

## Government Sport Winter Survival Package update

We are delighted to confirm that, as a result of the impact of Covid-19 spectator restrictions on Rugby Union, we have received approval from the independent Board of the Sport Winter Survival Package to initiate the mobilisation of a dedicated needs-based fund for community rugby. This means we will be able to open the application process on the afternoon of this Friday, 12 February.

This communication is to give you advance warning to check your email on Friday afternoon for information on both the application process and specific criteria clubs will need to fulfil as part of the needs-based assessment required for the scheme.

By giving you prior notice, we hope clubs will have time to ensure financial accounts are up-to-date and readily accessible to share as part of the process.

Please remember there are no guarantees that you will receive funding - clubs will be required to clearly demonstrate their financial need for funding to ensure survival – the funding will only be available on this basis and subject to due process.

Timelines will be extremely tight between the application process opening (Friday 12 February) and closing (Thursday 25 February).

Clubs will have 13 days in which to submit their application. Please be prepared to act as soon as possible to ensure your application is received before Thursday 25 February.

The RFU team will be one hundred percent focused over the next 48 hours, finalising the process with Sport England and DCMS compiling information and uploading this to the Coronavirus Hub on [EnglandRugby.com](https://www.englandrugby.com) for clubs to access on Friday.

This means they will not be able to answer individual queries before the information is complete on Friday. However, clubs will benefit from being able to access this completed information. So please wait for Friday's FAQs to go

live alongside the application process before compiling your queries. Hopefully most of your questions will be answered there.

In addition, the Independent Board have approved the mobilisation of a loans programme to support urgent infrastructure requirements of Rugby clubs at Levels 3 and below. This will also be needs-based, to support essential infrastructure for survival and sustainability. We aim to provide further information on this next week in order to gauge the levels of interest in the loan scheme. Again, timeframes for initial (non-binding) response will be tight.

### **What will happen on Friday?**

We will circulate an email to all Chair, Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers at clubs and CBs.

The email will include:

- The criteria that clubs need to fulfil before applying.
- Information on the process that clubs are required to follow.
- An online application form.
- Background information to explain the purpose of the fund.
- FAQs pre-empting as many queries as possible.

### **Recap - What is the Sport Winter Survival Package?**

The **Sport Winter Survival Package** was announced in November to protect the immediate future of major spectator sports in England who are being directly affected by coronavirus restrictions on spectators attending fixtures and events between October 2020 and March 2021.

It provides a total of £300 million in emergency funding and is designed to support those organisations who've suffered significant revenue losses and are in urgent financial need as a result of a loss of spectators. In this case, the RFU has demonstrated the case given the impact on the RFU and the residual challenges for clubs that rely on spectators for survival and that have ceased activities due to Covid-19.

As announced in November, the Community Game has received an initial allocation of up to £23 million to be used solely for clubs in levels 3 or below. No money from this allocation will be directed to the professional game, who have applied directly to the Sport Winter Survival Package, or to the RFU. The funding for the clubs must be allocated on a financial needs-led basis and will largely be small-scale funding commitments specifically for the winter period.

Many thanks and we will be in touch again on Friday.