



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION ENGLISH MENS LEAGUES



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

### **De-Regulations for 2024 / 2025 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.**

Up to 2 unregistered players may be allowed to play in a team match day squad providing:

- a) The League secretary is informed prior to kick off of the unregistered players details Full name / Date of Birth / Place of Birth / Current address, also the information has to be clearly indicated in the "comments box" on the Electronic Match Card (EMC)
- b) Any unregistered player may only make 3 appearances in one season without being registered.
- c) 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 XV's 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 10 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 a game has taken place, the non-offending team will be awarded 5 points.
- c) This de-regulation (3) does not apply in the event of any player receiving a red or yellow card during the game.

4. **Front-Row Replacements.**

- a) 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.
- b) 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. **League Status.**

- a) 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.**

