

Season 2024/2025 Gloucestershire Leagues Deregulations

Regulations to be applied to Gloucestershire Leagues (Counties 2 and below)

The Men's Leagues regulations will apply to all Gloucestershire Leagues, with the exception of the following amendments;

RFU Regulation 6 (appendix 2) 3 Principles of promotion (e)

Applies to Tribute Gloucestershire Counties 2 North and South Only

Principles of Promotion:

At Counties 2 Leagues (formerly Level 7), the highest placed Club in each League will play in a playoff to see who will be promoted to the League above. If the Club finishes in an automatic playoff place declines promotion, then their opponents shall be awarded a walk-over. If both play off clubs decline promotion then the highest placed Club in the league above who was due to be relegated the following season will be reprieved from relegation.

At Counties 3 Leagues (formerly Level 8 and below), the highest placed Club in each League will be promoted to the Level above. If the Club finishes in an automatic promotion place declines promotion, then the highest placed Club in the league above who was due to be relegated the following season will be reprieved from relegation.

Any remaining spaces in the higher leagues will be determined by at the end of the Season by the Committee by such applicable criteria as notified by the RFU to the Clubs. The position of the team(s) not eligible for promotion shall be disregarded in the event that a team would be promoted into a League in which another team of the same Club plays, as prohibited by regulation 18. 4.

Principles of Relegation:

At the conclusion of the 24-25 Season there will be **no relegation** from counties 2 and below as Counties 2 North and South will be merging to form Counties 2 Gloucestershire Premiership, consisting of 12 teams 6 from the North & 6 from the South and consequently **realign** other Leagues below.

The exact number of teams from each league that will get realigned will not be known until after promotion from Counties 2, 3, & 4 Gloucestershire and relegation from Counties 1 have been applied. A top 4 finish will guarantee your alignment at the same level or above under RFU league levels.

If a first XV is realigned into a League in which the Lower XV from the same Club plays, that Lower XV shall automatically be realigned as one of the requisite number of Clubs to be realigned.

RFU Regulation 6.14. Registration

Counties 3 & 4 only

1. All players must be registered with their club in accordance with the Player Registration Regulation 13 and Regulations 14, with the exception at Counties Level 3 & 4 that **TWO** unregistered players may play under RFU Regulation 6.14 before having to be registered. At counties 3 This player may only play for one week and Counties 4 he may play for two weeks or a subsequent week.

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2. Teams may contain players who are not registered with that club; although players may be borrowed from other clubs to make up the numbers and encourage participation in the game. However, such teams may not play players holding Effective Registration with another club at Counties 2 or above. Borrowed players in Counties 3 must use the dual registration process as described in Regulation 13.
3. Players registered with another club may play where the Club which they are registered are at the same League level or one level above (i.e., Counties 3) in Counties 4 without Dual Registration providing they have prior approval from their home club.
4. At Counties 3 and below, Electronic Match Cards must be completed including the names of participating players. Where an Unregistered or Borrowed player has played and their details have not been registered on the system their name, date of birth and any club of which they are a member must be clearly indicated in the "comments box" on the Electronic Match Card (EMC)

RFU Regulation 6.52 & 53. Game on Principles

Game on principles may only be applied **Counties 3 and below**:

[Game On \(englandrugby.com\)](http://englandrugby.com)

Regulation 6.58 (b) Replacements in all League Matches

The number of replacements and substitutes in all League Matches shall be as follows:

At any Level below Counties 2 & 3: not more than three replacements.

In the interests of encouraging participation in the game at Counties 4 the captains may agree prior to a match to more than 3 (up to a maximum of 7) replacements being used by the teams in any match but still only have 8 interchanges. If agreement cannot be reached then 4 would be allowed

Regulation 6.63 ROLLING SUBSTITUTIONS (Permitted Player Interchanges)

Consent has been given by the South West Organising Committee (SWROC) to continue the use of Rolling Substitutions for season 2023-24 subject to Regulations 6.63 for reasons of clarity for all concerned in the Gloucestershire Leagues the MAXIMUM number of rolling substitutions ("Permitted Player Interchanges") is EIGHT interchanges.

1. In a Play-Off Match (*Gloucestershire Counties 2 North & South*) Player Interchanges will only be permitted where both participating teams have played their previous League Matches with Permitted Player interchanges.
2. After the Permitted Player Interchanges have been made no other replacements, substitutions or Player Interchanges will be permitted for any reason (including temporary or permanent injuries, sending offs and suspensions) In the event that a player is injured, sent off or suspended from the field the team will play with one less player and with uncontested scrums in the event that this involves a front row player and the game cannot continue safely with contested scrums.
3. For the avoidance of doubt, Player Interchanges replace the "blood bin". If a player has an open wound and thus has to leave the field, this will be classified as a Player Interchange if that Player is replaced by another Player. If a team has used all of its Player Interchanges, that Player may not be replaced and the team shall continue with one less Player than was

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on the pitch prior to the “blood bin”. The player is permitted to return once the wound has been treated and the bleeding stopped.

4. Not more than **TWO** Player Interchanges per team may occur at any one time and may only occur during a stoppage in play and with the knowledge of the Referee who is entitled in his sole opinion to refuse to allow or postpone a Player Interchange if he believes either that the Player Interchange would prevent the opposition from restarting the game quickly or where a player has been injured or that it would not be safe for the replacement player who has been previously injured to play in the match.
5. A player must enter the field of play on the halfway line.
6. A player who is a replacement shall not be entitled to take a kick at goal until a passage of play has taken place since that player has taken to the field of play.
7. A Player who suffers two injuries in a match which has necessitated that Player being replaced on each occasion is not permitted to act as a replacement following the second injury.
8. Under dispensation provided to Unions by the World Rugby, where these rolling substitutions regulations conflict with the Laws of the Game these Regulations shall take precedence.

Concessions and Point Deductions for clarity

1. Matches will require adherence to the usual Regulations for replacements and front row replacement, i.e., at least 4 players capable of playing in the front row must be available in the Squad.
2. If a team has used all its permitted player interchanges and then suffers a FR injury, even though they may have a FR replacement still available, they would not be able to use them and would therefore cause the match to go to uncontested scrums and the side plays with one less.
3. Penalty points will be deducted if a team refuses to fulfil a league fixture, unless played as a friendly.

Refer to the South West Administrative Instructions

[Admin Instructions 2023-24 \(swrugby.co.uk\)](https://www.swrugby.co.uk)

4. Any issue that arises over whether a league match can/cannot be played – such as ground condition or lack of players – must be discussed urgently with the league secretary **before any final** decision is made to cancel a game. Clubs should make every effort to play a game whenever possible.
5. The EMC must contain ALL the required details of the players participating in the match as indicated on the match card. Unregistered players names and date of birth can be added to the comments section of the EMC.
6. Failure to comply with these simplified regulations may result in the deduction of points/sanctions in the normal way.
7. 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 a number of regular 1st XV players.

Refer to the South West Administrative Instructions

[Admin Instructions 2023-24 \(swrugby.co.uk\)](https://www.swrugby.co.uk)