

# Season 2020/21: Berks Bucks and Oxon (BBO) League Regulations

## (BBO Regulations)

### Rules to be applied to BBO Leagues (Level 8 and below)

The RFU Regulations and in particular Definitions (Regulation 1) and English Clubs Championship (ECC) Regulations (Regulation 13 and 14) together with South West Administrative Instructions will apply to all BBO Leagues and League Matches, save for the following exceptions, amendments and clarifications.

Where there is a conflict between the RFU Regulations and these BBO Regulations, these BBO Regulations will have precedence.

#### 1 Eligible Clubs:

At Level 8 and below 1st XV's of Clubs of an appropriate standard and 2nd/3rd/4th or other lower teams of Clubs whose 1st XV are already plays in the ECC or BBO Leagues will be eligible to be included. Such teams will be known by their Club name and numbered 1st 2nd, 3rd, 4th etc. The decision on the level at which these teams enter and the structure of the BBO Leagues, is delegated by the RFU South West Divisional Organising Committee to the BBO League Organising Committee.

#### 2 Effective Registration:

There will be no requirement for players to hold Effective Registration when playing for 2nd/3rd/4th XV's in the BBO Leagues BBO1, BBO2N&S and BBO3N&S. For the avoidance of doubt Club 1st XV players in the BBO Leagues must comply with RFU Regulation 13 and hold Effective Registration.

#### 3 Guest/Loaning players:

At Level 9 and below (BBO2N&S and BBO3N&S) teams will be allowed to have up to 4 (four) Guest Players in their match day squad, providing that:

- a) The Guest Player does not hold (and has not previously held in the Season) Effective Registration for any Club, whose 1st XV plays at Level 8 and above.
- b) The Guest Player's name, date of birth and any club of which he is a member is 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.
- c) A Guest Player may only make four guest appearances for any one Club in one season.
- d) No Guest Players may play for any Club in the BBO Leagues after the transfer deadline of (date TBC).

#### 4 Minimum Number of Players:

At Level 9 and below (BBO2N&S and BBO3N&S) a team may start a BBO League Match with a minimum of 12 players. The opposition are encouraged to even the numbers up, should they have a full side, but there is no obligation to do so. However, teams may not start a match with more than a one player advantage on the pitch.

This regulation will not apply in the event of a yellow or red card being awarded after a match has commenced.

If a team has reduced numbers, but twelve or more players (which includes three players capable of playing in the front row in accordance with BBO Regulation 5a), it is entitled to insist that the game is played and the opposition team must play the fixture with a team of not more than one player more than that with reduced numbers.

Irrespective of numbers, the match must start with contested scrums, (unless BBO Regulation 5b applies).

#### 5 Front Row Requirements:

- a) In all BBO League matches, 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 all front row players are suitably trained and competent.
- b) In Level 8 and below (BBO Premier, BBO1, BBO2N&S and BBO3N&S) a team that is unable start a match with suitably trained and competent front row players, will forfeit the match, but it will not be deducted League points, if the match takes place as a friendly with uncontested scrums. However, irrespective of points scored in that game for official league purposes the result will be deemed as a 5-point 0-0 win for the non-offending team. This must be reported to the Admin Office and League Secretary no later than 3.30pm on match day and recorded on the EMC in accordance with the instructions.
- c) At level 9 and below (BBO2N&S and BBO3N&S), in the event of the match going to uncontested scrums after the start of the match, the result at the final whistle will stand.

*Note for the avoidance of doubt the "man off rule" in the event of uncontested scrums (Paras 15 and 16 of Appendix 2 of Regulation 13) will apply to BBO Leagues.*

## 6 Non fulfilment of Fixtures:

- a) The only acceptable reason for not fulfilling a fixture on the scheduled date is if a pitch is deemed unfit to use and no suitable alternative is available. Failure to fulfil a fixture for any other reason, other than those exceptions in 6B shown below, will give rise to an automatic five-point deduction for the offending team, with the non-offending team awarded a 5-point 0-0 win.
  
- b) At Level 10 (BBO3 N&S) once a season a fixture having been postponed by agreement in full compliance with the detailed conditions set out in Regulation 10 C below.

**Please remember teams need to notify their League Secretary & the Admin Office of any match postponement by no later than 3.30pm on match day.**

## 7 Replacements/Substitutes:

At Level 9 and below (BBO2N&S and BBO3N&S) teams will be allowed unlimited replacements/substitutes, to a maximum of seven (7) however, a fourth or subsequent replacement will only be allowed to participate 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 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.

RFU Regulation 13.5. will apply to all BBO League matches as will Paras 20 to 29 of Appendix 2 of Regulation 13 with regard to Rolling Substitutions. Further information is available on [www.swrugby.co.uk](http://www.swrugby.co.uk)

In BBO3N&S, unlimited interchanges will be allowed. All interchanges must be carried out with the knowledge/permission of the match referee when there is a break in play and must take place at the half-way line.

## 8 Match Result Cards and Result Notification:

This regulation will be enforced at all levels within the BBO Leagues.

- a) It is mandatory for all teams in BBO Leagues to complete an EMC as prescribed by the RFU. The teams must comply with RFU requirements with the exception of the variations in BBO Regulations and the South West Admin Instructions 3 & 7, in relation to the completion of the EMC and its transmission to the RFU or relevant person, company or address by the prescribed time at or following the weekend of the League match.
- b) The home team must notify the Admin Office of the correct final score and number of tries scored as soon as possible after the match and in any event before 5.30 pm if the match is played on a Saturday and within one hour of the conclusion of the match if it is played on any other day.

## 9 Promotion and Relegation:

- a) Not more than one team from the same Club can play in the same League or at the same level at any time.

