

Edition 11: 29th November 2013

The Rugby World Cup 2015 volunteer programme is coming!

As you know the Rugby World Cup 2015 will need approximately 6000 volunteers to make this the best tournament ever.

To recognise the amazing contribution made by volunteers every week in the rugby community, each club in England will have the opportunity to be involved. The England 2015 team will be hosting a number of events across the Country at the end of January/early February 2014 to communicate details of the programme and everything you'll need to know to get involved.

We'll be inviting representatives from each CB in the next few weeks.

For information: SusanCouper@er2015.com. Volunteer Team, England 2015

Online Course Booking

Since July 2012 over almost 50000 people have accessed a variety of RFU education & training courses in First Aid, Refereeing, Coaching, Safeguarding and other volunteer roles. In July 2013 we implemented the online booking system with the aim of reducing pre and post course administration, accelerating the booking process and making it easier for people to search for and book places on courses. Whilst we continue to make improvements to the current system we have welcomed feedback from customers on additional functionality required by their clubs. This feedback is being used to shape the future ecommerce platform that meets the needs of clubs and individuals.

For Information: johnlawn@rfu.com

Sports Goggles Communication

In recent weeks we have received an increasingly large number of queries in relation to the wearing of goggles and thought it would be helpful to clarify the current position.

The RFU's regulation relating to the wearing of spectacles or sports goggles is set out in Regulation 15.13.3 which states that players of all age grades are permitted to wear spectacles, glasses or specifically designed sports goggles in all forms of non-contact rugby but not in any form of contact rugby. This means that U9s and above are not permitted to wear any eye wear when playing contact rugby. This is not a change in regulation from last year but a clarification only.

The prohibition on sports goggles in contact rugby stems from IRB Regulations (IRB Law 4/IRFB Regulation12). The RFU recognises that this prohibition is not socially inclusive and creates difficulties for children with impaired eyesight who

are not yet able to wear contact lenses. For these reasons, the RFU is talking to the IRB to permit U12s and below to wear sports goggles, subject to certain conditions.

The RFU and IRB are undertaking significant work to reach a common consensus on this as quickly as possible and we hope to be able to report back on a definitive positive solution shortly after the New Year. In the meantime, the RFU requests that all players, coaches and parents continue to abide by RFU Regulation 15.13.3 until further notice.

Please rest assured that the RFU is making significant progress on this issue and is dealing with it as a matter of urgency.

For information: paularowe@rfu.com

Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC update)

The Government has announced changes to the Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) scheme following its consultation this summer. As you will be aware, the RFU and other governing bodies have been engaging with the Government on this for an extended period of time to try and ensure the best possible outcome for rugby clubs.

We should be conscious that it remains a challenging financial climate with Government having little capacity to grant tax or rate reliefs for any sectors. We are therefore pleased that Ministers accepted the principle that sports clubs deserve such reliefs because of the important work they do in communities. This acceptance is in part due to the number and strength of contributions made by rugby clubs to the Government's consultation.

The key focus for the RFU was to ensure clubs were able to generate reasonable levels of social income to invest back into rugby, and we are comfortable with the caps proposed. Other changes are detailed below.

The RFU welcomes the announcement on CASC. We need to work through the detail, but the Government has moved a considerable distance in the right direction. We believe that the changes will offer more benefits to existing rugby clubs, clarify the eligibility rules, and enable more rugby clubs to become CASCs in future. Given that being a CASC is worth approximately £4,500 to an average rugby club per annum, this is a significant step forward. Overall there is a £1.6m benefit per annum from the CASC scheme.

Please see appendix for further information on what to do next.

Please contact Dave Stubbley davestubbley@rfu.com 07736722387 for further information

NatWest RugbyForce 2014 is open

England teammates Joe Marler, Christian Wade and Dave Attwood joined forces on the evening of the 4th November to kick off NatWest RugbyForce 2014.

