



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On Monday evening last week, the Board of the CCRU held a meeting with all club Presidents (or their representatives) to gauge how clubs were coping in the current COVID climate regarding membership, financially, concerns for the future, along with their plans for any possible return to play following the lifting of government restrictions.

Firstly, the CCRU Board is fully committed to see a competition run in 2020. As I have previously sent out, this will include one full round of competition games and a full finals series. The difference this year is that the Premier 1 grade semi final series will include 5 teams not the traditional 4 teams. The idea behind this being that with a shortened season it will be fairer for all clubs, with history showing that the fourth semi final spot is generally a very tight affair, often not determined until the final rounds. For this structure to be run fully and successfully, the competition will need to begin by early August at the latest and run through to a Grand Final in October.

During the club Presidents presentations it was very heartening to hear the commitment of all clubs to fielding teams in the competition. All were very positive, albeit that they had concerns across a range of areas. Mostly, these centred around finances with many clubs having lost sponsors. Members are concerned about RA member registration fees and what will happen to these should the competition not go ahead or be cancelled partway through due to a player contracting the virus. Many of their questions could not be answered, not because of lack of planning or thought by our Board, but because RA and NSW Rugby simply have not given that information.

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There was a meeting scheduled for Friday 5 June between Sport Australia, government officials and community sport representatives i.e. RA and NSW Rugby in our case, and many of the details of our return to play were to be discussed. At this stage we have heard nothing regarding the outcomes of this meeting.

An email was distributed on Friday afternoon from NSW Rugby but again it had little to no information about return to play other than to reinforce what we already know about current situations, training restrictions and on-line learning and training opportunities.

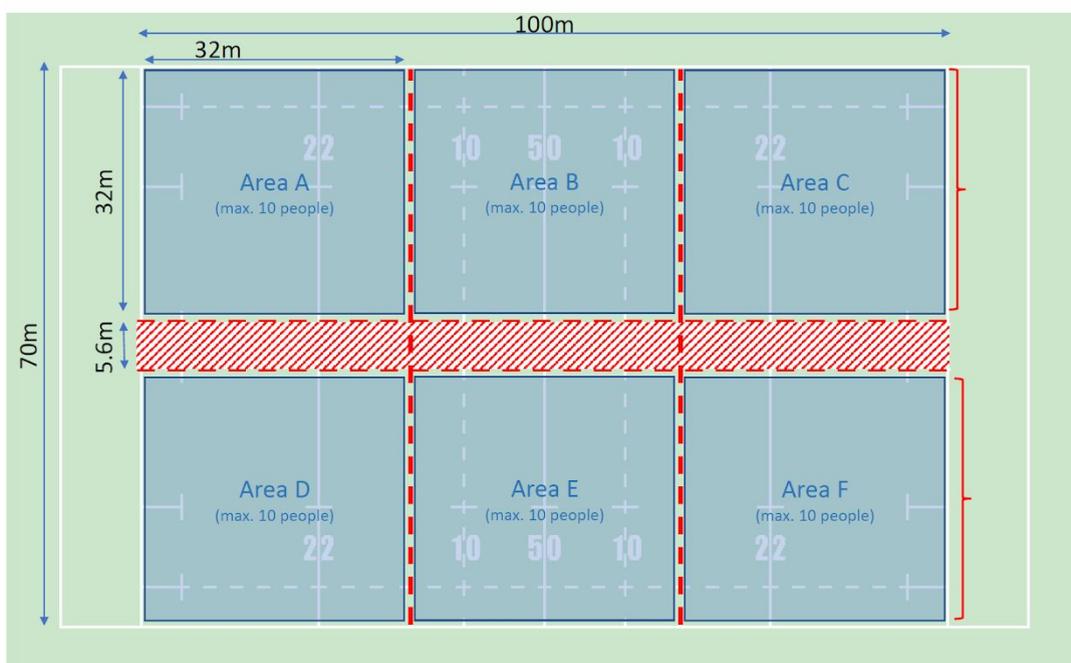
What we do know is that junior sport, up to the age of Under 18s, has been given approval to begin contact training as of 1 July and, as has been the case for elite sport, this is the precursor for competitions to resume. In speaking with some representatives of junior sport, it seems that this will pave the way for competitions to begin following the July school holidays. With school resuming on 20 July following the mid year break, we may see some planning for a restart of junior sport for either 18 or 25 July.

