



RETURN TO PLAY

Frequently Asked Questions

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Return to Play Dates and Season Structure

Q. What is the likely date that we will be able to resume training and playing?

A. The Competitions Committee of the Welsh Rugby Union are currently looking at all scenarios, with regards to starting to play and when not to play. All Community programmes / season will not be starting in September with scenarios being looked at for an October, December, or January start.

Q. What is in place if the seasons start late?

A. The Competitions Committee have been assigned to look at all options and when that has been ratified by the Community Board and finally the WRU Board, all will receive communication

Q. Will all players / teams start at the same time, i.e. women, girls, men, boys?

A. We will look at all sectors of the game and the impact/reliance on the physical club infrastructures. Key for us is the club being able to service the game. The Competitions Committee will be looking at all scenarios before making recommendations, and decisions will be based on guidance by Welsh Government

Q. Can you provide more details on how long you envisage the pre-season window would be please?

A. We would make sure that there you have enough time for pre-season preparation. There will be a minimum 4 weeks, but it could be longer (6-8 weeks) it all depends on the next phases and what Welsh Government allows.

Q. Does 'sanctioned competitions' include the mini and junior game?

A. Yes

Club Operations Managers and Resources

Q. What resources will be shared with the clubs in managing the Return to Play?

A. Club Operations Managers have access to webinars, presentation slides and regular guidance updates to share with Operational Leads and key personnel in the clubs. Information will also be shared on the WRU website, Game Locker and social media platforms.

Q. Where can we access the information that has been shared in the webinars

A. All of the information that has been shared with clubs during the webinars can be accessed at the below link –

<https://community.wru.wales/returntorugby/>

Q. Will guidance be given on the number of leads that could be expected based on the size of the club?

A. We expect each club to appoint a Club Operations Manager, who will then develop their own network of Operational Leads within the club. This may vary from club to club, but each team needs to have an appointed Operational Lead, to manage the administration and implementation of the operating procedures.

Q. The World Rugby route map differed from Wales where the third part of the WR map allowed matches to be played, but in Wales, we had to wait for the 4th stage of the map. Is that correct?

A. We are led by the Welsh Government guidelines and the WR route map is conditional on your local government being in the same place.

Q. Does everyone have to complete the World Rugby Covid – 19 Return to Play Awareness Module, before being able to take part in any activities?

A. Yes. Players, Coaches and Administrators will all need to complete the module. Parents will need to complete this on behalf of their children (under 18). If parents have more than one child, they will only need to complete this once.

Q. If parents are completing the World Rugby Covid – 19 Return to Play Awareness Module, who's name needs to be put on the certificate, is it the parent or child?

A. The parent

Q. What do we do with the certificates once we've completed the World Rugby Covid – 19 Return to Play Awareness Module, does it have to be sent to the WRU?

A. You will need to download the certificate and forward it to the Operational Lead for your team or your child's team for parents. It will be the responsibility of the club to manage this. We would suggest that each team within the club appoints an Operational Lead, who will receive the certificate, and maintain a list of those who have completed the module.

Q. Does the system allow the Club to record the World Rugby COVID-19 Module Certificate, which in turn notifies the Union?

A. At this time, unfortunately it does not. It is advised each Club to retain these certificates for their own records.

However, within each participant WRU Game Locker login there is a functionality to upload any relevant documents/certificates should they wish to use this tool.

Q. Will there be different regulations / arrangements for Mini and Junior rugby regarding parents attending etc. / start times etc?

A. This will depend on the guidance on social distancing as and when Welsh Government ease restrictions. We will provide appropriate guidance and advice in this area once training in this area can progress.

Q. Will WRU Communications go through to players registered to support Club Operations Managers driving the message?

A. The WRU are currently enhancing the myWRU and Game Locker registration portal for our Clubs to ensure all messages are circulated to all registered participants to aid the Club Operations Managers.

Once the system has been enhanced, supporting documents and 'How-To' guides will be distributed to all Club Secretaries and Club Operations Managers. These documents will also be available via myWRU library.

Q. Will the scope of the Club Operations Manager's role encompass the return to play for the seniors, minis, juniors, and youth?

A. Yes, each club will need to appoint Operational Leads for each team within the club, who will have responsibility for the administration and implementation of the operating procedures for each team.

Q. Some clubs need to car share, as not all players have access to own vehicles?

A. Welsh government guidance states that 'It is best to avoid sharing a car with another person you do not live with if possible. If you do share a car, please stay as far apart as possible within the car and keep windows open'. You can follow this guidance on travelling safely.

