



DEVELOPING CLUB INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Season 2026/27



FOREWARD

Dear Club Secretary,

I hope you and everyone involved with your club are well and looking forward to the season ahead.

We are pleased to introduce the Developing Clubs Investment Programme ahead of the 2026/27 Season. This season's fund will allow for continuity from last season with criteria designed to support clubs with minimum standards within Keeping the Game Safe, Good Player Experience and a Well Governed Game. It is also intended to enable continued progress in core areas of club development planning and coach development.

As we look forward to next season, this fund will be an engagement tool between clubs and regional teams, and we look forward to supporting you on your development.

The standards enclosed represent specific compliance and operational standards that your club should work to meet for season 2026/27. If your club meets the standards, it will receive up to a maximum funding amount of **£1,000** from Scottish Rugby at the end of season 2026/27 (payable in May 2027). With the focus for the season ahead on the following areas:

- Keeping the Game Safe
- Good Player Experience
- Well Governed Game

If your club wishes to be eligible for the Developing Clubs Investment Programme, please arrange for the Acceptance Form set out below to be signed by you and your Club President and return it to the Rugby Development Department at rugbydevelopmentadmin@sru.org.uk no later than 31 August 2026.

Yours sincerely

Gavin Scott

Director of Rugby Development

KEEPING THE GAME SAFE

The table below outlines the Keeping the Game Safe standards that all clubs must aspire to achieve throughout the 2026/27 season.

Scottish Rugby may follow up with clubs to check progress on and support clubs meet the standards below throughout the season. Criteria marked with a ☒ is monitored and must be evidenced through SCRUMS.

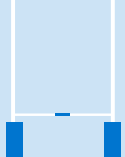
Failure to meet the standards may result in a reduction of participation investment at the end of the season.

 PLAYER WELFARE		
	Serious Injury Reporting	Clubs follow the Serious Injury reporting procedure, accessed here: Player Welfare Action Plan
	Concussion Management	Clubs follow the Concussion reporting procedures. Follow and actively promote the Return to Play protocols. Resources found here: Concussion Hub
	First Aid Cover & Equipment	For all Matches & Training, there must be: First Aid cover & equipment Access to a telephone Clear access for an ambulance More information can be found here: Player Welfare Action Plan
	Age Banding	Clubs must follow and promote Scottish Rugby Age Banding policies and process. Click here for Age Banding
 SAFEGUARDING		
	Safe Recruitment	100% of individuals in a regulated role must have the appropriate rugby PVG in place. This includes board/committee members who may not have direct contact with children but hold positions of power and influence over them. ☒ Clubs must follow safe recruitment practices Guidance and resources available here
	Safeguarding Officer	Any club with Youth activity must identify and appoint at least one Safeguarding Officer. They must be visible on club website/social media and registered on SCRUMS. ☒ Club must ensure SO performs Scottish Rugby's required safeguarding processes and procedures as outlined on Scottish Rugby website SO must complete required safeguarding training every 3 years, including Introduction to Adult Safeguarding e-learning module ☒
	Safeguarding Policies	Clubs must operate and have an easily accessible Safeguarding Policy visible via their website. Templates can be found here: Safeguarding Policy ☒ Newly appointed Committee/Board members should complete Scottish Rugby's Child Wellbeing & Protection in Sport e-learning module

EVOLVE PLAYER EXPERIENCE

The table below outlines the Evolve Player Experience standards that all clubs must aspire to achieve throughout the 2026/27 season.

Criteria marked with a ☒ is monitored and evidenced through SCRUMS. Failure to meet those standards may result in a reduction of participation investment at the end of the season.

