



RFU COMMUNITY GAME UPDATE

Distribution List, Pre-Send:

Council Members and Board of Directors
CB Honorary Secretaries
CB Honorary Treasurers
RFU Staff

Distribution List, Send Out:

Club Honorary Secretaries
Club Honorary Treasurers
University & College Club Honorary Secretaries
Referee Society & Federation Honorary Secretaries
CB Volunteer Coordinators

Welcome to the 4th Community Game Update.

We hope that you are finding the format of the Community Game Update useful and that it helps to manage the flow of information to the game. To that end, you will be sent a Survey in Update 6 (end of November) where we will be seeking your thoughts on how it might be improved.

Kind regards

Simon Winman – Head of Club Development
Paula Rowe – Senior Communications Manager

23rd October 2014 - Update No.4

For Action

Club & CB Honorary Secretaries; CB & Club Treasurers

CASC UPDATE

Last Thursday the Government published a consultation document on proposed changes to the CASC scheme. This requires the attention of Club Treasurers where their club is a CASC or is planning to register. The RFU is encouraging clubs to respond to the consultation before it closes on 5 November 2014. RFU guidance to the consultation document is attached.

The link to the CASC technical consultation document is <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-legislation-community-amateur-sports-clubs-technical-consultation> Here you will find the consultation document (including the regulations), explanatory memoranda, and the new exemption thresholds. (Please note the technical consultation document is 28 pages long if you are going to print.)

Background

- The Government recognised that the rules and eligibility criteria for CASCs were not clear and have therefore been reviewing them over the last 18 months. The RFU has

been engaged throughout this process. We argue that CASC is a lifeline for community rugby clubs, and should be light touch and manageable for volunteers.

- The law enabling the Government to change the rules on CASC is already in place (2013 Finance Act). The detailed regulations on eligibility and compliance will be made in a short, much quicker piece of legislation known as a Statutory Instrument. The documents above include the draft text of the Statutory Instrument and a consultation document setting out the proposed changes.

HMRC have given the following timescales:

- 5 November – Closing date for consultation submissions
- November 14 – Regulations put before the Select Committee on Statutory Instruments
- December 14 – Last available date for regulations to be laid in Parliament
- March / April 2015 – Regulations come into force
- March/April 2016 – Clubs must comply with the new regulations (within a year from passing of regulations)

RFU Analysis:

The CASC scheme has always been promoted as the light-touch, less complicated option for grassroots clubs that didn't want the regulation and complexity of registering as a charity. It has thus far given community sports clubs that have joined the scheme much needed financial support. It has been of particular benefit to facility owning clubs, because the key benefits in practice are rates relief and gift aid. The RFU is concerned that the proposed new framework for CASCs is complicated and prescriptive, but would welcome the views of the game.

Next steps:

- HMRC have put out a technical consultation, and the RFU encourages submissions from grassroots rugby. Please copy clubenquiries@rfu.com into your submission to HMRC.
- The final deadline for responses is 5 November 2014.

For Action & Distribution

Club & CB Honorary Secretaries distribute to Groundsmen

'Rugby Groundsmen Connected' – Now Launched

RFU Rugby Groundsmen Connected was launched on October 23rd at Twickenham by RFU Head Groundsmen Keith Kent.

Rugby Groundsmen Connected is the new communication network for rugby club groundsmen and will provide them with support, advice and special offers to help them to improve rugby pitches throughout the country. Please make your club groundsman aware of this opportunity. Registration is free and easy; simply send an email with the groundsman's name and club to groundsmenconnected@rfu.com. You can also follow Rugby Groundsmen Connected on twitter @rugbygroundsmen

Club Honorary Secretaries to Bonfire Organisers

Bonfire Risk Advisor

Please find information [here](#) that should be read carefully when planning a 5th November

Bonfire night.

For Information

Club & CB Honorary Secretaries; Club & CB Volunteer Coordinators:

The 2015 RFU President's Awards

The President's Awards will open for nominations on 3rd November 2014, and anyone will be able to make an online nomination at www.englandrugby.com from that date. The overarching theme is to identify and reward outstanding teams of volunteers, although nominees for Category 7 – the President's Choice, 'Beyond Rugby' can be an individual or a group. Categories 1 - 6 embrace the key areas which together contribute to a successful, vibrant club and help to deliver opportunities in all areas of the game.

The categories are:

1. ***PLAYER RECRUITMENT***

The team of volunteers receiving this award will have worked creatively to recruit new players from different backgrounds.

2. ***PLAYER RETENTION***

This team of volunteers will have used all formats to keep players enjoying rugby.

3. ***PEOPLE POWER***

This will be an exceptional group of volunteers using innovative ways to recruit, retain and recognise coaches, referees and volunteers.

4. ***CLUB MANAGEMENT***

The winners of this award will be a volunteer team using effective and efficient club management and development, modernising the running of their club.

5. ***BETTER FACILITIES***

These volunteers will have developed fantastic facilities to transform their club environment for everyone who visits.

6. ***COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT***

The winning team will have forged links with schools, colleges, universities, businesses, community groups and people that traditionally have had little contact with the game.

7. ***PRESIDENT'S CATEGORY - 'Beyond Rugby'***

This award will go to the person or people who have used the game as a vehicle for social change. The winner or winners will have used rugby to transform lives or communities.

Club Honorary Secretaries:

Fields in Trust

Fields in Trust (FIT) is the operating name of the National Playing Fields Association, a

charity that permanently safeguards outdoor recreational spaces via a Deed of Dedication with the landowner.

Having worked informally for a number of years, the RFU has now agreed a Memorandum of Understanding with Fields in Trust. As a result of this agreement the RFU will actively promote the FIT protected status amongst rugby clubs in order to secure rugby sites for the long term and protect them from potential development or change of use. Further information will be made available in the Update and locally through your Area Facility Manager.

Heads Up

The following topics will be covered in next month's updates:

- O2 Touch - call to action
- Groundsmen Connected - training modules launch
- Technical Guides launch
- Safeguarding newsletter
- President's Award launch
- Reminder: CB Accounts (Dec)
- 50% DPP payments out
- All Schools newsletter

