



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION ENGLISH CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP



**COUNTIES 3 TRIBUTE DEVON EAST & WEST LEAGUES**



**De-Regulations for 2022 / 2023 Season**

The RFU Regulations, Definitions (Regulation 1) and English Clubs Championship (ECC) Regulations (Regulation 6) will apply to all clubs playing in the RFU English Club championship.

The following exceptions, amendments and clarifications will only apply to clubs playing in the Counties 3 Tribute Devon East & Counties 3 Tribute Devon West Leagues (Level 9) of the RFU English Clubs Championship.

1. **Unregistered / Guest / Loan Players.**

- a) All players must be registered with their club in accordance with the “Player Registration Regulations”, with the exception that up to 2 unregistered players or guest players may be allowed to play in their match day squad providing that:
  - b) The unregistered / guest player has not held (and has not previously held in the same season) an effective registration with any club whose 1<sup>st</sup> XV play at Level 6 or above.
  - c) The unregistered / guest player must not have made more than five 1<sup>st</sup> XV appearances for a club playing in the RFU ECC at Level 7 or below in the same season.
  - d) The unregistered / guest player is clearly marked on the Electronic Match Card (EMC).
  - e) Any unregistered / guest player may only make 4 appearances in one season without being registered.
  - f) No unregistered / guest players will be allowed to play after the transfer deadline of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

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 XVs with a number of 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) When the club's 1st XV has a match, and the club's 2nd XV match has a very direct impact on promotion and relegation. If this is suspected, then the matter will be investigated by the League Secretary who may apply any sanctions he feels are justified and allowed within the regulations.

3. **Minimum Number of Players.**

- a) A team may start a League match with a minimum of 12 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 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 only as long as a game takes place with the non-offending team will be awarded 5 points.
- c) If a Counties 3 Tribute Devon League East or Counties 3 Tribute Devon League West match is cancelled for any reason other than weather, the non-offending team will be awarded 5 championship league points with the result being recorded as a 0-0 win.
- d) This de-regulation (3) does not apply in the event of any player receiving a red or yellow card during the game.
- e) Clubs must inform the SW Admin Office and the Counties 3 Tribute Devon East or Counties 3 Tribute Devon West League Secretary before 3.30pm on the day of the match, irrespective of the reason for the cancellation.

4. **Front-Row Replacements'.**

- a) Clubs are required to start each match with a suitably trained and competent front row, unless otherwise advised by the referee in advance of the match starting. It is the responsibility of the clubs and not the match referee for ensuring that all front row players are suitably trained and competent.
- b) If a team is unable to start a match with a suitably trained and competent front row, it will forfeit the match but will not be deducted any championship league points if the match is played as a friendly. However irrespective of the points scored in the match the match will be recorded as 0 – 0. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 championship league points.
- c) If the game is played as a “friendly” or as “Game On”, the home team must not approve the EMC after game. The EMC must not be completed.
- d) In the event of a match moving to uncontested scrums after the start of the match the result will stand at the final whistle.
- e) 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. **Electronic Match Cards / Phone Results.**

- a) Electronic Match Cards (EMC) must be used in all matches to record the names of every player (including guest players where de-regulation allows), the match result, the number of tries scored by each team and front row replacements.
- b) All match cards must be completed (confirmed) by the home team no later than 24 hours after the game has finished failure to complete may result in a sanction.
- c) Clubs should also remember to phone the result to First Eleven on (01822) 678272 by 6pm on match day otherwise a sanction may be applied.
- d) If the match is played as a “friendly” or as “Game On” then the EMC must not be completed.

6. **Postponement / Cancellations.**

- a) All clubs must inform the SW Admin Office and the League Secretary if a game is to be postponed or cancelled before 3.30pm of match day of the irrespective of the reason for the cancellation.

7. **League Status.**

- a) The Devon RFU Competitions Committee reserves the right to decline re-admission into the ECC League and may recommend to the Southwest Divisional Organising Committee that any club / team that fails to fulfil 25% of their scheduled fixtures in consecutive seasons should be expelled from the RFU English Clubs Championship competition.
- b) Any club or team that voluntarily withdraws from a Counties 3 Tribute Devon League East or Counties 3 Tribute Devon League West may re-apply to the Southwest Divisional 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.

8. **COVID 19 / Health Guidelines.**

- a) The above regulations will be subject to any Government or RFU safety guidelines or restrictions at any time during the playing season.

**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 East or Counties 3 Tribute Devon League 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.**

Updated 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022