

Championship Committee Review Committee (CCRC):
Progress report to Club Rugby Board (CRB) Meeting 15.10.2025

1. Purpose

This report provides a short update for the CRB on the work undertaken to date, some details on product from this and the next steps.

2. Work undertaken

The subgroup has been established. We have met with each of the seven groups involved in the current structure. We have spoken with the Competitions staff who provide secretariat support for these groups. We are carrying out individual interviews with some committee members.

A survey for clubs and schools was prepared and issued. 22 responses were received and the information provided is being considered.

Separately we have made direct contact with some clubs and schools to get some feedback on their knowledge and experience.

Scoping has been carried out covering what happens across the other Home Nations and in other sports.

3. Emerging findings and comment

At the outset we noted that the Championship Committee had already identified that its terms of reference required review, Work had started on this but been paused until conclusion of the review to allow any findings and recommendations to be factored in.

In our engagement with the committees, we found a sense of self-reflection by members, and this has been very positive and helpful in discussions on what works well and what improvements might be made.

We have seen some very good practice that will be beneficial in sharing. The need for clear terms of reference and understanding of role and responsibilities is evident.

Some clubs and schools have a good understanding of the role and functions of the committees but there is recognition that this needs to significantly improve across the country.

Committee members recognised need to improve communications and this was also a theme highlighted in the engagement with clubs and schools.

Having club members involved in the committees is welcomed by clubs and schools and is a clear strength. There is a vast amount of experience and ability across the membership of the committees. That said there is a need to consider how we make best use of this while also factoring in succession planning.

4. Next Steps

We will complete analysis of the survey information. The review group will reconvene to discuss emerging themes and consider potential recommendations. We also plan on having an open online session with committee members being able to participate to share what information we have and allow them to get the opportunity to contribute views and suggestions on this. This approach is to build on the buy in we already have and allow the people doing the job to help identify and bring forward improvements.

We aim to bring forward a final report to the CRB by the end of November.

Kevin Quinn, Chair of review group (3.10.2025)