

Invitational Message

from Jon Dutton, Chief Executive, Rugby League World Cup 2021

February 28, 2019

Dear AGES Members

The Rugby League World Cup (RLWC2021) will head back to England in 2021. It will be a breakthrough moment in the sport's history with the men's, women's and wheelchair tournaments being staged simultaneously for the first time.



The three tournaments will take place across 21 venues throughout England. The venues, which were announced in January this year, work their way around the country from St James' Park in Newcastle for the men's opening ceremony, to Liverpool where the city will host the Wheelchair final at the M&S Bank Arena and the women's opening ceremony at Anfield, whilst the sport will also go to the Emirates Stadium in London for the men's semi-final, the first sport other than football to play at the stadium. The women's and men's tournaments will close the five weeks of the competition with a double header final at Old Trafford.

Both the women's and wheelchair competitions will be contested by two groups of four teams whilst the men's tournament will see 16 teams compete across four groups. 11 teams have already qualified for the men's tournament, with Jamaica the most recent nation to secure their place to RLWC2021, the first time they have qualified for the World

Cup. The remaining five nations will be confirmed later this year with the draws for each tournament taking place in November 2019.

RLWC2021 will be the most visible global rugby league event in history with all 31 games in the men's competition being broadcast live on the BBC and every second of the women's and wheelchair competitions free to watch online.

With over two years to go, the tournament has already made significant strides to deliver their aim to organise the biggest and best ever Rugby League World Cup. As well as the host announcements in January, the tournament recently announced their legacy programme, InspirationALL 2021, which consists of three core pillars:

1. EmpoweredBy RLWC2021 – the volunteer programme where an energetic and welcoming workforce will be recruited across each community in the host regions to help make the tournament a success.
2. CreatedBy2021 – the facilities programme where £10million of funding will be given back to the community in large- and small-scale grants – from kit and equipment to new club houses, this will deliver a real tangible legacy
3. InspiredBy RLWC2021 – a wider range of activities that links the tournament to initiatives including dance, choir, culture, public health, trade, education, literacy and much more. Within the InspiredBy programme is the International Development Programme, which is partnered with the RLIF and UK Sport with the aim of sharing knowledge in the sport and promoting trade between nations. Last year saw the team visit the Netherlands and Papua New Guinea to deliver a series of workshops and this year the team is planning trips to Jamaica, South America, Africa and Europe.

For more information and to receive ticket alerts, sign up to the newsletter here to be the first to know <https://www.rlwc2021.com/get-involved/sign-me-up>

The above is a first and general information about our event. Later on in 2019 we will contact AGES to inform about the procurement program and the suppliers' engagement procedure.

Sincerely yours,

JON DUTTON
Chief Executive
Rugby League World Cup 2021

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