*This may cause a knock-on effect within a Club, if a higher placed team is relegated into the same league as the lower team. In that case, the lower team shall also be relegated. If a higher team is relegated and a lower team was eligible for promotion into the same League, the lower team will not only be denied promotion, but be relegated into a lower league. A lower team will be denied promotion into the same League as a higher team, from the same Club.*
- b) Subject to Regulations 9e below and 9a above the top team of every league will be promoted as follows;
  - i. BBO 1 no Promotion.
  - ii. 1st XV in BBO 2 N & S to BBO Premiership subject to confirmation from the BBO Committee.
  - iii. Non 1st XV in either BBO 2 N or S to BBO 1.
  - iv. BBO 3 N to BBO 2 N and BBO 3 S to BBO 2 S.
- c) Subject to Regulation 9e below where League BBO 2 N and/or BBO 2 S has been won by a 1st XV the highest placed non 1st XV team in such a League will be promoted to BBO 1.
- d) Subject to Regulation 9e below the following teams will be relegated;

- the bottom two teams in BBO Premiership will be relegated to BBO 2 if the BBO Committee, having the sole and absolute discretion decides that there is in its view a 1st XV of sufficient strength to replace one or both of them from BBO2.
    - If both teams relegated fall geographically into either BBO 2 N or BBO 2 S the Level Transfer Regulations as they may have to be modified for use in the BBO Leagues will be utilised by the BBO Committee to decide which Club in the prospective League for the following season (and not necessarily a relegated Club) will be level transferred to the other BBO 2 League.
      - the bottom two teams in BBO 1 to BBO 2.
    - If both teams fall geographically into either BBO 2 N or BBO 2 S the Level Transfer Regulations as they may have to be modified for use in the BBO Leagues will be utilised by the BBO Committee to decide which Club in the prospective League for the following season (and not necessarily a relegated Club) will be level transferred to the other BBO 2 League.
      - the bottom two teams in BBO 2 will be relegated to BBO 3 .
    - If both teams fall geographically into either BBO 3 N or BBO 3 S the Level Transfer Regulations as they may have to be modified for use in the BBO Leagues will be utilised by the BBO Committee to decide which Club in the prospective League for the following season (and not necessarily a relegated Club) will be level transferred to the other BBO 3 League.
- e) To ensure as even a spread of fixtures as possible and in an attempt to make the BBO Premiership and all leagues at BBO1 and below, as equitable as possible for both playing standard and travel, all decisions regarding promotion and relegation will rest absolutely with the BBO Committee, who have delegated powers from the South West Divisional Organising Committee. Such powers will override or modify the provisions in Clauses A to D of this paragraph 9 if the BBO Committee deems it desirable or appropriate and in the interests of the game of rugby football and or the Clubs in Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

## 10 Extra Regulations for BBO Leagues only:

- a) In the event of a Club having more than one team in the ECC, the higher team's match in the BBO Leagues will always take precedence over the lower side. Therefore, if a Club 2nd XV cancels a fixture and the 3rd XV from the same Club fulfils its fixture the League Secretary will have the discretion to set aside the result of the 3rd XV fixture and award a nil-nil win to the 3rd XV opposition. The 2nd XV will automatically have five points deducted for failing to fulfil its fixture where the 2nd XV plays in the BBO Leagues.
- b) In the event that a Club having played its "home" fixture in the League fails to honour its "away" fixture against the same opposition the League Secretary may in his absolute discretion in addition to any other sanction that may be imposed require that Club to play both of its fixtures "away" against the Club against whom it failed to honour the fixture in the following season (2021/22).
- c) A team in Level 10 (BBO3 N&S) may once in the Season agree with an opposition team that its League fixture may be postponed (rather than cancelled) to the Next Available Weekend provided that;
  - i. both Teams have agreed
  - ii. both Teams notify their **League Secretary** of their agreement by email, not later than 10.00 am on the Wednesday before the weekend the match was due to be played.
  - iii. the Home Club has notified the appropriate Referees Society of the postponement.

In the event that the three conditions set out above in BBO Regulation 10c are not met and the match is not played on the scheduled date, the game will be deemed to have not been played and the non-offending team will be awarded a 5 point 0-0 win. The offending team will be subject to a 5-point deduction.

- d) Teams that fail to fulfil more than 25% of their scheduled League fixtures will have their results expunged in addition to any other sanction that may be imposed which will be determined by the actual number of matches played as a percentage of the total number of League Matches scheduled to be played in the season in the League.
- e) The BBO Committee reserves the right to decline re-admission to any League, and may recommend to the South West Divisional Organising Committee (from which it

has delegated powers) that any teams which fail to fulfil more than 25% of their scheduled fixtures in consecutive seasons, should be expelled from the EEC.

- f) Teams that have had their results expunged may apply to re-enter the following season, subject to approval by both their Constituent Body and the BBO Committee. Clubs have the right to seek a Review of any decision to decline readmission of one of its teams, to the South West Organising Committee by application in writing within 14 days of being informed of such a decision (but without the right of an oral hearing unless such right is agreed by the South West Organising Committee). A Club has a right of appeal thereafter under RFU Regulation 13.10.19 provided that such right of appeal is exercised within 7 days of notification of the outcome of the Review.
- g) Any Club or team that voluntarily withdraws from the BBO Leagues may reapply to the BBO Leagues Committee for consideration for re-admission for the following season. This submission must be supported by that club's or team's Constituent Body.

*Special Note: 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 your League Secretary, and NOT your match referee.*

*In any dispute the decision of the BBO Committee in relation to interpretation or effect of the BBO Regulations is Subject to a Clubs right of appeal exercised in accordance with RFU Regulations is final.*