

Interested in starting a New Club?

If you are interested in setting up a Rugby League Club or team or looking to run activity within the sport for the first time, the following website will help you to understand the different offers we have within a Rugby League setting and how the game is played.

[Ages & Stages](#)

There are lots of ways to get involved with our sport, regardless of your age, gender, physical ability and much more.

Before starting a new Rugby League Club or team there is a lot that you need to think about, this would include:

- Do you have a suitable venue and facilities?
- Do you have an appropriate number of volunteers and are they suitably qualified?
- What type of activity or age group(s) are you thinking of running?
- Have you looked into what competition you might want to join? This can vary depending on the age group you are thinking about running.
- Is there a demand for the club and do you have sufficient playing numbers?
- Have you thought about promotion and branding?
- Have you explored relevant funding opportunities?

Initially it would be worth considering what activity is already available in your area. The RFL's Club Finder available [HERE](#) can help direct you to existing activity already taking place.

If you feel like starting a new Club is the best option, this guide will help you to understand the key elements required and the steps involved. A number of resources are available [HERE](#) on Buddle (formerly Club Matters) and [HERE](#) on the RFL's Club Support page to assist with this process.

Constitution

All clubs should ensure they have created a constitution which sets out the fundamental principles of the club and the people involved. A template (originally created by British Orienteering) can be found [HERE](#).

Volunteer Workforce

It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that staff have the appropriate qualifications and that those qualifications are up to date.

The Club shall ensure that as a minimum it complies with the table below: -

Role	Qualifications	Requirement (i.e., per team, per club, present at matches)
Coach (Licensed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 2 Coaching Qualification (Level 1 for coaching a PRL team) • Valid DBS • Coach Right courses relevant to the age groups coached • Safeguarding and Protecting Children (SPC) • Grassroots Concussion in Sports Guidance – Online module 	1 Per Team (Player ratio 1:16) U12 to Adult - requires a UKCC Level 2 Qualification to be a Head Coach U6 to U11 - requires a UKCC Level 1 Qualification to be a Head Coach

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UKAD Introduction to Clean Sport course (Recommended) 	
Club Welfare Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding and Protecting Children Course (SPC) Time to Listen Course (TTL) Valid DBS UKAD Introduction to Clean Sport course (Recommended) 	1 Per Club
Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UKAD Introduction to Clean Sport course. (Recommended) 	1 Per Club
First Aider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSE compliant Emergency First Aid qualification & the RFL Concussion Course. Valid DBS 	1 Per home Club in attendance at each match
Game Day Manager	Online Learning	1 per team per game

Please see below further information on how to attain each of the qualifications listed above:

- Coaching Qualification – For further details and to book on a course, please visit the Coaching section of the RFL website [HERE](#)
- DBS – Full details on the DBS process can be found [HERE](#). However, if you are a new club you will need to email safeguarding@rfl.co.uk first, so a new account can be created
- SPC – Individuals who have **not** completed the course previously can book onto a course [HERE](#). Those who have completed the course previously are able to complete the SPC Refresher to renew their qualification, this can be accessed [HERE](#)
- TTL – Please contact safeguarding@rfl.co.uk for further details
- Coach Right, GameDay Manager & Concussion Courses – These courses are hosted on Our Learning Zone, please ensure individuals follow the guide [HERE](#) to gain access
- UKAD Introduction to Clean Sport course - Register for a UKAD account here [Welcome to eNetLearn - eNetLearn](#). Once registered, complete the 6 modules to complete the Introduction to Clean Sport. This is a UKAD course and assistance for access will be provided via UKAD
- First Aid – Individuals can either complete the RFL approved course via ActivFirst available [HERE](#) or any other HSE compliant Emergency First Aid qualification of which there will be multiple providers

Coach/Volunteer recruitment:

Resources on this area can be found here on the RFL website - [Volunteer](#) and here on Buddle - [Finding volunteers | Buddle](#). Should you have any further questions on this area please contact Darby.Sladdin@rfl.co.uk.

Mandatory Safeguarding Requirements

Please click [HERE](#) to view the RFL Safeguarding Policy. Section 3.2 outlines the Mandatory Safeguarding Requirements for a Club to run any Rugby League related activity for children and young people (defined as anyone under the age of eighteen).

Each Club is responsible for ensuring that it is fully compliant with all the requirements of the Safeguarding Policy and that, where any Club is found to not be complying, zero tolerance would be applied in relation to the Club and any relevant individual.

Should you require any support with ensuring your Club has the correct mandatory safeguarding requirements then please contact the RFL Safeguarding Manager at kerry.simmons@rfl.co.uk.

Joining a League/Competition

You may already have in mind a League/Competition you would like to join. So that we can confirm a few key details and direct you to the most appropriate person to provide you with support and guidance please complete the expression of interest form for new Clubs available [HERE](#).

Getting set up on the GameDay System

GameDay is where all participants must register. It also conducts several competition management functions, which includes result recording, team sheets, discipline, and reporting.

At a minimum, each Club should have one administrator responsible for conducting the required administrative processes. In order to gain access to the system the guide [HERE](#) should be followed. There are various guides available online [HERE](#), which explain processes such as managing registrations, entering results, adding team sheets, and requesting transfers. Each league will differ in terms of the required processes. This will be detailed in the Competition Rules of the League in which you are involved.

Participant Registration

It is a requirement that Players, Coaches and Volunteers register annually on the GameDay system. There are specific links for each participant type and for each league. Further details can be found via the links below:

[Player Registration](#)

[Coach Registration](#)

[Volunteer Registration](#)

Our League Active & Insurance Cover

Community Rugby League players that register will become Our League Active members. Our League Active is Rugby League's participation membership scheme designed to improve the sustainability and development of the Community Game. Our League Active Membership will not only enable individuals to register for their chosen Community Rugby League Club but give them the opportunity to access numerous benefits. It will also allow the RFL to continue to grow and develop the Community Game by providing key services to make sure players can go out onto the field every weekend and play the sport they love.

Insurance cover is arranged by the RFL to ensure the appropriate cover is in place. Insurance premiums are covered using the income received from the Our League Active membership scheme. Full details of what the cover entails can be found [HERE](#).

Funding

When looking to set up a new Club various funding opportunities may be available for you to apply for. However, grants and streams of income are not guaranteed or consistent throughout a year. This is because they often align to current third party (often DCMS or Sport England) funded programmes and grant schemes that become available to the RFL at different points in time. The best way to find out what is currently available to you is:

- Read the regular Community Game email updates
- Search The RFL website and social media

You can also contact the Community Funding Team via Community.Funding@rfl.co.uk if you are unsure on the current opportunities available.

Additional resources are available here on the RFL website - [Community Investment & Funding](#) and here on Buddle - [Money matters | Buddle](#).

Facilities, Facility Development or Pitch Related Issues

Resources on this area can be found here - [Rugby League Grounds Maintenance | Grounds Management Toolkit](#). Should you have any further questions on this area please contact tom.little@rfl.co.uk or bweatherall@thegma.org.uk.