

Devon RFU Competitions Committee

Proposed Deregulation Rules for 2018/2019

Levels 9 & 10 Tribute Devon 1 & Devon 2 Leagues

The RFU Regulations, Definitions (Regulation 1) and English Clubs Championship (ECC) Regulations (Regulation 13) will apply to all leagues involving Devon Clubs.

The following exceptions, amendments and clarifications will only apply to Clubs in Levels 9 & 10 (Devon 1 & Devon 2).

1. Unregistered/Guest/Loaning Players

At Levels 9 & 10 all players must be registered with their club in accordance with the Player Registration Regulations, with the exception that up to two unregistered or guest players may be allowed to play in their match day squad, providing that:

- The unregistered/guest player does not hold (and has not previously held in the same season) Effective Registration with any club whose 1st XV plays at Level 8 and above.
- The unregistered/guest player is clearly marked on the match results 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 be stated on the match result card.
- A Guest Player may only make four guest appearances in one season without being registered.
- No Guest Players will be allowed after the transfer deadline on 23rd February 2019.

2. Minimum Number of Players

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 they have no obligation to do so. However, teams may not start a match with more than one player advantage on the pitch. This regulation will not apply in the event of a yellow or red card.

3. Front Row Requirements

- 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 that all front row players are suitably trained and competent.
- If a team is unable to start a match with suitably trained and competent front row players, it will forfeit the match but will not be deducted League points, if the match takes place as a friendly. However irrespective of points scored in the game for official league purposes the result will be deemed as a 0 – 0 win for the non-offending team. This must be recorded by the referee and Club officials.
- The unoffending team will be allocated 5 league points.
- In the event of a match going to uncontested scrums after the start of the match the result at the final whistle will stand.
- If a team has used all its player interchanges and then suffers a Front Row injury, even though they may have a FR replacement still available, they would not be able to use him and would therefore cause a match to go to uncontested scrums and suffer any sanction imposed.

4. Replacements/Substitutes

Teams will be allowed unlimited replacements/substitutes above the normal 3 permitted to a maximum of 7. However, a fourth or subsequent replacement will only be allowed to play 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 team 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.

5. Player Interchange

Clubs may make up to 10 interchanges after notifying the referee. Players must join the match from the half way line.

6. Match Result Cards

Match result cards must be completed and posted to the South West Admin office in accordance with SWDOC Administrative Instructions.

7. Postponement/Cancellation

If a Devon 1 or 2 match is cancelled for any reason other than weather or lack of referee, the non-offending team will be awarded 5 league points. The league secretary will use his/her discretion whether to deduct points from the offending club.

8. Match Completion

If any club fails to complete 25% of their scheduled League fixtures the club's total league points will be expunged from the English Clubs' league tables and placed at the bottom of the league.

9. Cancellation Notification & League Notification

Clubs must inform the SW Admin Office and their league secretary by 3.30 p.m. on the day of a match if the match is cancelled for any reason. Also, the SW Admin must be informed of the match result by 5.30 p.m. on the day of the match or within an hour of a match played at any other time.

10. League Status

The Devon RFU Competitions Committee reserves the right to decline re-admission to any League, and may recommend to the South West Divisional Organising Committee that any teams which fail to fulfil 25% of their scheduled fixtures, in consecutive seasons, should be expelled from the English Club Championship system.

11. Re-admission to the Leagues

Any club or team that voluntarily withdraws from the Devon 1 or 2 leagues may re-apply to the Competitions Committee for consideration for re-admission for the following season. This submission must be supported by that club or teams' Constituent Body.

John Drew