middlesex is looking to establish a register of clubs who want to play but don't have the facilities/pitches; clubs who will allow their facilities to be used (in May); clubs who will look for funding if they need to rent pitches. Middlesex will provide Immediate Support Funding for clubs who need to find alternative facilities.

**KEEP UPDATED
FOLLOW US ON :**

Age Grade Rugby

The Age Grade Rugby season has been extended until 31st May 2021. It will not be extended further.

The RFU will be providing guidance around flexibility to out of season activity. We will look to arrange an Age Grade All Clubs meeting when we have this information.

From 29th March:

- U7s/U8s – can play tag/touch and friendlies.
- U9s – U18s – can play Ready4Rugby training and matches. Contact training (excluding scrums and mauls) in line with their age grade player progression.

From 26th April:

- Within each age group progression, adapted laws (excluding scrums and mauls) will apply.

As we move to Stage E, full contact training, including scrums and mauls, will apply. We will review what this fully means for age grade rugby as it is likely that this will fall into out of season activity.

Looking ahead to September and the guidance around age grade progressions. It's important to note that what has been put in place is to ensure player safety to help with the development they have missed this season.

Examples (these principles apply to all age groups):

- Mini's – if an U9 player in 2020/2021 season moves to U10s in September, they will be an U10 player but will play to U9 rules of play up to 31st December 2021. From 1st January 2022, they will play to U10 rules of play.
- Junior Boys – if an U14 player in 2020/2021 season moves to U15s in September, they will be an U15 player but will play to U14 rules of play up to 31st December 2021. From 1st January 2022, they will play to U15 rules of play.
- Junior Girls – because of the dual age bandings, and U13 girl in 2020/2021 who moves to U15s in September will play to the age group rules of play for U15s. The RFU will provide guidance for coaches to help them with developments and progression to cover those new to the age group as well as keeping the older players in each age group interested and engaged.

For U17 players, dispensation to play adult rugby, including training, has been suspended until 1st January 2022. The reason for this is player safety and to strengthen retention. We need to remember that an U17 player in September may have last played a contact rugby match when they were 15 years old. We need to ensure these youngsters are fully prepared to train with adults and play adult contact rugby. Whilst this may have a short-term impact for some clubs, the safety implications for these players has to be our priority for their longer-term participation.

We are waiting on clarification on 17 years old's' this season who have already received approval to play up to adult rugby and whether this approval still stands.

Clubs are reminded that rugby tours are still suspended this season and all rugby camps need to be signed off by the County Office as per Regulations 15.9. The RFU will be providing guidance next week on Rugby camps.

**KEEP UPDATED
FOLLOW US ON :**