

NATIONAL CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP
DE-REGULATION FOR DORSET & WILTS RFU LEAGUES LEVELS 8 to 10
FOR THE SEASON 2007/2008

The following changes are authorised to the League Regulations as set out in the Game Regulations contained in the RFU Handbook for 2006/07 for clubs in the Dorset & Wilts leagues. (Subsequent issues of that handbook may amend the references in this appendix.)

1. **Structure.**

- 1.1. Regulation (A) 3 (a) of Appendix 2 will not apply in that there may be more than two lower Leagues supporting one or more higher leagues.
- 1.2. In order to enable players to play a game on a regular basis who might otherwise be prevented by weakness in a club's playing strength then any two clubs may nominate a joint (composite) team for entry in the Relevant Leagues. This team may contain players registered for either club but must be members of one or the other. That team will not be able to play in the same league as either parent club or at the same or higher level. One club must take responsibility for administration and discipline.

2. **Principles of Promotion and Relegation.**

- 2.1. Regulation (C) of Appendix 2 governs the promotion of teams where two Leagues support one League. Although there are two leagues at Level 8 in the Dorset & Wilts Leagues they are not all composed of eligible teams and so promotion will be limited as if there were only one league, ie only two Club First XV's will be eligible for promotion from level 8. If a team at the top of a Level 8 league is eligible then it will be promoted, otherwise the Dorset & Wilts RFU Competitions Committee may nominate eligible teams for promotion taking into account the principles of Regulation (C) or order play offs in accordance with Regulation (D) in order to establish which eligible teams should be nominated for promotion.
- 2.2. In the event that the structure of the Relevant Leagues includes two leagues supported by three based on geographic division then the top two highest placed teams of each of the three leagues, if eligible for promotion, will be promoted and up to three lowest placed teams from each of the two leagues above will be relegated. The Dorset & Wilts RFU Competitions Committee will then redistribute teams using the level transfer principles in Regulation (E).

3. **Eligibility and Player Registration.**

- 3.1. Game Regulation 13 requires all players to be registered. In the Dorset & Wilts Leagues only players selected to represent Club First XV's and all players selected for teams in Level 8 (Dorset & Wilts 1) will be required to have effective registration subject to the latitude that Game Regulation 13 permits selection of up to two players without Effective Registration at Level 9 or below in accordance with the provisos in that paragraph. In Dorset & Wilts leagues this will be permitted at level 8. They cannot play a second time without having been registered.
- 3.2. Players registered for one club may not play for another at any level except under the specific circumstances of a composite team as per paragraph 1.2.3 above. It is emphasised that all teams have to list their team by name on a Match Report Card and only bona fide members of the club may represent the club at any level. Students at FE College or University may play for their club during a break from their studies, subject to the limits in 3.1 above.
- 3.3. In the event that a significant number of players registered for a 1st or 2nd XV are nominated to play for a 3rd or 4th XV then the League Secretary may request an explanation and award a points penalty if he is not satisfied with the answer.

- 3.4. In the event that a higher XV of a club does not have a fixture and a lower team is fielded in the Relevant Leagues and wins its match then there will be grounds for appeal to the League Secretary to review the result if it is suspected that a significant number of players from a higher level team have been fielded. In particular if a team defaults in the league and the club has a lower team in a league that plays and wins on the same day then that lower team may be deemed by the League Secretary to have played and lost, a Nil Nil score being returned. The circumstances of each such concession will be examined by the League Secretary.

Comment: If the problem is in fielding a front row and safety is an issue then clubs should field a XV without a full front row thereby conceding the game and playing uncontested but by playing it they do not lose points nor endanger the lower teams result.

4. **Replacements and Front Rows.** At Level 8 in the Dorset & Wilts leagues Game Regulation 7 applies fully but below Level 8 requirements for replacements and front rows will be de-regulated. The following will apply:
- 4.1. The lowest or only team in a club does not have to have three replacements nor is it limited to three.
 - 4.2. For a match to be valid a team must start with a front row capable of playing the fixture but if no suitably trained and experienced player is available to substitute in the event of injury, temporary suspension or dismissal then the match will continue with uncontested scrums for the period necessary and the result will stand.
 - 4.3. If a team is unable to contest the first scrum of a match before any injuries have occurred to a front row player - ie they started the match without a front row - then the match is forfeit but no league points will be deducted as long as a match takes place. (Penalty points will be deducted if a team fails to fulfil a league fixture.)
 - 4.4. In the event that a team has caused matches to be played with uncontested scrums continuing up to the final whistle and has gained more than 4 league points (two wins) in such circumstances then the League Secretary can decide not to award any further points for that team as a consequence of winning subsequent matches played with uncontested scrums.

Notes

1. *Players may be loaned to ensure a game is played or continued with contested scrums and the result will stand.*
2. *Level 8 matches will require adherence to the usual Regulations for replacements and front row replacement, ie at least one front row replacement must be available in the nominated team.*