

Season 2017/18: Berks Bucks and Oxon (BBO) League Regulations

Rules to be applied to BBO Leagues (Level 8 and below)

The RFU Regulations, Definitions (Regulation 1) and English Clubs Championship (ECC) Regulations (Regulation 13) will apply to all Berks, Bucks and Oxon (BBO) Leagues, save for the following exceptions, amendments and clarifications

1/ Eligible Clubs:

At Level 8 and below 2nd/3rd/4th or lower teams of Clubs whose 1st XV are 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 etc. The decision on the level at which these teams enter the ECC, is delegated by the RFU South West Divisional Organising Committee to the BBO League Organising Committee

2/ Effective Registration

There will be no requirement for players to hold Effective Registration when playing for 2nd/3rd/4th XV's playing in the Leagues BBO1, BBO2, BBO3, and BBO 4N & 4S.

3/ Guest/Loaning players

At Level 9 and below (including BBO Championship) teams will be allowed to have up to 4 (four) guest players in their match day squad, providing that:

- * The Guest Player(s) does not hold (and has not previously held in the same Season) Effective Registration for any Club, whose 1st XV plays at Level 8 and above.
- * The Guest Player(s) are clearly marked on the match result card with an asterisk, together with the date of birth of the player and the name of any club of which he is a member of. If the Guest Player is unattached to a Club, this must also be stated on the match result card.
- * A Guest Player(s) may only make four guest appearances in one season.
- * No Guest Players will be allowed after the transfer deadline on 23rd February 2018

In BBO 3 and BBO4N & 4S leagues, teams which do not have a fixture or have had their fixture cancelled, are encouraged to loan their player(s) to another team as Guest Player(s) in an effort to ensure that players enjoy games rather than be disappointed.

4/ Minimum Number of Players

At Level 9 and below (including BBO Championship), a team may start a match with a minimum of 12 players. The opposition are encouraged to even the numbers up, should they have a full side, but there is no obligation to do so. However, teams may not start a match with more than a one player advantage on the pitch. This regulation will not apply in the event of a yellow or red card.

If a team has reduced numbers, but twelve or more players (which includes three players capable of playing in the front row in accordance with BBO Regulation 5A), it is entitled to insist that the game is played and the opposition team must play the fixture with a team of not more than one player more than that with reduced numbers.

Irrespective of numbers, the match must start with contested scrums, (unless BBO Regulation 5B applies)

5/ Front Row Requirements

- A. In all BBO League matches, clubs are required to start each match with a suitably trained and competent front row, unless otherwise advised to the referee in advance of a match starting. Clubs, not the Match Referee, are responsible for ensuring all front row players are suitably trained and competent.
- B. At Level 8 and below (including BBO Premiership & Championship), a team that is unable to start a match with suitably trained and competent front row players, will forfeit the match, but it will not be deducted League points, if the match takes place as a friendly. However, irrespective of points scored in that game for official league purposes the result will be deemed as a 0-0 win for the non-offending team. This must be recorded on the match result card by the referee and Club officials.
- C At Level 9 and below (including BBO Championship), in the event of the match going to uncontested scrums, after the start of the match, the result at the final whistle will stand.

Note: The only acceptable reason for not fulfilling a fixture is if a pitch is deemed unfit to use and no alternative is available. Failing to fulfil a fixture for any other reason is an automatic five point deduction for the offending team with the non-offending team awarded a nil-nil win.

6/ Replacements/Substitutes

At Level 9 and below, teams will be allowed unlimited replacements/substitutes above the normal three (3) permitted, to a maximum of seven (7). However, a fourth or subsequent replacement will only be allowed to participate in the game if the opposition team has the same agreed number available. In the event one team does not have additional replacements then the other is encouraged to lend players to even up the number of players available to each team at the start of the game. If no agreement can be reached to even up the number of replacements, only THREE replacements will be allowed per team.

