

Scottish Rugby & Rugby Players Scotland Joint Statement

As the country continues to fight Coronavirus and the resulting closedown of rugby and all sport, Scotland's top rugby players' salaries may be reduced for five months.

This follows discussions between Scottish Rugby and Rugby Players Scotland (RPS), the players' association.



Scotland v England – Women's 6 Nations

The proposed salary reductions reflect the challenging financial situation facing rugby in Scotland, across the UK and the world. Scottish Rugby revenues are being affected as match day receipts from the PRO14 and EPCR tournament fixtures ended and other income generating activity has been interrupted.

The Scotland national team men's Summer Tour to South Africa and New Zealand are in doubt. There is uncertainty over the Autumn Tests at BT Murrayfield. This combination of factors will have a significant impact on Scottish Rugby revenues.

The salary reductions discussed cover all contracted Scottish Rugby players earning more than £50,000 a year. Subject to the outcome of consultation with players affected, these player salaries will be reduced by 10-25% from 1 April to 1 September 2020 depending on the scale of pay.



Edinburgh v Agen – ERCC

Players from Glasgow Warriors, Edinburgh Rugby, Scotland 7s, Stage 3 Scottish Rugby Academy and Scotland Women 2021 contracted players will be furloughed under the UK Government's Job Retention Scheme designed to help support any organisation with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Scottish Rugby's Director of Performance, Jim Mallinder said: "We are in unprecedented circumstances and one of the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic is that all rugby has ceased both domestically, internationally and professionally.

“This has had a significant impact on Scottish Rugby, as it has on others involved in the game and other sports.



Scotland v France – U20 6 nations

“Together, Scottish Rugby and Rugby Players Scotland have recognised that we need to take appropriate measures as a result of this. This approach will allow us to protect our players and the organisation as much as possible through this uncertain period. This is a rapidly changing picture.

We will continue our positive dialogue with RPS to assess what we need to do to protect our sport, our people and the rugby community.”

RPS Interim Chief Executive Bill Mitchell said: “Along with all other national player associations RPS is very concerned about the uncertainty surrounding our sport internationally.

“We have worked hard over the last few weeks to find ways of achieving long term sustainability of employment for our members without impacting on incomes, however we now acknowledge that the growing difficulty of implementing a realistic timetable for restarting global competition makes

that goal impossible to achieve.



Stewart's Melville v Preston Lodge – National League Cup

“Reluctantly, therefore, we are forced to conclude that the actions announced on Monday by Scottish Rugby represent a reasonable way to protect the long-term employment of our membership, while addressing the immediate financial challenges facing the sport in Scotland.”