Tony Rudd

TRAINING

With approval being given for community sport organisations to resume training under a no contact, restricted numbers regime, we too are now in a position to consider a restart to our Tuesday night training sessions. Our problem at this stage will be finding a venue with a club that can host us. With current restrictions, a maximum of sixty people can train at any one time in an area the size of a rugby field - see diagram below. For us to fit in with a club, we would take one of those areas, meaning that club players would be restricted to 50. A club training with three grade, Under 19s and Womens teams would already have to restrict players, vary training times etc etc to meet these requirements.

Our executive has already made contact with some clubs who might be able to assist in providing a space for us and will continue to contact others. Should we hear back from clubs, it would be ideal to begin training as of next Tuesday night 16 June. Please put this in your diary as a possible start date.



EDUCATION SESSION

Usually in this space we provide details of the next Education Session. However, a session was held last night (yes, I've just rewritten this section) and while there were reduced numbers, hopefully because of the holiday Monday, a very good discussion was held. This week the discussion centred around Foul Play Interactions and the RA video on best practice presented by Richrd Manchee. Below is a summary of the conversations from the Education Session.

Education Session Summary

Everybody is in a heightened state after the incident.

Be clear and concise with all your discussions.

How you interact with your AR's?

- Starts before the game when you talk. – give them confidence to say what they think and give an opinion if it is different to yours.
- Give yourself time to make a clear decision. (especially with no AR's)
- Call in AR's, even if they haven't seen anything! It again gives you time to think.
- If no AR's present, replay things in your head to get a clear picture.
- With AR's, relate what you saw first and see if they can confirm unless you didn't see anything, then you ask for a concise version from them. You need to confirm facts and reach a conclusion. Allow AR'S to add or disagree with you if they are confident, they are correct.
- Referees and ARs should know the protocols for high tackles, yellow & red cards etc and verbalise these protocols to each other when reporting foul play. This same conversation should then be relayed to the captain & player when explaining the decision.
- If no badged ARs, official reports cannot be taken. Speak with them before the game about what you want from them - adjudicating on touch. Certainly involved them throughout the game. You will be able to gauge their 'competence' and how much you can trust them to do more than just 'put their flag up when the ball goes out'. Who knows, if you involve them, they might just go that step further and do their AR course and join our Association.

How you interact with the teams after the incident?

- Don't speak down to players
- Separate teams first – 10m at least. Use captains to help with this.
- Use a good tone in your voice and have positive body language – it helps sell your message and keep everyone on your side.
- Speak to the offending team first (or more serious if both have offended) through the captain and have the offending player there as well.
- Explain clearly and concisely what happened and your course of action. Don't over talk or explain. Also notify the captain if there will be sanctions against the other team if they offended as well. It can help settle things down.
- Then speak to the other team if needed. Give Captain's time to talk to their teams before play is restarted.

Dealing with junior teams / players.

- Often more difficult, especially in the under 15 - 17 age groups.
- The captain is not always the best person (player manager) but is more likely to be the 'best player'.
- Use the same protocols as suggested above.
- May be need to speak to the coach or manager at half time to explain what is going on, seeking their support to curb behaviours.
- If the game is getting 'hot' don't be afraid to slow it down - shorter mauls, rucks, slow down scrum engagement etc

BECAUSE IT'S LAW

In this edition, I have included a link to the World Rugby site and a section within it entitled Enforcement of Current Law. This particular part goes through refereeing Foul Play, in line with last night's education session, and not only includes the relevant Law but a series of video clips to assist with the enforcement and understanding of the Law.

I hope it proves beneficial to you.

<https://laws.worldrugby.org/?law=9>

FUTURE DATES FOR DIARY

16 June	Possible return to training. Venue TBA
22 June	On-line meeting and Education Night
July	Possible Return to On-Field activities
27 July	CCRURA Meeting - Education Topic TBA
24 August	CCRURA Meeting - Education Topic TBA
26 October	CCRURA Annual General Meeting

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