

SEASON 2007/2008

Rules to be applied to BBO leagues, Level 8 and below:

The English Clubs Championship rules will apply to all Berks Bucks and Oxon leagues with the exception of the following additions/revisions to the rules:

Appendix 2 C (was regulation 7) Promotion and relegation (requires when one league supports one league the top two teams will be promoted, when two leagues feed one, the team finishing first will be promoted and the teams in second place will play off for a third promotion place). That not more than one team from a club can play at the same level at any one time (this may cause a knock on effect within a club if the higher team is relegated into the same level as a lower team. In which case the lower team will also be relegated. If a higher team is relegated and a lower team was eligible for promotion into the same level the lower team will be denied promotion). **Only 1st XV's can be promoted above level 8.** The final decision regarding promotion and relegation will rest with the BBO league organising committee.

Section B Regulation 16.1.5 (was regulation 8.2) (requires all games to be played on a 'home' and 'away' basis). This will not apply in the case of 'tied institutions' eg *Aylesbury Athletic, who would only be able to play at 'home'.

Section B Regulation 12.1 (was regulation 9.1) (requires only 'clubs' to be eligible to play in the ECC (8.4 requires ...strongest possible 1st XV)). **At level 8 and below** 2/3/4th or lower XVs of clubs already playing in the ECC, will be eligible to be included. Such teams will be known by their Club name and numbered 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th etc. The level, at which a team may enter the BBO leagues will be decided by the BBO league organising committee.

Section B Regulation 13.1 (was regulation 9.2.1) (requires all players to be registered). This will not apply to 2/3/4th XVs.

Section A Regulation 7 (was regulation 11.3) (only allows clubs below level 4 to have not more than three replacements/substitutes). **At level 9 and below**, teams will be allowed extra replacements/substitutes (up to seven replacements/substitutes, current IRB laws), provided both teams have the same number available. (Teams are encouraged to even up the number of players available on each side at the start of the game.)

Section A Regulation 7.3 (was regulations 11.5 and 11.7) (require teams to have suitable replacements, for front row players, in the event of injury or dismissal). – **At level 9 and below**, provided the teams start the game with suitable front row players, even if the game goes to 'uncontested scrums', the result at final whistle will stand. However, if a team is unable to maintain contested scrums until half time the non-offending team will be awarded **five** match points which the referee will include, when marking the match card, with the final result. It is **the result on the match card** that will be taken as final for league administration purposes – Teams must ensure the referee includes these points, **as no appeal will be allowed on this matter.**

Extra Regulation – BBO Leagues only – In the event of a Club having more than one team in the ECC the higher team will always have priority over a lower side regarding the playing of fixtures. If for example, a 2nd XV cancels a game, citing lack of players, and the 3rd XV, from the same club, fulfils it's fixture, the League Secretary will have discretion to set aside the result of the 3rd XV game and award a nil-nil win to the 3rd XV opposition. The 2nd XV will automatically have two points deducted for not fulfilling it's fixture.

Warning: The only acceptable reason for not fulfilling a fixture is if the pitch is deemed dangerous to play on and no alternative pitch is available. **Penalty:** - Failing to fulfil a fixture for any other reason is an automatic two point deduction for the offending team. The non-offending team will be awarded a nil-nil win.

Important Note: **Section B Regulation 20** Notification of match results, This regulation will be enforced at all levels within the BBO Leagues eg all players and replacements must be entered on the match card.

Berks, Bucks and Oxon Leagues Organising Committee
13 August 2007