



## Club Advisory On Easing Of Government Restrictions

The IRFU and provinces are encouraging all clubs to open up their facilities this summer for the wellbeing of clubs, players, members, guests and the wider community.

As government restrictions continue to ease across the summer, clubs will have more options in welcoming people to avail of rugby, multisport and clubhouse facilities.

The purpose of this document is to help clubs ensure they remain open for rugby. A positive COVID-19 case in a rugby club due to non-rugby activity would severely impact a club's ability to fulfil its core function while multiple cases in clubs would threaten the status of the 2021/22 season.

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### **1. Latest Public Health Measures:**

**ROI:** <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/7894b-post-cabinet-statement-resilience-and-recovery-the-path-ahead/>

**NI:** <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you>

### **2. COVID-19 Health & Safety Planning:**

A COVID-19 Safety Plan inc. risk management must be in place for all rugby offerings in the club.

For more information: <https://www.irishrugby.ie/running-your-club/return-to-rugby-for-clubs/>

### **3. Multisport Activities:**

- [Important Considerations For Those Considering Staging Sporting Events \(Sport NI\)](#)
- [Individual, Indoor Training – Practical Guidance For Sports Sector \(Sport Ireland\)](#)

#### **4. Changing Facilities:**

The IRFU advise that only changing and shower facilities remain closed until further notice.

#### **5. Hospitality Services:**

Hospitality services are vitally important to rugby clubs as a means of generating revenue. Clubs are advised to ensure sectoral guidelines are in place for all hospitality services:

**Failte Ireland Operational Guidelines:**

<https://covid19.failteireland.ie/operational-guidelines/>

**Tourism Northern Ireland Guidelines For Hospitality Venues:**

<https://www.tourismni.com/covid-19/practical-guidance-for-working-safely-during-covid-19/restrictions-update-guidance/>

In addition to ongoing advice around social distancing, hand hygiene, cough/sneeze etiquette and staying at home if unwell, clubs are reminded of the importance of effective contact tracing as a way of minimising the impact of COVID-19 on rugby.

Both the Failte Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland hospitality guidelines both advise collecting the following for members and guests aged 16 or over:

- Name
- Telephone number
- Date of visit
- Time of arrival

This measure should also apply to anyone who had initially attended the club for rugby purposes and had completed a pre-Rugby Personal Assessment Declaration.

#### **6. Personal Assessment Declarations:**

Personal Assessment Declarations must be completed and submitted to your club/school before each and every rugby activity.

The IRFU template has had a minor revision, effective from June 2021, but it should be noted that a person's vaccination status is not yet a consideration in completing the form.

Where a player or volunteer is in any doubt, they should contact their team's COVID-19 Compliance Officer or their clubs' COVID-19 Safety Officer and agree the best course of action.

[Click Here To Download Updated Personal Assessment Declaration](#)

## **7. Concurrent Activities:**

Capacity to run multiple concurrent activities on club grounds should be considered in a club's COVID-19 Safety Plan. e.g effective and safe management of a time when hospitality offerings in a club house, rugby training and a rugby match with spectators may take place at the same time or run into each other.

Multi-club blitzes are not advised until further notices.

Considerations may include:

Active management of common areas, access and egress to avoid any congestion, particularly indoors;

Active management of congestion where hospitality facilities are at capacity and spectators/walk-ins may wish to access the clubhouse;

Ensuring sufficient WC facilities for all players, spectators, members and guests while maintaining health and safety measures;

Minimising crossover of groups and movement of players, spectators and clubhouse visitors where practicable.

Where a member is attending a club for rugby and wishes to stay on to avail of hospitality, they should abide by the operational safety guidelines for each activity e.g. complete Personal Assessment Declaration for rugby and then provide contact tracing details for clubhouse.

## **8. Spectators:**

Guidelines on Spectators remain subject to change. The latest information is available [here](#) for Northern Ireland and [here](#) for the Republic of Ireland.

Sport NI have produced guidance on the return of spectators, which all clubs may wish to consider.

<http://www.sportni.net/return-to-sport/return-of-spectators/>