Registration for NatWest RugbyForce 2014 is now open and clubs can sign up now at www.rfu.com/NatwestRugbyForce

Last year's programme was a great success, with over 400 clubs and 8,000 volunteers across England taking part in the DIY weekend in June. This year's NatWest RugbyForce will take place from **Saturday 21st to Sunday 22nd June 2014** and promises to be another great weekend.

Please encourage clubs to sign up before **January 17th** 2014 to be considered for the workshops and grants on offer. 175 clubs will be selected to take part in a project planning workshops. There will be 35 workshops taking place in March 2014 across the country.

If a club attends a workshop, they will receive £500 to go towards their NatWest RugbyForce Weekend and two clubs from each of the 35 workshops will be selected to receive enhanced support of £2,000 or £1,000.

For more information please contact your local Rugby Development Officer or Area Facilities Manager.

Young Rugby Ambassadors update

The Young Rugby Ambassadors programme got off to a flying start on 31st October 2013, with 10 conferences taking place simultaneously in RWC 2015 Host Cities around the country. The conferences were attended by 542 Young Rugby Ambassadors, aged between 15 and 20 and 249 adult Mentors and were also supported by Rugby World Cup winner and England Rugby 2015 ambassador Will Greenwood.

Young Rugby Ambassadors presents a great opportunity for young people to showcase their talents and preparation to move into leadership positions within their own clubs. They can also make a tangible contribution to growing the game and raising their club's profile in their local communities, not to mention getting insider information about RWC 2015! We are currently planning phase 2 of the programme, which will take place in April/May 2014 with a further phase (3) later in the year. More information will follow shortly in terms of how CB's can get involved.

For further information contact Jill Loader – jillloader@rfu.com

Bringing Rugby and RWC 2015 to Schools

You may have seen the Press Release on 21st November outlining the partnership work we will be doing with ER2015 and Youth Sport Trust (YST). This is attached for your information as appendix 2. It is a really exciting opportunity for us all to bring rugby and the World Cup to life in schools over the next couple of years.

The announcement was just that – more work (and information) will follow in due course prior to the School Rugby Ambassadors formal launch to schools in

February. As many of you know we have worked really closely and successfully with the YST over the years. They have extensive networks into schools and whilst our clubs and CBs are concentrating on ensuring a supply of rugby opportunities, the school network can hopefully prompt some demand.

All the work is in the very early stages and as the detail develops we will keep our national and county CBs in the loop, ensuring dialogue takes place with you to make the most of this exciting opportunity.

Mini & Youth Rugby Blueprint Roadshows

The Roadshow around the country is coming into its final phase with the last six evenings scheduled for December. The attendance has certainly picked up in the last few weeks thanks to some hard promotional work by the team of CB personnel and Local Delivery staff – thanks! Discussion has been lively and for the most part very constructive – we are getting some great food for thought. It has been great to see Council Reps and CB colleagues at the events alongside the organisers, teachers, coaches, parents and others who are in touch with our young players week in week out.

Please see attached a poster outlining the remaining sessions that can be pushed out into your networks. (Appendix 3) The webpage www.rfu.com/myrugbyblueprint is also being updated with extra information for those that have attended as well as anyone who couldn't make it on the night. Please continue to encourage your clubs, schools and colleges to get involved in giving their thoughts – either by coming along to the Roadshow or visiting the website and e-mailing their feedback to myrugbyblueprint@rfu.com.

Strengthening Connections between CBs and Education

Following the letter sent to CBs and Council Members last week please see attached (Appendix 4) a reminder of the SRFU, ECRFU and ERFU Reps network for education.

The network enables us to communicate to and hear from each respective sector of the game and education as a whole. It is there for the whole game with all CBs benefitting from the insight and communication channels provided. The network will support geographic CBs to develop their local programme and aims to bring a more joined-up and informed approach to planning and delivery.

The Reps will be in touch with you in the coming weeks and over time provide a good source of information, guidance and advice to help us all maximise the impact of the educational environment on rugby union; as well as ensuring that the plans of the national education Unions reflect the local and county picture.