RFU Game Regulation 13.5.11c will apply to all BBO League matches as will RFU Game Regulation 13.5.14 – 21 with regard to Rolling Substitutions. Further information is available on www.swrugby.co.uk. However in BBO3 & BBO4N & BBO4S, unlimited interchanges will be allowed. All interchanges must be carried out with the knowledge/permission of the match referee when there is a break in play, and must take place at the half-way line.

7/ Match Result Cards

This regulation will be enforced at all levels within the BBO Leagues.

A With exception of BBO 4 North and BBO4 South, the names of all players and replacements, as they appear on the Club's RFU registered Players list, must be entered on the correct match result card and posted onto the South West Administration Office without delay.

B In BBO 4 North & South leagues only, EMCs will be used. Each team will need log onto www.swrugby.co.uk and complete the shortened version of the card. Only names of Guest Players must be entered on the card, (not the names of full team) together with other match information, as required. The EMC must be completed and submitted by no later than 12.00 midnight of the Monday following the match, by both teams. The home team are still required to telephone in the match result, by no later than 5.30pm on a Saturday.

Please remember teams need to notify their League Secretary & the Admin Office of any match postponement by no later than 3.30pm on match day.

8/ Promotion and Relegation.

Not more than one team from the same Club can play in the same League at any time.

This may cause a knock-on effect within a Club, if a higher placed team is relegated into the same league as the lower team. In this case, the lower team shall also be relegated. If a higher team is relegated and a lower team was eligible for promotion into the same League, the lower team will not only be denied promotion, but be relegated into a lower league. A lower team will be denied promotion into the same League as a higher team, from the same Club.

To ensure as even a spread of fixtures as possible and in an attempt to make the leagues at BBO 2 and below, as equitable as possible for both playing standard and travel, all decisions regarding promotion and relegation will rest with the BBO League Organising Committee, who have delegated powers from the South West Divisional Organising Committee.

9/ Extra Regulations for BBO Leagues only;

A) In the event of a Club having more than one team in the ECC, the higher teams match will always take precedence over the lower side. Therefore, if a 2nd XV cancels a fixture and the 3rd XV from the same Club fulfils it fixture, the League Secretary will have the

discretion to set aside the result of the 3rd XV fixture and award a nil-nil win to the 3rd XV opposition. The 2nd XV will automatically have five points deducted for failing to fulfil its fixture.

- B) In the event that a Club having played its “home” fixture in the League fails to honour its “away” fixture against the same opposition the League Secretary may in his absolute discretion in addition to any other sanction that may be imposed require that Club to play both of its fixtures “away” against the Club against whom it failed to honour the fixture in the following season (2018/2019)
- C) Teams that fail to fulfil 25% of their scheduled League fixtures will have their results expunged from the records and be placed at the bottom of their League, in addition to any other sanction that may be imposed.
- D) The BBO League Organising Committee reserves the right to decline re-admission to any League, and may recommend to the South West Divisional Organising Committee (from which it has delegated powers) that any teams which fail to fulfil 25% of their scheduled fixtures, in consecutive seasons, should be expelled from the English Club Championship system.
- E) Teams that have had their results expunged may re-apply to re-enter the following season, subject to approval by both their Constituent Body and the BBO League Organising Committee. Teams will have the right to seek a Review of any decision to decline re-admission, to the South West Organising Committee (without the right of an oral hearing unless such right is agreed by the South West Organising Committee), in writing within 14 days of being informed of such a decision and have a right of appeal thereafter under RFU Regulation 13.10.19 provided that such right of appeal is exercised within 7 days of notification of the outcome of the Review..
- F) Any Club or team that voluntarily withdraws from the BBO Leagues may re-apply to the BBO Leagues Committee for consideration for re-admission for the following season. This submission must be supported by that club’s or team’s Constituent Body

Special Note: These regulations are designed with the intention to enable more players to get competitive Rugby. For the avoidance of doubt, any queries relating to these regulations should be taken up with your League Secretary, and NOT your match referee.