

Communication to member clubs on behalf of the Scottish Rugby Council and Scottish Rugby Board in connection with AGM Motions – 19 July 2021

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**Scottish Rugby**  
Clubs & Schools Communications

Date of issue:

**19 July 2021**

## Scottish Rugby President and Chairman's update

Dear Club Office Bearer/Member

We hope you and yours are well and that preparations are continuing apace for the most welcome return of competitive rugby action at your club in September.

We write to you today following the meeting last week of the Scottish Rugby Council to share the views of both the Council and Scottish Rugby Board around the three motions that have been tabled by member clubs for the Union's AGM on Saturday 14 August.

No doubt consideration of these motions will be part of the agenda at club committee meetings over the next few days and weeks. As such, we feel it incumbent upon us, to share with you the views of your elected representatives and members of the Board and we will be in further contact around potential amendments to two of these motions shortly.

The three motions can be viewed on the Scottish Rugby website. You can see the motions by following this link [HERE](#).

**GHA motion:**

The Scottish Rugby Board and Council are happy to confirm that they welcome an Inter District tournament at levels below Super6, if that is what you, our member clubs, want.

We believe that should be dealt with through the normal season structure consultation process led by the Council, with the option of an Inter-District tournament being considered. We have set out the reasons why we consider such a tournament being a replacement for Super6 would not be in the best interests of ensuring we have a player development pathway in place.

Super6 franchises are in place under legal agreement until the end of Season 2023/24 and Super6 forms part of our High-Performance strategy that was unanimously approved by the Board and endorsed by the Council earlier this year. Part of that strategy emphasises the role of Super6 in forming the bridge between the amateur and professional game and nurturing the Scotland and pro-team players of tomorrow. It's also important to note that funding for Super6 comes from the High-Performance budget. It is not funded from the budget for the Community game.

In its first year Super6 had a truncated season due to COVID-19. However, there were many positives that could be taken from the season including improved game quality, tighter overall competition, increased attendances, sponsorship acquisition and broadcast coverage. Already additional broadcast coverage has been achieved for the second iteration of Super6 beginning at the end of this month.

For those reasons, an amendment will be circulated.

#### **Glasgow Hawks motion:**

There are two elements to this motion:

Firstly, we readily acknowledge the importance and value of transparency over use of Government grant and loan proceeds, and, as has always been our intention, we are pleased to confirm to member clubs that we are eager and willing to itemise expenditure.

We are also pleased to acknowledge, once again, our gratitude to the Scottish Government for the funding that will enable member clubs to restart the game we love when we come out of the pandemic.

Secondly, relating to the request in the motion for guarantees not to spend money from the Government support directly or indirectly on non-Scottish qualified players (whether by Scottish Rugby or clubs, or both), we have obtained external legal advice that should this be implemented it would be capable of being discriminatory behaviour under various aspects of the Equality Act 2010 and in consequence, unlawful, which could, in turn, lead to significant financial detriment and reputational damage to the Union. Although we are sure this was an unintended consequence, this part of the motion has to be opposed by the Council and Board. We will put forward a simple amendment which, if accepted, would resolve that difficulty by deleting the second part of the motion only and leave the first part intact.

#### **Haddington motion:**

The Council and Board oppose this motion.

The operational efficiency and financial cost of any executive function is properly the responsibility of the Board. Council has the right to oversee the activities of the Board but as the Dunlop report clearly states, it is the Board that is accountable for the running of the business.

Clearly if the Council or the Standing Committee on Governance are minded to look to change matters then the Governance Review is the logical and appropriate forum to air these views.

Based on the current activity of our legal and secretariat function in supporting the entire organisation, the overall increase in costs could easily reach £1.5 million to £2 million per year if this motion were to be enacted and such services thereafter provided externally. The potential costs of the alternative approach contemplated by the motion would not be in the best commercial interests of Scottish Rugby or you, our member clubs.

Furthermore, this motion is counter to our collective values and the duty of pastoral care to all Scottish Rugby employees, which we know you rightly expect Scottish Rugby's Board and Council to take very seriously.

For the above reasons, we will resist this motion.

Should you have any views or questions on the motions, please contact your Council representative who will be happy to hear from you.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we look forward to being in touch again soon and seeing you in person during the forthcoming season.

**Ian Barr**  
Scottish Rugby President

**John Jeffrey**  
Scottish Rugby Chairman

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Ian Barr' and the signature on the right is 'John Jeffrey'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

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