



## High-level summary of CRB Minutes, 01 April 2026

For full minutes of the Meeting, please click [here](#)

### KEY UPDATES AND DISCUSSIONS

#### Chair Opening Remarks & Member Reports and Questions

##### Governance Update from Chair of SRU Board

The Chair of the SRU Board provided an update on the Scottish Rugby governance structure, reflecting on the transition to the current model and the aim of improving transparency and trust between clubs and Scottish Rugby. He discussed how SRU was owned by member clubs, with SRL responsible for delivering professional and operational activity. The CRB's delegated responsibility for the domestic game was reinforced, including budget oversight.

##### Finance

Members approved a reforecast FY26 budget proposal which reallocated additional funds into three areas: increased travel payments to clubs, bridging gaps in Cashback programme funding, and establishing the Scottish Rugby Foundation. The process for managing future budget increases or decreases was discussed, including accrual and overspend scenarios.

The draft FY27 Club Rugby budget was presented for feedback, highlighting increased direct club and school funding, the establishment of the Foundation, replacement of Cashback programmes, additional women and girls roles, and match official investment. Members provided feedback on sponsorship, communications, match official costs, and income generation opportunities, ahead of final approval in June's Meeting.

##### Strategy

Updates were received on the State School Strategy and the Women & Girls Strategy. The State School programme was progressing positively, with planned expansion into new schools and leagues and stronger links to clubs. The Women & Girls Strategy work remained on track, with discussions focusing on sustainable growth, composite teams, scheduling considerations, and clearer success measures.

The Club Game Strategy Sub-Committee updated on progress with reviewing the first strategic pillar; Ignite Interest, focusing on: participation, retention, marketing effectiveness, and Development Officer impact, with next steps noted as reviewing the Evolve Experience pillar.

##### Rugby, Competitions and Pathways

Key rugby metrics showed positive growth in youth participation, stable adult male numbers, and a small decline in adult women's participation.

Competitions planning for the 2026/27 season was underway across all levels, with ongoing consultations with leagues and forums. Updates were provided on youth competitions, reserve leagues, women's competitions, and player movement guidance.



A review of the female pathway was noted, with planned structural changes to better integrate club, school and Inter-District rugby and improve player retention, particularly at U18 level.

### **People and Governance**

Members received an update on the independent governance review of the Scottish Rugby Referees' Association, which had been completed by SCOG and submitted to the SRU Custodian Board. The report was noted as informational only, with any actions to be determined by the SRRA.

### **President's Update and AOB**

The President highlighted positive engagement from his ongoing club visits and provided an update on the establishment of the Scottish Rugby Foundation, including trustee appointments and OSCR application progress.

### **AOB**

Discussions included:

- NCR consultations, with high levels of club feedback and draft revisions in progress. Members noted positive engagement meetings in the East and Borders regions and agreed further discussion on NCR frameworks.
- Community Game Conference: noting recently announces guest speakers
- Expansion of the Open Competition
- Members were reminded to complete mandatory cybersafe e-learning
- Opportunities to improve pro-player engagement with clubs and schools were discussed
- An update was also provided on the ongoing SCOG review of CRB governance, noting the process was slightly behind schedule.