

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

### **What has New Zealand Rugby postponed?**

- Following the New Zealand Government's lifting of the coronavirus alert status to level 3, all rugby in New Zealand will be suspended for the foreseeable future.
- 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](http://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.

Although postponing all team and group-based rugby trainings is not explicitly required by Government at this time, these measures will help to minimise the risk of person to person transmission.

We encourage you to do what is best for you and your communities to keep them safe and healthy.

### **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](http://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.

### **Will there be any rugby and what will happen to the season?**

- The situation is ever-changing and we will bring you information as soon as we can regarding the 2020 season.
- With the advice that this pandemic will last far longer than weeks, we will review the proposed start date of rugby and provide on-going advice on that in due course also.

When we're able to kick off, New Zealand Rugby and Provincial Unions will work with local communities to minimise the disruption to all rugby grades and ensure that everyone is able to enjoy their season.

### **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](http://www.headfirst.co.nz)