Q. How many players can we have on a field?

A. The current guidelines are that there can only be a maximum of 30 people who can gather. Therefore, there can be 30 people per pitch, but split into groups of 10-15 on that pitch. The 30 people per pitch also includes coaching and medical staff. We would ask that any spectators or parents maintain social distancing and if that is not possible then drop off and pick up only.

Q. There are some community rugby matches played on public playing fields, is there any thought of how-to police keeping spectators away?

A. This will depend on Welsh Government's advice on mass gatherings at that time.

Q. Will referees be allowed to train with club?

A. Referees will be subject to the same restrictions as the rest of the rugby community.

Q. Will Affiliated groups have the same access to documentation and resources as clubs?

A. We are focussing upon predominantly sharing information with our member clubs through our Club Operations Manager. However, we would encourage affiliated groups to develop a network of contacts, and liaison with affiliate representatives will be managed by the Rugby Participation Department

Q. How does the 2m rule apply?

A: Social distancing measures still apply in the early phase of return. This would mean that players and coaches maintain 2m distance throughout training. Coaches will need to plan sessions that incorporate basic fitness, agility and ball skills that allow social distancing.

Q. Please can you provide some clarity how many players are permitted to be on the pitch at any one time.

A. The maximum permitted at any one time according to current Welsh Government guidelines is 30 people.

We advise that this is broken down in to 10-15 per group and rotated through the zones so as to avoid overuse of a particular section of the field. If the club has two fields, you could have 30 on each, but if they are adjoining, then we would advise that they train at different times to avoid cross over and therefore not exceeding 30 training at any one time.

The sectioning of the pitch as per our webinar is only for guidance.

Q. Are coaches expected to wear face masks whilst coaching?

A. No but they are expected to maintain social distancing measure and good hygiene throughout.

Q. Will parents be allowed to watch training?

A: Ideally parents that drop-off would be required to maintain social distancing. Where this is not possible in the training environment then we would advise parents to wait elsewhere until pick up.

Q. The Government are saying social distancing might be in until a vaccine does that mean contact won't start back until then

A: Return to contact training will depend on the government easing restrictions on social distancing. For this to happen the transmission of the virus will have to remain low in Wales whether that is with or without a vaccine.

Facilities, Finance, and Insurance

Q. Even though playing is suspended, will insurance cover from AON still apply for other things that are incorporated in the usual cover?

A. Yes this was circulated to clubs on 1 July 2020

Q. During the lockdown is this an opportunity to upgrade club facilities adhering to social distancing etc. Grant applications with Sport Wales have been suspended at present under the current circumstances. Do you know if there will be a facility to apply for grants through the relevant bodies?

A. Since the lockdown, most grant providers are solely focusing on only providing funding to sustain sporting organisations – referred to as the protect phase. As Welsh Government advice changes, funders will shift their focus to consider funding applications to help sporting organisations prepare for returning to play.

The 'traditional' funding programmes that were available pre lockdown will not be back up and running for some time to come.

Q. We have a separate business operating from the club who are now able to open under Welsh Government Guidance. Are these able to use our club facility?

A. Yes, the club will be able to open solely for these business purposes subject to Welsh Government advice being adhered to.

Q. What about clubs non-playing facilities opening under WG guidelines?

A. The vast majority of clubs have received support from Welsh Government either through the Small Business Rate Relief Fund (SBRR) administered via their Local Authority or the Economic Resilience Fund. Therefore, as businesses, the non-playing facilities will be able to open when Welsh Government advice allows and if all the guidelines have been adhered to.

Q. Will there be any guidance for changing room facilities under social distancing?

A. Yes. Guidance on use of changing rooms will be issued to clubs in preparation for when Welsh Government announces that the facilities can be re-opened.

Q. As an operational lead (Youth Rugby), are you making yourself liable if there are any issues with Covid within your team?

A. As the role of the Club Operations Managers and Operational Leads is to receive communications from the Union and operate within the guidelines approved by the Union and Welsh Government, there should be no reason for a Club or its members to be at risk

Q. In cases of disease at work this guidance may seem relatively straightforward, but in my opinion the HSE guidance creates ambiguity for businesses in the current climate, given the number of cases (or suspected cases) of COVID-19 being reported. However, when the HSE guidance is transposed into a non-healthcare setting (i.e. our rugby clubs where testing is not routinely taking place) then I would ask what the legal / HSE position is on exactly is meant by 'diagnosed'? Does this mean that you have the symptoms, that your GP has said you most probably have it, or that you have been diagnosed formally by a blood test?

A. Follow guidance from Public Health Wales

Medical

Q. What is the Online Symptom Check?

A. To aid the reporting and identification of the COVID-19 disease, the Welsh Rugby Union have developed a resource tool for all our Clubs.

