

**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 2 and Counties 3 (N & S) and Counties 4 (N & S)**

REVISED FOR SEASON 2024 / 2025

The RFU, through the South West Regional Organising Committee (SWROC), has delegated to Constituent Bodies the organisation Counties 2 leagues (level 8) and Counties 3 and 4 North & South (levels 9 & 10) and below. Somerset RFU, subject to the approval of SWROC and the RFU, may de-regulate these leagues. The de-regulation that will be applied in Somerset Leagues is summarised in this appendix. Clubs should refer to their appointed League Secretary for guidance in accordance with RFU Regulation 6 and the Administrative Instruction issued by SWROC and the de-regulations set out in this appendix.

The Modified Leagues are subject to all RFU Regulations 6, with the exception of those listed below. For avoidance of doubt, where there is conflict between RFU Regulations and the Counties 2, 3 & 4 Somerset leagues Regulation, these Somerset Regulations will take precedence and apply. 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. All players must be registered with their club in accordance with the RFU Player Registration Regulation 14 without exception. Previous exceptions at Level 9 (Counties 3) and Level 10 (Counties 4) are no longer allowed.

3. 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 stand.

4. Two teams from the same club may not play in the same league. Subject to this, and point 8, 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. Any request to decline promotion MUST be made by 1 January of each season. Should a team decline promotion then point 10 will apply. If a Club declines promotion this will mean that the next highest placed side in that league has no automatic right to promotion in such circumstance and in accordance with RFU Regulation 6 any such decision to do so will relegate the highest placed team in a relegation position in the division above..

5. 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 any lower XV with players from a higher level especially where this occurs when a higher level game is cancelled. Any Club with more than one team must adhere to the SW Administration Instruction number 5 which states that Clubs must honour their highest teams fixture first. They must also strictly follow the subsequent conditions for team selection where their highest fixture is not able to be played.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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 (level 10) then if no other suitable arrangement is appropriate this could include two sides from the same club being in the same league.

9. 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.

10. 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 will be relegated. The winners and second placed teams in Counties 4 (North & South) shall be similarly promoted to Counties 3 (North & South) and the bottom two sides in each of those leagues will be relegated.

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

12. In the event of un-played matches SW Administrative instruction 7 sets out the position on the awarding of points in friendlies as a result of unfulfilled league matches.

13. Clubs must inform the relevant League Secretary as soon as possible and SW admin office by 3.30 on the day of the match if a Counties 2, 3 or 4 Tribute Somerset League match is cancelled for any reason. The SW admin office must also be informed of match results 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 07908 683303. Rescheduled matches will be arranged by the SW Admin Office for the next available Saturday.

Otherwise all other existing English Clubs Championship regulations will apply.