 COACHING	
 Active Coaches	100% of Active Coaches (of contact rugby) are Qualified within 4-months of becoming active on SCRUMS ☒ 100% of Active Coaches are registered on SCRUMS
	100% of Active Coaches complete RugbyRight by 31 October 2026 ☒
 MATCH OFFICIALS	
 Active Match Officials	Clubs to submit referee information via the SCRUMS team sheet process upon completion of the fixture (new for season 2026/27)
 Contact Rugby Fixtures	All fixtures from S1 should be officiated by a qualified referee (minimum ITMO or equivalent)
	All qualified match officials complete RugbyRight by 31 October 2026

BUILDING CLUBS OF THE FUTURE

Club Development & Governance Standards

As part of the Club Investment Fund, we're asking Clubs to concentrate on a streamlined set of priorities that reflect the core principles of good governance and best practice. This refined focus is designed to ease the burden on volunteers while ensuring that Clubs are well-placed to grow and thrive in a sustainable way. The approach will be fully integrated with the support Clubs receive from Regional Teams through the established Club Development Planning and Transition & Retention processes.

8 PRINCIPLES OF GOOD DEVELOPMENT & GOVERNANCE STANDARDS



Structure

Clearly defined and allocated roles and responsibilities for Leaders and Volunteers promoting good governance and future proofing of the Club.



Policies & Procedures

Formal, visible documents accessible to membership and Scottish Rugby outlining how the Club operates.



Transparency & Communications

Open channels of communication informing members about decisions and objectives, committing to transparency in financial and operational matters.



Accountability

Mechanisms to ensure those in leadership positions are accountable for their actions and decisions.



Ethical Conduct

A commitment to upholding ethical (and where relevant, fiduciary) standards, including a visible set of values, diversity and inclusion.



Compliance

Adherence to relevant laws and regulations, including those related to SR's Governance and Investment policies, membership and employment.



Risk Management & Mitigation

Policies in place to protect Club Membership and identify and manage risks and liabilities (operational, financial, legal, safeguarding ect).



Whole Club Application

Min standards consistently applied across Club environments promoting and protecting the interests of adult and youth, male and female members.

BUILDING CLUBS OF THE FUTURE

The table below outlines the Clubs of the Future standards that all clubs must aspire to achieve throughout the 2026/27 season. Scottish Rugby may follow up with clubs to check progress on and support clubs meet the standards below throughout the season. Criteria marked with a tick is monitored and must be evidenced through SCRUMS. Failure to meet the standards may result in a reduction of participation investment at the end of the season.

Focus	Club Action	
Club Development Planning	Club Handbook Template ✓	Club Development Plan POAP Club Structure Leadership Structure Key Contacts Volunteer Structure On-field Offering (T&R) Facilities Provision EDI Alignment Club Membership Information Key Club Policy List Volunteer Progression Community Engagement Club Communication Channels
	Rugby Matters Workshops	Supporting their Club Development Planning journey, Clubs should identify and attend, where appropriate, relevant Rugby Matters Workshops addressing key outcomes and challenges highlighted through the process Rugby Matters Workshops Club Governance Club Finance and Sustainability Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Marketing and Communications Positive Pitchside Behaviours Positive Conflict Management Legal Structure & Good Governance Club Sponsorship *Full list of available courses can be found HERE
Governance Standards	Club Legal Status Audited/Independently Secured Accounts	Legal compliance protecting and supporting Club Leaders/decision-makers Procedures & practices are in place evidencing oversight decision-making, processing and independent security of accounts?

FAO: Admin team
Rugby Development
Scottish Rugby Limited
Company Number SC132061
Scottish Gas Murrayfield
Edinburgh
EH12 5PJ

Date as postmarked

Dear Scottish Rugby,

We confirm that our Club has read and understands the terms of Scottish Rugby's **Developing Club Investment Programme** for season 2026/27.

Our Club understands and accepts that the receipt of investment, benefits and support from Scottish Rugby during season 2026/27 is dependent upon our Club complying with the terms of Scottish Rugby's **Developing Club Investment Programme** and that failure to do so may result in Scottish Rugby, at its discretion, exercising its right to withhold the available funding.

Club Name

President's Name

President's Signature

Date

Secretary's Name

Secretary's Signature

Date

Data Protection

To the extent that any information provided to us constitutes 'personal data' Scottish Rugby will use and process that information in accordance with its privacy policy, which can be found at scottishrugby.org/privacy-policy.

The information you provide us will be held on file, which may be paper and/or electronic. We will use this information to process applications and grants, to prepare statistics and to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of investments.



SCOTTISH RUGBY

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