This tool allows for all Club Secretaries, Club Operations Managers and Leads to log into their myWRU account and access their Player's symptom information and highlight those that maybe experiencing symptoms and unable to play or train. A complete 'How-To' guide will be circulated to Clubs ahead of 1 August 2020.

Q. Who has access to the Online Symptom Check?

A. As always, the Club Secretary will have this access but to alleviate the administrative burden, the system has also been extended to include the Club's Operational Manager and Leads which should ensure the Symptom Check is monitored effectively and efficiently.

Q. How can a club guarantee players stick to the rules regarding temp checks etc?

A. We are not advising temperature checks in the community game, rather daily Covid – 19 symptom checks that are self-administered by the player / parent. As in other aspects of the community game, we are encouraging everyone to work together here in this regard.

Q. How do you expect clubs to check that all players have undertaken a daily symptom check?

A. All players, coaches, volunteers will be advised to conduct a daily Covid-19 self-symptom check. Operational Leads should strongly encourage players to complete the symptom check beforehand to maximise training time.

The WRU are working on an online symptom check linked to the Game Locker. This will record if players are free from symptoms and fit to train. Information will then be sent to the team Operational Lead. As per in other aspects of the community we are encouraging everyone to work together here in this regard. In absence of this tool we would suggest a simple register of all who have reported symptom free on that day is recorded.

Q. Are coaches also completing symptom checker pre training

A. Every player, coach and volunteer should complete and pass the symptom checker prior to training.

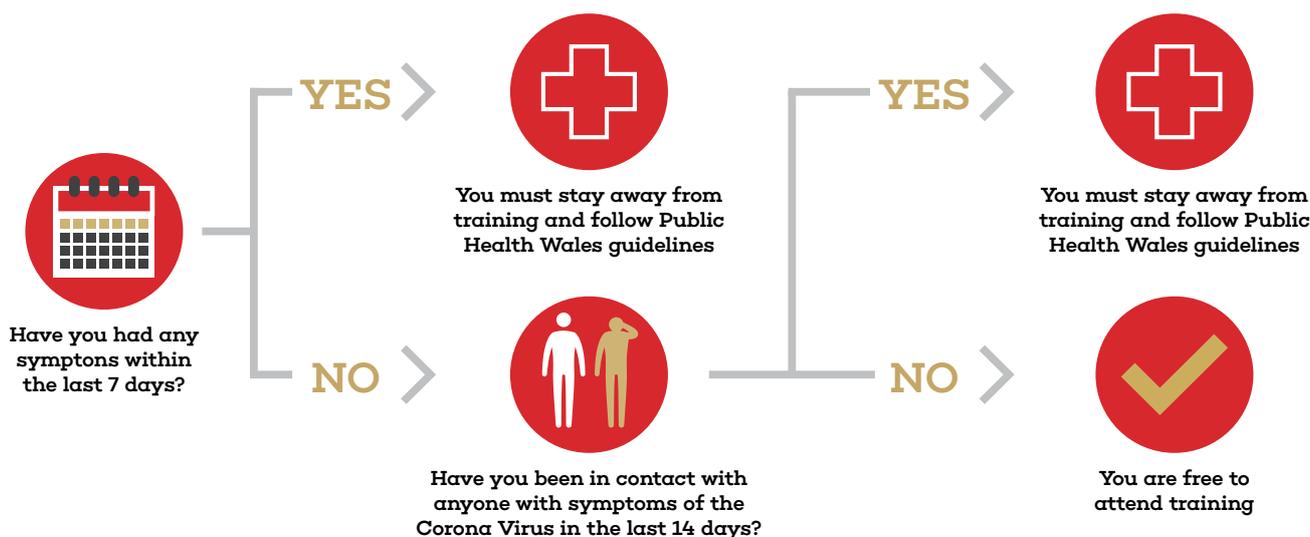
Q. How would the club or the WRU know who has undertaken the symptom check pre training?

A. Once a player has logged in and completed the symptom check a message will be sent to the Club Operations Manager / Operational Lead for their specific team notifying them of the players status to train.

Q. What if someone has not completed the symptom check, and turns up for training, what do we need to do then?

A. They need to self-declare to the Operational Lead that (a) they have not had any symptoms in the last seven days and (b) not been in contact with anyone who with symptoms of Covid in the last 14 days. This needs to be appropriately recorded on myWRU. If they are not able to do this, then as a last resort it can be recorded manually.

PRE TRAINING SYMPTOM CHECK:



DO NOT COME TO TRAINING WITH:



A high temperature



A new, continuous cough



Loss of smell or taste (anosmia)

Q. If a player is coming straight from work and can't complete the online symptom checker, can they still train?

A. If they are unable to complete online then they would need to either report via message to their Operation Lead and confirm that they have passed the symptom check or complete on arrival prior to training. The Operation Lead can then upload the players status on the game locker prior to training.

