

REOPENING YOUR RUGBY FACILITY

SUMMARY OF GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT 13/05/20

your guide

Some sport facilities are now allowed to open and each club should make its own decision about when their facilities are ready to open and can be operated safely. Until you feel it is safe and responsible to reopen you should remain closed. Facilities that are able to open must follow government guidance regarding health, social distancing and hygiene, including ensuring that;

- ✓ all visitors to the club can maintain a safe two metre distance
- ✓ good hygiene and cleaning practices are in place
- ✓ equipment is disinfected regularly
- ✓ it is made clear that anyone who is symptomatic or suspects they have been exposed to the virus does not visit the club and remains at home.

This guide will take you through the key messages from the most recent government announcement and what they mean for your rugby club.



KEY GUIDANCE

- ✓ Outdoor playing fields can be used, but clubs should conduct an assessment ensuring goalposts are safe and secure and any foreign objects have been removed from the pitch.
- ✓ Toilets and through-ways may be opened, but government guidance on hygiene must be followed.
- ✓ Bars and catering facilities inside a clubhouse must remain closed.
- ✓ Take-away services can be offered, but all food must be consumed off the premises (clubs should check their license to confirm they are permitted to provide take away food.)
- ✓ Clubs may re-open car parks if needed.
- ✓ As well as following all relevant government advice on COVID-19, the club's standard health and safety and risk assessment procedures should be used prior to any facilities being re-opened. The RFU recommends that clubs keep a written record of all risks assessments and safety procedures implemented in line with government guidance.



HYGIENE

Good hygiene is imperative for any facilities wishing to re-open. To help everyone maintain good hygiene, consideration should be given to:

- ✓ Using signs and posters to build awareness of good handwashing technique, the need to increase handwashing frequency, avoid touching your face and to cough or sneeze into your arm
- ✓ Providing regular reminders and signage to maintain hygiene standards
- ✓ Providing hand sanitiser in multiple locations in addition to washrooms
- ✓ Setting clear use and cleaning guidance for toilets to ensure they are kept clean and social distancing is achieved.
- ✓ Enhancing cleaning for busy areas
- ✓ Providing more waste facilities and more frequent rubbish collection
- ✓ Replacing hand dryers with paper towels in handwashing facilities



MANAGING VISITORS

If clubs opt to open the clubhouse building for allowable purposes there are a number of things that should be done to help minimise risks and avoid accidental gatherings:

- ✓ Ensure clear signage is in place so people can find their destination quickly.
- ✓ Look at how people walk through the building and consider how it could be adjusted to reduce congestion and contact between visitors. For example, queue management or one-way flow, where possible.
- ✓ Use of outside premises for queuing where available and safe, for example car parks.
- ✓ Limit the number of customers in the building, overall and in any particular areas.

COMMUNICATING TO MEMBERS

Clubs will need to communicate clearly and regularly with members and visitors, setting out what they are doing to manage risk, and what advice they are giving to individuals to do likewise.

Clubs may publish an action plan detailing their plans to re-open safely and the steps they are taking to avoid confusion.

MAINTENANCE

Essential and non-essential maintenance may take place (this is in line with government advice that people can undertake work that cannot be done from home) but social distancing and hygiene measures must be adhered to whilst the work is being undertaken.

KEEPING FACILITIES CLEAN

Cleaning protocols should be put in place to limit coronavirus transmission. It is advised that touch points (e.g. doors, handrails and gates) should be particular areas of focus for increased cleaning.

Frequent cleaning of work areas and equipment between uses, using your usual cleaning products, is advised, as is clearing workspaces and removing waste and belongings from work areas at the end of shifts.

USEFUL LINKS

[DCMS Guidance on the phased return of sport](#)

[RFU Insurance Centre](#)

[RFU Health & Safety guidance](#)

[RFU Alcohol & Licensing Guide](#)

RFU Insurance helpline 0121 698 8001

RFU Legal and Tax helpline 0330 303 1877