



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION ENGLISH MENS LEAGUES



COUNTIES 3 TRIBUTE DEVON - NORTH & EAST & SOUTH & WEST LEAGUES



De-Regulations for 2023 / 2024 Season

The RFU Regulations, Definitions (Regulation 1) and English Men's Leagues (EML) Regulations (Regulation 6) will apply to all clubs playing in the RFU English Men's Leagues.

In addition, clubs are bound by the Southwest Administration Instructions which lays down procedures relating to the method of submitting registrations / reporting results / postponements / submitting Electronic Match Cards (EMC) and the appeal procedures.

The following exceptions, amendments and clarifications will only apply to clubs playing in the Counties 3 Tribute Devon North & East & Counties 3 Tribute Devon South & West Leagues of the RFU English Men's Leagues.

1. **Unregistered Players.**
 - a) All players must be registered with their club in accordance with the "Player Registration Regulations" with the exception that up to 2 unregistered players may be allowed to play in their match day squad providing that:
 - b) The player is not registered with another club, if the player is registered with another club, they will not be considered an unregistered player therefore will not be able to play in the match day squad.
 - c) The unregistered player is clearly marked on the Electronic Match Card (EMC).
 - d) Any unregistered player may only make 3 appearances in one season without being registered.
 - e) No unregistered players will be allowed to play after the player transfer deadline.
2. **Lower XV's Team.**
 - a) Clubs are expected to act within the spirit of the game and uphold the RFU's core value of sportsmanship, therefore, clubs must not deliberately strengthen their 2nd XVs with regular 1st XV players.
 - b) This could occur when the club's 1st XV does not have a match, but the club's 2nd XV has a league match.
 - c) If it is suspected that a club has fielded regular 1st XV squad players, then the matter will be investigated by the League Secretary if proven then a sanction could be applied if justified and allowed within the regulations.
3. **Minimum Number of Players.**
 - a) A team may start a League match with a minimum of 12 players. The opposition are encouraged to even the numbers up, should they have a full side, however they have no obligation to do so, teams may not start a match with more than a one player advantage on the pitch.
 - b) If a team concedes a match but still enables a game to be played then no league points will be deducted from the offending team. For example, if a team is unable to field full a team or contest the first scrum of a match before any injuries have occurred to a front row player - i.e., they started the match without a front row - then the match is forfeit but no league points will be deducted from the offending team as long as a game takes place the non-offending team will be awarded 5 points.
 - c) If a Counties 3 Tribute Devon League North & East or Counties 3 Tribute Devon League South & West match is cancelled for any reason other than weather, the non-offending team will be awarded 5 league points with the result being recorded as a 0-0 win.
 - d) This de-regulation (3) does not apply in the event of any player receiving a red or yellow card during the game.
 - e) Clubs must inform the SW Admin Office and the Counties 3 Tribute Devon North & East or Counties 3 Tribute Devon South & West League Secretary before 3.30pm on the day of the match, irrespective

of the reason for the cancellation.

4. **Front-Row Replacements**

- a) Clubs are required to start each match with a suitably trained and competent front row, unless otherwise advised by the referee in advance of the match starting. It is the responsibility of the clubs and not the match referee for ensuring that all front row players are suitably trained and competent.
- b) If a team is unable to start a match with a suitably trained and competent front row, it will forfeit the match but will not be deducted any league points if the match is played as a friendly. However irrespective of the points scored in the match the match will be recorded as 0 – 0. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 league points.
- c) In the event of a match moving to uncontested scrums after the start of the match the offending team will have to continue the match with one player less than the non-offending team the result will stand at the final whistle.
- d) In the event a team has used all its 10 player interchanges and then suffers a front row injury, even though they may have a front replacement still available they will not be able to use him, if this causes the match to go to uncontested scrums the offending team will have to continue the match with one player less than the non-offending team.

5. **Electronic Match Cards / Phone Results**

- a) Electronic Match Cards (EMC) must be used in all matches to record the names of every player (including unregistered players where de-regulation allows), the match result, the number of tries scored by each team and front row replacements.
- b) If the match is played as a “friendly” or as “Game On” then the EMC must not be completed.

6. **Postponement / Cancellations**

- a) All clubs must inform the SW Admin Office and the League Secretary if a game is to be postponed or cancelled before 3.30pm of match day of the irrespective of the reason for the cancellation.

7. **League Status**

- a) The Devon RFU Competitions Committee reserves the right to decline re-admission into the England Men’s League and may recommend to the Southwest Regional Organising Committee that any club / team that fails to fulfil 25% of their scheduled fixtures in consecutive seasons should be expelled from the RFU English Men’s Leagues competition.
- b) Any club or team that voluntarily withdraws from a Counties 3 Tribute Devon League North & East or Counties 3 Tribute Devon League South & West may re-apply to the Southwest Regional Organising Committee for consideration for re-admission for the following season. This submission must be supported by the club or team’s constituent governing body.

Special Notes:

Any issues that arise over whether a league match can/cannot be played – such as ground condition or lack of players or lack of a referee – must be discussed prior to the scheduled kick off with the League Secretary before any decision is made. **Only the League Secretary which administers the Counties 3 Tribute Devon League North & East or Counties 3 Tribute Devon League South & West can cancel a game** and teams must seek authorisation of a postponement. Clubs should make every effort to play a game whenever possible.

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 the League Secretary, and NOT your match referee.**

Updated 07 August 2023