



IRFU Return To Rugby Guidelines For Clubs:

Summary Roadmap Stage: COVID-19 Safety Planning

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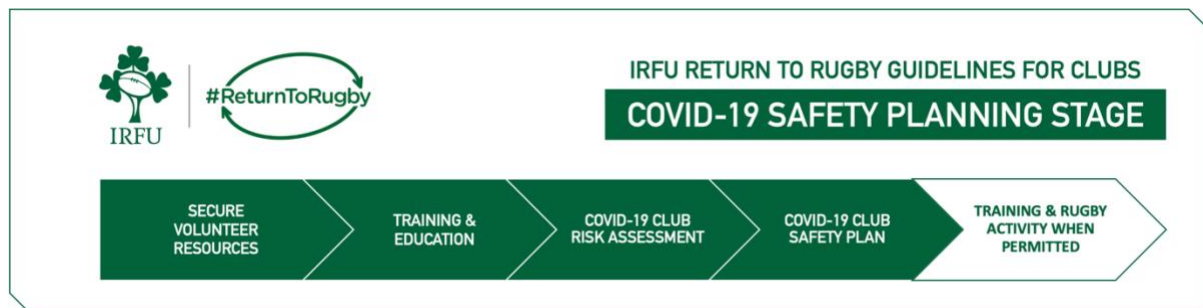
Updated: June 5th 2020

Irish Rugby is now in the COVID-19 Safety Planning Stage of its summary roadmap for a return to rugby in clubs.

What is the COVID-19 Safety Planning Stage?

COVID-19 Safety Planning forms the first and most important stage of the IRFU's Return To Rugby Guidelines For Clubs.

Its objective is to ensure safety measures are taken before activities can resume in rugby clubs.



When can my club return to rugby?

Clubs may only resume training and rugby activities in accordance with government protocols.

These protocols are being considered on an ongoing basis at government level and the IRFU will communicate any update with clubs.

IRFU Return To Rugby Guidelines will be superseded at all times by:

- Government of Ireland's Roadmap To Reopen Society & Business
- Northern Ireland Executive's Coronavirus Recovery Plan.
- Government of Ireland's Return To Sport Expert Group & Sport Northern Ireland Framework for Return to Sport

The IRFU expects clubs to have all volunteer resources and safety plans in place before resuming any activity.

What is the IRFU asking clubs to do during the COVID-19 Safety Planning Stage?

There are three steps to this process.

1. Secure volunteer resources
2. Training & Education on IRFU Return To Rugby Guidelines For Clubs
3. Complete a COVID-19 Health & Safety Plan (inc. Risk Assessment)

Irish Rugby is recommending that each club appoints the following:

TITLE	NUMBER REQUIRED	SUMMARY
COVID-19 Club Safety Officer:	A COVID-19 Club Safety Officer should be appointed in each club.	The role of the COVID-19 Club Safety Officer is to oversee public health measures across the club.
COVID-19 Club Compliance Officer(s):	A COVID-19 Compliance Officer should be appointed for each active team in the club.	The role of the officers is to monitor day-to-day compliance with COVID-19 protocols.

What is the role of these officers?

Guidelines For COVID-19 Safety Officers are outlined in Appendix 09 of IRFU Return To Rugby Guidelines For Clubs

Recommended Roles & Responsibilities For COVID-19 Club Safety Officers are outlined in Appendix 11 of IRFU Return To Rugby Guidelines For Clubs.

Recommended Roles & Responsibilities For COVID-19 Club Compliance Officers are outlined in Appendix 12 of IRFU Return To Rugby Guidelines For Clubs.

How should these officers be appointed?

This is at the discretion of the club. Clubs may wish to integrate the role with another position where practicable.

The position of COVID-19 Club Compliance Officer should not be held by a current player.

The role of COVID-19 Safety Officer could be split across more than one person where necessary. Where this is done, there should be a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities and ongoing communication between both officers.

It is expected that all COVID-19 officers will operate in a voluntary capacity.

Clubs may also wish to put in place a COVID-19 Club Safety Committee for additional oversight.

How can clubs notify the IRFU that these officers have been appointed?

As their first duty, all COVID-19 Club Safety Officer officers are requested to contact their province with the following:

PROVINCE	EMAIL CONTACT	COVID-19 CLUBS SAFETY OFFICER DETAILS TO BE SHARED
CONNACHT RUGBY:	fraser.gow@connachtrugby.ie	All clubs should email the following to their designated provincial contact: NAME / CLUB / EMAIL ADDRESS / MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER:
LEINSTER RUGBY:	carol.maybury@leinsterrugby.ie	
MUNSTER RUGBY:	aidancleary@munsterrugby.ie	
ULSTER RUGBY:	clubsupport@ulsterrugby.com	

2 Training & Education

Club officers, volunteers, coaches, players and support staff will all be expected to spend time reading through and understanding the relevant guidelines before commencing any activity.

All clubs will be offered training & education prior to the completion of a COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Safety plan. Ongoing support will also be provided to clubs at both provincial and national level.

Appointed COVID-19 Club Safety Officers will receive the following education and training support:

- Briefing webinars on guidelines
- Dedicated email helpline
- COVID-19 Health & Safety Operating Procedures For Clubs
- External network of COVID-19 Club Safety Officers
- COVID-19 Safety Rugby Case Studies
- Ongoing support at provincial level

Appointed COVID-19 Club Compliance Officers will all receive the following education and training support:

- COVID-19 Health & Safety Operating Procedures For Clubs
- COVID-19 Club Compliance Officer Briefing Documentation
- Ongoing support at provincial level



Once clubs have been fully briefed on IRFU COVID-19 Guidelines For Rugby Clubs, clubs will be asked to complete a COVID-19 Club Safety Plan including a risk assessment.

This plan will outline what specific measures need to be implemented to minimise risk of COVID-19 transmission with the club.

Risk assessments are conducted as part of all safety planning to establish potential risks.

The COVID-19 Club Risk Assessment is a central part of the IRFU Return To Rugby Guidelines For Clubs and is critical to conducting a safe return to rugby.

Clubs will be asked to carry out a full evaluation to ensure that risk is within acceptable limits.

A COVID-19 Health & Safety Plan Template (inc. Risk Assessment) is included as Appendix 13 of IRFU Return To Rugby Guidelines For Clubs.

How will the IRFU support clubs in completing the COVID-19 Club Risk Assessment and Safety Plan?

The COVID-19 Health & Safety Operating Procedures For Clubs is a helpful tool for clubs in completing their Health & Safety Plan.

Support services will remain in place while clubs complete these documents including a full briefing process and ongoing support at provincial level.

Case studies will also be shared where clubs have already completed the process using best practice.

COVID-19 Health & Safety Operating Procedures For Clubs are outlined in full as Appendix 14 of IRFU Return To Rugby Guidelines For Clubs.

What else can the Irish Rugby community do?

Irish Rugby is asking everyone to play their part in stopping the spread of COVID-19.

We would remind all clubs and their members of their responsibilities as set out by the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive and we discourage all clubs/members from deviating from these advices.

[Click here for more information on COVID-19 from the Government of Ireland](#)

[Click here for more information on COVID-19 from the Northern Ireland Executive](#)