RFU Volunteer Recognition and Reward Programme

The RFU Recognition and Reward programme is being updated!

We want to recognise those individuals who have significantly contributed to

strengthening our clubs and growing the game in the communities around them, and where an impact can be seen in even a relatively short time scale. At the same time, it is equally important to recognise those volunteers who have committed themselves to long service in rugby in whatever roles they have undertaken. We will soon be launching an annual recognition programme to enable CBs and clubs to:

- Plan in advance, budget and manage volunteer recognition expectations and opportunities throughout the game
- Highlight the type of volunteer and/or type of contribution, and the impact on the game, that we should recognise
- Say 'Thank You' in more innovative ways to more people and in front of more people
- Raise their profiles locally and nationally, which will aid volunteer recruitment and enhance our collective image & reputation
- Retain good quality volunteers by enhancing their quality of experience

To kick-start the process, this year we are producing a larger number of volunteer recognition certificates.

Each club will be allocated six certificates, bearing the signature of the President, Bob Reeves. By restricting the numbers but including every single club, we aim to both raise awareness of this form of recognition and also to make receiving a certificate a prestigious award.

The certificates will be mailed directly to clubs with the next edition of Touchline in early December.

If any club feels that they need a greater number of certificates, we will hold a limited reserve supply, which will be available by contacting Paula Hanson – paulahanson@rfu.com

To further increase the significance of this form of volunteer recognition, we would also like to encourage CBs to consider purchasing frames for each of their clubs' certificates.

RFU Community Rate for Marriott Hotel, Twickenham

We are pleased to announce that The London Marriott Hotel, Twickenham has arranged for a weekend promotional rate for members of the Rugby community to stay at the hotel at a discounted rate.

The rate is:

£99 bed & breakfast, 1 drinks voucher and inclusive VAT single occupancy

£114 bed & breakfast, 2 drinks voucher and inclusive VAT double occupancy

The package will be available to book online at [Marriott.com](https://www.marriott.com) or direct on

[LondonMarriottTwickenham.co.uk](https://www.londonmarriotttwickenham.co.uk) using the booking code: LLF

Music licensing – new tariffs for sports clubs still not available

New legislation has ended the exemption for sports clubs in regard to obtaining a music license. However the new music licensing tariffs for sports clubs drawn up by collecting societies PRS and PPL is still awaiting official clearance.

Following consultation with the Sport and Recreation Alliance, PRS and PPL submitted tariffs to the Copyright Tribunal for collecting money from clubs which play music. However, the Tribunal has still not approved the tariffs which means that PRS and PPL cannot yet license sports clubs under the new proposed charging structure. Whilst the situation creates uncertainty for sports clubs, it does mean that many clubs continue to fall outside of the collection process and may not need to pay for a license until the end of the year when the tariff is signed off.

Already Paying for a License: Those clubs which already pay for a license through PRS are advised to contact PRS to discover whether they would be better off waiting to be licenced under the new tariff. Occasionally, clubs can find themselves in the wrong tariff for music licensing charges. To double check, here is the [propriety rate](#) guidance and the [non-profit rate](#) guidance.

If you receive a notice to pay for a license or have any queries about music licenses please contact Alex Thompson or Dave Stubley – details below:
Alex Thompson, Club Management & Governance Officer: Tel: 07894 489 756 –
Email: alexthompson@rfu.com
Dave Stubley, Club Management & Governance Manager: Tel: 07736 722387 –
Email: davestubley@rfu.com
Please promote to your clubs accordingly.

Incorporation (Reminder)

The RFU continue to recommend that all clubs should consider incorporation to remove personal liability for individual club members. To support this continuing recommendation the RFU is able to provide financial assistance towards the costs of a club incorporation for up to a maximum of £250. This assistance would be to support the costs of **new** incorporations in 2013/14 season.

For further information please ask clubs to contact Dave Stubley on 07736 722387 or davestubley@rfu.com

**RESPECT DISCIPLINE
TEAMWORK ENJOYMENT SPORTSMANSHIP**

