



Community Board

Update @ 3 April 2020 from Ralph Rimmer, CEO, The RFL

We appreciate that Rugby League communities and individual volunteers are under considerable stress and we want to keep you updated wherever we can.

I assure you all that we are working behind the scenes with all parties to find the best solutions to extraordinary circumstances.

The below is summary information; I know that Dave, Marc, Kelly and the team are in very regular contact with you and all community game stakeholders including Foundations.

- 31st March: Foundations Forum took place with 40+ colleagues from Foundations.
- 31st March: Direct communication with clubs following Sport England's announcement on funding/grants/hardship support for impacted clubs. Generated significant enquiries from clubs and the Development team has reallocated resources internally to support.
- Further communication with clubs planned for later today, 3rd April, to provide further information and detail on the SE Funding and process.
- Clubs support webinar planned for 7th April.

Government discussions

I spoke privately to the Sports Minister on Friday; it was a direct and constructive conversation and I believe he understands both the extreme pressures on the sport and the value of our sport and its partnership with Government.

Government is aware of the relative financial context of Rugby League (including average salary of SL Player £65k a year; average salary PL footballer £61k per week or £3m a year).

We provided additional financial modelling to DCMS and answers to their Qs over the weekend ahead. Discussions with Ministers are ongoing, as is our joint work with the All-Party Group on RL which is extremely valuable.

In addition, we remain in regular contact with all broadcast and commercial partners who are supporting our sport in what are tough times for their businesses too.

As part of our work with DCMS we have been feeding in examples of all the work going on across the sport to support our communities, including extraordinary work by players, and Rugby League's resources in support of the national campaigns to keep us all active at home, and on mental fitness and wellbeing.

Financial support from Government to businesses

Here's the latest financial support and mitigations from Government in one place.

<https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-support/>

Scenario planning & events

Significant work continues on potential fixture re-modelling across the game and is shared for input. We continue to stay close with broadcast partners and government with these modelling

options. There will be no perfect solution to the resumption, but modelling is based upon three themes: club solvency, competition integrity and player welfare.

Support for clubs' digital and communications activity

We are all looking to promote the BBC's Challenge Cup celebration this weekend - details on this link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/rugby-league/52120687>.

We've been asked by Government and the NHS to do as much as possible to promote the **'Stay at Home; Protect the NHS; Save Lives'** message. Especially to men.

You may have seen yesterday's video message from Shaun Wane - <https://www.rugby-league.com/article/56635/a-message-from-the-england-rl-head-coach>.

Thank you to everyone involved in

- #SkillToPlay for children
- #FitToPlay for young people and adults
- #ActiveAtHome for older people, and people with disabilities
- And resources provided freely online from clubs of all sizes

As well as Rugby League's award-winning work on mental fitness from partners under the banner #RugbyLeagueUnited

We're also here to support clubs with their own digital and creative activity.

WE'RE RUGBY LEAGUE

The graphic consists of three vertical panels on a dark blue background. The left panel features a white house icon inside a circle, with the text 'STAY HOME' below it. The middle panel features the text 'PROTECT THE' above the NHS logo. The right panel features a white heart icon, with the text 'SAVE LIVES' below it. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the text 'LET'S PLAY OUR PART' in white, followed by the Rugby Football League logo.