



President's Report Newfoundland and Labrador Rugby Union

Prepared by: John Cowan

June 25, 2020

Introduction:

Our AGM would typically be held in the end of winter, signaling the beginning of a new rugby season. This year, of course, things have been very different. Because of the health pandemic we have all been asked to do things differently. Like all sports rugby has been working to find a way through to give people an opportunity to play while fully abiding by the regulations and requirements set out by the Chief Medical Officer in our province.

Certificate of Conduct and Vulnerable Sector Check

All coaches and anyone who works with junior age players must have a certificate of conduct, which must be on file with the NRU. These certificates are considered good for two years. The Union does not sanction any coach or anyone in a position of trust with junior players that does not have this one file.

This process is now online: <https://www.rnc.gov.nl.ca/services/certificate-of-conduct/> . A volunteer letter is available so there is no cost for having this completed. Having reviewed the certificates, everyone should fill out the online forms and have this completed in the very near future.

Code of Conduct

We will continue to highlight the importance of the Code of Conduct. Anyone who is registered with the Union must be aware of the expectations of the Union when they represent rugby. It is important that all players read the Code. This is found on the Rugby Canada registration page. In addition to our Code of Conduct, we have the Recognition and Prevention of Abuse policy, which is readily available on the website.

Rugby Canada

- **Rugby Canada AGM** – The Rugby Canada AGM has been set for July 30, 2020. RC has a special AGM to set its dues on June 25, 2020.

2019

We saw many positive things happen in 2019 with fine play in the club, high school and provincial levels, with the CRCU19 Rock of particular note taking home the national championship. While we have been working hard to grow our sport, continue to have outstanding coaches and volunteers, we are facing a difficult period until we can return to full contact rugby. We were all disappointed that the Vandals RFC were unable to field teams in 2019, but the NLRU is committed, as are the Vandals to helping them have a solid footing so we can return to a 4 club league. We were optimistic leading into 2020 with opportunities surrounding games against St. Pierre et Miquelon, interest by the University, growing minis, the return of the Vandals, and the growth of Rugby in Corner Brook as well as interest in other parts of the province such as Happy Valley Goose Bay. We also were looking forward to various tours, tournaments, and national and regional championships. With the global pandemic, we like all sports have to revisit how we do things.

2020

To date, the NRU has met several times in preparation for returning to some form of play. To do this, our clubs have been working to secure personal protective equipment.

The NRU submitted its Return to Play plan to SportNL, and were approved for play in level 3, as a no contact sport.

Today, recognizing that the season is very different, the NRU will set dues. This is an important step in preparing to open the online registration system. The NRU has actively been discussing with Rugby Canada what their dues structure will be so that we can move forward.

We will have a participant waiver form from Rugby Canada, which will be standard across the country.

While Rugby Canada has developed a national Return to Play approach, we as a provincial body must make sure that we adhere to the requirements set out by the province's Chief Medical Officer. Understanding what can occur in level 2 versus level 3 will be very important.

We must ensure that we take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety of players when they come to the field. Something we will be able to give to players so they are aware, as well as coaches and volunteers.

While this is a difficult time, not only for our sport, but many others we must support the development of rugby, but must do so with a clear adherence to safe practices that

minimizes contact, follows provincial guidelines and keeps our players, coaches, and volunteers safe.

John Cowan
President, NRU 19/20
June 25, 2020