Q. I assume that the community game matches cannot start until the 1-2 metre distance has been totally removed?

A. For contact and ultimately games to progress then social distancing would need to reduce to allow this. We will be working closely with Welsh Government to make sure that contact training and games will only proceed under their guidance.

Q. Do Club Operations Managers need to be in attendance at training sessions to make sure players/coaches with symptoms do not attend?

A. Each training session should have an Operation Lead present. They should either record from the online symptom tracker or a simple register recording that all players present are symptom free. This is to assist Welsh governments Test; Track and Protect strategy should anyone present with symptoms at a later date.

Q. As a Physio, will I need to attend every session to do symptom checks and log these?

A. The Symptom check is not necessarily the role of the club Medic / Physio / Sports therapist to collate.

Q. In terms of treatment, are we saying its injury management on a training night only? or can rehabilitation take place for those trained to do this if wearing appropriate PPE?

A. Yes rehabilitation can take place as long as social distancing is maintained.

Q. Players will obviously ask about massage and we have a massage therapist, are we to discourage this entirely or are our massage therapists allowed to continue with L1 PPE for below torso and L2 PPE for torso?

A. Treatment should be minimised the what is really essential. When then undertaking essential treatment, a decision needs to be made on what PPE is required dependent upon on the area of body e.g. Level 1 for lower limb, Level 2 for torso / upper limb.

Q. If strapping a player before game, does the player also wear an L1 mask?

A. This is not a requirement for the player, but should they wish to do so it would be perfectly reasonable.

Q. Can you please confirm if qualified medical staff need to be at all training sessions for all ages groups as well as seniors (over 18's).

A. First Aiders will be required to attend training sessions as per usual standards

Q. Will we have testing kits supplied?

A. Testing in the community game will only be undertaken as per other aspects of community life under the guidance of Public Health Wales.

Q. How will we be notified that a person has declared symptoms?

A. If they have reported through the online symptom check then they will be advised directly from there. This information will be passed to the Club Operations Manager or Team Operation Lead. If they declare symptoms directly to the Club Operations Manager or Operational Lead, they should NOT attend training but follow Welsh Government advice.

Q. During training sessions, how is it envisaged that First Aid should be administered if it was needed?

A. We will provide guidance as to the level of PPE required here.

<https://www.wrugamelocker.wales/en/resources-and-videos/resources/return-to-rugby/>

Q. Will guidelines include recommendations around first aid and other club activities i.e. post-match food etc

A. Yes this will be covered in the Guidelines and procedures document.

Q. What is the position with first aid certificates, as some of our First Aider's certificates will expire shortly. Are they going to be able to continue being the team first aiders?

A. As indicated in the recent webinar HSE has extended First Aid certification until 30 Sept, however those who need recertification should be actively seeking to renew as soon as is feasible.

Q. Are you liaising with hospitals for A&E access for when we return to play

A. We are liaising with Welsh government who are monitoring the workload of hospitals.

Registration

Q. Is the registration process the same?

A. Yes. Since 2018, all on-field participants (Players, Coaches and Referees) have been required to self-register via the WRU Game Locker. From 1 August 2020, all participants registered last season will receive their annual re-registration link to complete their registration for the 20-21 season. Those that are new participants are welcome to register to the Welsh Rugby Union and affiliate to their Club via WRU Game Locker ([link here](#))

New to Season 20-21 and listening to feedback made by our Clubs: First Aiders, Team Managers, Club Operations Managers and Leads will all be able to self-register on the WRU Game Locker for the Club to approve. Once approved, access to the system will be granted automatically with the participant receiving their unique login details.

Note: all participants under the age of 18 years old will require their parent/guardian to register on their behalf.

Q. We were told that the registration was closed now it is open and only have a few weeks to register, is this correct deadline 1st Aug?

A. The registration portal closes and opens, to align with every Season. This Season, the registration system will open from 1 August 2020 allowing participants to register before training and playing at their Clubs. Every participant registered last season will receive a link to accept or reject their registration and follow the 2-minute process to ensure they are actively registered.

Q. Will the system be able to cope with a large number of logins at any one time?

A. Yes, the system has been extensively tested to allow a large number of members to login and complete their registration without causing the system to crash. However, if internet signal is poor within their communities, this could slow down their connectivity and thus making the process a little longer.

Q. Is registration only able to take place once the online training has taken place?

A. No, the registration system will open from 1 August 2020, although it is mandatory the participant completes this module before they return to train and play at their Clubs