

Our League Life National Hub – Operating & Event Management Statement

The OLL Hub provides an opportunity for the RFL to utilise its strengths in northern communities and act as a vehicle for positive social mobility. The OLL Hub will celebrate, expand and roll out existing good practice in Rugby League communities across the north of England, adding value, and providing coordination. It provides a place for training in all aspects of the game from ground staff, media through to sports science. It will also be used by the national teams on occasions for training purposes. The OLL Hub is first and foremost a training centre comprising classrooms, seminar rooms, ancillary offices, flexible conferencing space and workspace and an ancillary café / kitchen. It also includes ancillary changing facilities and a 900-seat spectator stand overlooking the existing rugby pitch.

The Proposed Development will be used for the following operations:

- On-pitch and off-pitch training and seminars;
- The pitch will be used by three types of user groups: An RFL community (amateur) club; England Men's and Youth and Women's Teams for occasional training; The East Manchester Academy; and Occasional events, such as youth tournaments for ages 7 -19.
- Presentation evenings and community events in the main function room which will have a capacity of up to 200

'Business As Usual' Operating Parameters

The operational parameters below are the 'likely operations'. As such, they have been outlined to provide an indication and are not exhaustive.

Weekdays: Mon - Friday

In steady state operation OLL Hub will host 150 FTE 16-21 year old learners on weekdays during term time. Additionally there may be c.40 adult learners or players using the seminar facilities during the day time and up to 25 staff members. It is expected that most will use the on site catering facilities. In the evenings the centre may be home to a Rugby League training with either a local community club or England Men/Womens team using the pitch and changing facilities. Overall normal operating hours will be 8.30am until 9.00pm with occasional community match use to 9.30pm.

The pitch will be in use a maximum of 2 or 3 evenings per week on either a weekend or weekday, which will be its playing capacity allowing for normal wear and tear and assuming good grounds maintenance.

Weekends

At weekends, during the Rugby League Season (late March until early October) there could be matches played on either Saturday or Sunday afternoon. This will mean 34 players plus coaching staff and spectators/supporters of up to 200. There could also be occasional evening matches (maximum 4 per year) with a 7.30pm kick off meaning the pitch would be in use until 9.30pm

Floodlights

The floodlights are proposed to be used during darker hours when the pitch will be in use.

Access

As identified in the Transport Assessment, OLL Hub is easily accessed by a range of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling, bus, Metrolink and rail. 50 cycle parking spaces are also planned as part of the development for making cycles secure and covered. The RFL will promote sustainable transport options to both its students and its staff. A Travel Plan is submitted in support of this application, which details the measures proposed to encourage people to travel to the site using active and sustainable modes of transport.

Event Management Operating Parameters

The OLL Hub is not suitable and will NOT be used for professional matches. However, on occasion there may be community level events such as local finals or youth tournaments. These are not expected to exceed 10 per year and will be at weekends taking a full day and stretching into the evening to around 7pm. On such occasions, there could be peak point during the event when the stand could potentially be filled to capacity and with additional teams there may be up to 1000 people on site although a more likely occupancy is around 80% (800 people).

Many of these will be youth players and therefore there is unlikely to be substantial trip generation.

Such events are likely to have teams arriving and leaving at different times during the day, including within coaches, thus avoiding major peak arrival and departure hotspots. The forecast is outlined in the Transport Assessment including the arrangement for coach drop off and for access for emergency vehicles.

The RFL will ensure that there are appropriate car park marshalling and event stewarding arrangements. Indeed, as Event Management will be part of the training curriculum offered at OLL then every event will be used as a training and learning opportunity for students.

Deliveries and Waste Management proposals are also covered in the Transport Assessment.

Partnering in the Etihad CPZ

The Etihad Campus infrastructure obviously has to cope with major sporting events on a regular basis during the football season and MCC and City Football Group partners have made clear of the importance of crowd and traffic management in the area on match days. The RFL is absolutely committed to being a partner alongside other stakeholders in the CPZ currently under preparation and due for introduction in Summer 2023 just as OLL is opening. The RFL will commit to ensuring that its own events calendar for OLL will be planned to avoid conflict with match days so as to eliminate the potential for additional local traffic.