

5 March 2021

To: SRFU Club Chairs

Dear colleagues,

Sussex RFU Adult Male Competitions

I trust you are all keeping safe and well and that there is excitement about a return to community rugby.

Following the recent announcement on HM Government's road map and the subsequent RFU Return to Rugby update today, we thought it was a good time to give you an update about what the next few months might look like for adult male competitions in Sussex.

The SRFU Adult Male Competitions Sub-Committee has discussed what may or may not be possible and has made the following decisions in order to provide you with some clarity.

Remainder of Season 2020/21

1. The RFU has signalled that Ready4Rugby, O2 Touch and limited contact training will commence from Monday 29 March with amended law fixtures from Monday 26 April.
2. In addition, at a recent Sussex Club Chairs meeting the feedback was that over the next few months clubs will prioritise engaging with their playing membership and organising their own club events.
3. Because of the timescales involved and the club priorities, we will not organise any SRFU Adult Male Competitions for the remainder of Season 2020/21 or over the summer months. However, we will liaise with the relevant clubs about the possible staging of the 2019/20 SRFU Cup finals.
4. Clearly clubs are free to organise their own fixtures/events over the coming months in line with RFU guidance and if we can provide any help, please get in touch (sussexrugbycomps@gmail.com).

Season 2021/22

1. At this point, we do not know what the impact of the pandemic will have on participation levels for next season and consequently how many players or teams there will be or the relative playing strengths.
2. In addition, we do not know whether players/teams will want formal, league rugby or more flexible, social rugby.
3. As a result, we will delay issuing any fixtures and liaise with teams/clubs until the picture becomes clearer.
4. For those teams that will want regular, formal league rugby next season, we will aim to run a "waterfall" structure (as agreed in July 2020 for Sussex 1-3) whereby teams are realigned after the first few matches, based on their results.
5. We may also look at starting the SRFU Adult Male Competition season a little later (e.g. late September or early October) to allow more time for teams to assess their viability and strength.

Clearly all of this is dependent on HM Government and RFU guidance, so please ensure you follow the relevant advice and protocols. Please distribute this amongst your adult male playing leadership team.

If you have any questions, please get in touch (sussexrugbycomps@gmail.com).

Best wishes,

Chris Burns

On behalf of the SRFU Adult Male Competitions Sub-Committee

To develop and support all aspects of rugby union in Sussex through collaboration with stakeholders, innovation, leadership and good governance.

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