

Q&A: COVID-19 New Zealand Rugby club rugby participation

What has New Zealand Rugby postponed?

Currently New Zealand is at COVID-19 Alert Level 3 and all rugby in New Zealand is suspended. All Game Development Workshops including Rugby Smart, Small Blacks, Coach and Referee workshops are postponed until further notice.

When will we know more, who do I contact and how can I stay up to date?

The situation is ever-changing and we will bring you information as soon as we can. Check New Zealand Rugby website www.newzealand.rugby and New Zealand Rugby Official Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updates.

You can also check your Provincial Union and Club's website and social media channels.

Why has this decision been made?

We love rugby as much as you do so please be assured this decision wasn't taken lightly.

The well-being of our players, coaches, referees, volunteers, supporters and the wider New Zealand community is our top priority. And, while this will be disappointing for many, postponing rugby for the time being is in everyone's best interests.

Playing rugby and contact training involves close proximity which brings a high-risk level of spreading viruses.

Postponing Rugby is also about protecting our rugby spectators. We can't limit the number of people who turn up to support their team and have no record of their attendance should we need to contact them regarding potential Covid-19 exposure.

What does the postponement include?

- All Rugby (including Club and Community) has been postponed until further notice, effective immediately.
- All Game Development Workshops including Rugby Smart, Small Blacks, Coach and Referee workshops are postponed until further notice.

What is not included in the postponement?

- New Zealand Rugby is recommending the postponement of ALL rugby activity.

How can I stay fit?

RugbyToolbox is the place to go if you want to find online tools and resources for rugby:
www.rugbytoolbox.co.nz

What is happening to RugbySmart, Small Blacks and Game Development Workshops?

- All Game Development Workshops including Rugby Smart, Small Blacks, Coach and Referee workshops are postponed until further notice.

Can people still register for rugby?

- Yes – Player, Coach and Referee registrations remain open and people are encouraged to sign up for the 2020 season.

When will rugby resume in 2020?

The New Zealand Government has announced that all rugby can resume at COVID-19 Alert Level 2 and has asked clubs and schools to prepare for the return of rugby under COVID-19 guidelines.

When will we move to Alert Level 2?

No date has been provided for when Alert Level 2 will begin.

What are the Level 2 guidelines for rugby?

New Zealand Rugby is developing rugby specific guidelines based on the Government's advice. We will provide updates as soon as we can. Sport NZ has provided guidance for community sport [here](#).

What are the basics that I need to know?

- All rugby activity (games and training) is postponed until further notice
- All Game Development Workshops including Rugby Smart, Small Blacks, Coach and Referee workshops are postponed until further notice.

- Maintaining fitness is encouraged
- Registering for rugby can continue online
- Look after your teammates, whanau and communities.
- Stay informed. We will provide regular updates as needed
- Stay at home if you are feeling unwell
- Regularly wash hands
- Follow the Ministry of Health Guidelines: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>
- Do what is best for you and your communities to keep them safe and healthy

I'm finding it tough or I know people who are, what can I do?

This is a challenging time for everyone and we encourage you to keep in touch with your teammates, whanau and loved ones.

- For some advice on how you can tackle the tough times visit www.headfirst.co.nz