

**Modifications to the English Clubs Championships (ECC) Regulations
relating to the playing of league rugby at Level 8 and below in the Tribute Somerset
Counties 1, Counties 2 (N & S) and Counties 3 (N & S)**

The regulations relating to the playing of league rugby in Somerset will be modified in so far as matches played at Level 8 (Counties 2) and below (together “the Modified Leagues”) are concerned. The modified leagues are subject to all ECC Regulations in so far as these are not varied by or inconsistent with these Regulations. The modifications are:

1. Second, third and lower teams of a Club may play in the modified leagues with the approval of and at the level agreed by the South West Regional Organising Committee (SWROC), who shall consider the advice of the Somerset County RFU Limited (SCRFU).

2. A second, third or lower team may not be promoted above Level 7. In the event of such a team winning the Level 7 league or getting into a Play Off position then the next highest placed eligible side in that league shall, subject to the agreement of SWROC in agreement with SCRFU, take its place.

3. At Levels 8 & 9 (Counties 2 & 3) all players must be registered with their club in accordance with the Player Registration Regulations, with the exception at Level 9 (Counties 3) **TWO** unregistered players may play under RFU Regulation 14.2.2 before having to be registered. At Level 9 (Counties 3) they may only play for one week but must be registered before they play again the next week or any subsequent week.

4. At Level 10 (Counties 4) teams may contain players who are not registered with that club. They should however be made up of bona fide club members; although if this is not possible then players may be borrowed from other clubs to make up the numbers and encourage participation in the game. However, such teams may not knowingly play players holding Effective Registration with another club at Level 8 (Counties 2) or above.

5. Notwithstanding point 4 above clubs at all levels are encouraged to continue to register their players

6 If a team at level 10 (Counties 4) and below justifiably cannot field a front row then the match will proceed with uncontested scrums. No league points will be deducted providing the fixture is honoured. The result at the final whistle will be stand.

7 Two teams from the same club may not play in the same league. Subject to this, and point 13, normal promotion and relegation rules will apply except that a team may decline promotion with the approval of SWROC; who in reaching their decision shall consider advice from SCRFU. Should a team decline promotion then point 12 will apply. For the avoidance of doubt the next highest placed side in that league has no automatic right to promotion in such circumstance.

8 Where the first or higher team of a club does not have a match (but does have a lower team league fixture) on an appointed day then the club must field a genuine team(s) commensurate with the level of match(es) being played. That will include situations where a club fields a lower team but cancels a higher team's fixture on the same day. Clubs are reminded that such first team (or any other team in the Club) may also suffer penalty for non-compliance. The League Secretary may enquire into such circumstances and impose any sanction in accordance with Game Regulations.

9 In the interests of encouraging participation in the game at Level 9 (Counties 3) teams may use up to 5 replacements with up to 10 interchanges.

At Level 10 (Counties 4) teams may agree numbers before the game commences but teams with surplus players are encouraged to lend the opposition players to make up even numbers per side, however if agreement cannot be reached between the captains before the match the number of replacements and interchanges will be the same as at level 9 stated above

10 At Level 10 and below, Electronic Match Cards must be completed including the names of participating players. Where a Guest 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) If the Guest player is unattached to a Club this must also be stated on the EMC.

11 Where a team finishes in a promotion or relegation spot but cannot be promoted or relegated by virtue of these regulations (e.g. because a club team would gain promotion to the same league as another side in their club) then SWROC (having taken advice from the SCRFU) will make appropriate arrangements for promotion or relegation within the leagues affected In the case of relegation causing two teams from the same club to be in the lowest league then if no other suitable arrangement is appropriate this could include two sides from the same club being in the same league.

12 Where anomalies occur within the modified leagues that are not provided for within these regulations or that are contrary to the objectives of providing competitive, structured and enjoyable rugby to relevant teams of Somerset clubs then SWROC (having taken advice from SCRFU) reserves the power to make appropriate arrangements to fulfil those objectives.

13 Providing it is otherwise possible under these regulations and SWROC agrees then the winners of Counties 3 (North & South) shall be promoted to Counties 2 and the bottom two placed sides in that league relegated. The winners of Counties 4 (North & South) shall be similarly promoted to Counties 3 (North & South) and the bottom side in each of those leagues relegated. There will be no play off matches for the second placed sides in either of these leagues.

14 The League Secretaries of Somerset Counties 2, Counties 3 (North & South) and Counties 4 (North & South) shall be appointed from nominees submitted by SCRFU.

15. If a scheduled Counties 3 or 4 Tribute Somerset match is cancelled because of weather or a lack of a Referee, the match will be rescheduled by SW Admin office for the first available Saturday, club's NLC will be informed of the rescheduled date.

16. If a scheduled Counties 3 or 4 Tribute Somerset match is cancelled for any reason other than weather or lack of a referee, the non-offending club will be awarded Five (5) points. The League secretary will decide if points will be deducted from the offending club.

17. If any club fails to complete 25% of their scheduled Counties 3 or 4 Tribute Somerset League Matches, the clubs total League points will be expunged from the English Clubs League Tables.

18. Clubs must inform the SW admin office by 3.30 on the day of the match if a Counties 3 or 4 Tribute Somerset League match is cancelled for any reason. The SW admin office must also be informed of the match result by 5.30 on the day of the match, or within one hour of a match played at any other time by phone or text. SW admin office telephone 01822678272 Match result tele 08122678007 Text results to 07797800102.

Otherwise all other existing English Clubs Championship regulations will apply.