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To all Club Hon. Secretaries
Fixture Secretaries

Re: Eastern Counties Greene King League Fixtures and Regulations

EASTERN COUNTIES Greene King LEAGUES 2014-2015 Regulations

Note: This is the inaugural year for the revised League structure, and EC Competitions Committee is anxious to provide the most appropriate level of competition possible for all of our Member Club Teams; the Committee will keep the league results under regular review, and in the event of there proving to be gross mismatches, the Committee may, after consultation with the Clubs concerned, implement changes to the league composition.

Should it prove necessary in the light of experience and in order to preserve the integrity of the competitions, clarification or revision of these regulations may be undertaken by the Competitions Sub-Committee and promulgated to all member clubs.

The above powers will only be used if, in the opinion of the Sub-Committee, there is a substantial and urgent reason to do so.

Full contact details for League Secretaries and Snowdons Result Service will be issued in good time for the start of each season.

1 Name

- a) The full title of the competition shall be 'Eastern Counties Greene King Leagues'. Every reference by Clubs to matches in the competition shall include the full title.
- b) All matches in the competition shall be played under the laws of Rugby Union Football and shall comply with the bylaws, resolutions and regulations of the Rugby Football Union. The management of the competition shall be vested in the Competition Sub-Committee of the Eastern Counties Rugby Union, who shall be responsible to the General Committee for organising the competition and shall have full powers to deal, in cases of disagreement between clubs, on the interpretation of these rules or on any matter not covered by these rules in connection with the competition and its decision on any matter shall be final and binding.

2 League Format

- a) The numbers of teams in each division shall be limited to a maximum of 14 teams with a minimum limit of 6 teams.

- b) If, as a result of a new Club or team entering the competition, or of the resignation of a Club or any of its teams from the competition, or for other reason the pattern of the divisions is changed, the Sub-Committee shall be empowered to revise the numbers of promoted or relegated Clubs to bring divisions to the required number in order to maintain a viable competition structure.
- c) Having nominated a team, the Club shall ensure that such team shall consist of players who would normally be expected to play for that team. If the opinion of the Sub-Committee, any Club fields an unrepresentative team in any competition match, that team shall forfeit any competition points gained in that match plus another two points. If the other side in that match gained no competition points, that side should be awarded the winner's points.
- d) Clubs may enter more than one team, but no club shall have more than one team in a division. This rule may be waived by the Sub-Committee, in the interests of the participation of Teams, at the lowest "sub-division" level only. Where this situation arises at the higher levels, the "lower" side will be relegated to ensure that this rule is adhered to.

3 Promotion & Relegation

- a) In EC1 & EC2, the position of the teams shall be established in accordance with RFU Regulation 13 i.e. four points for a win, two for a draw, plus the addition of 'bonus points' where a team scores four tries, or loses by seven match points or fewer.
- b) In EC3 & EC4, the position of teams shall be established by awarding 5(five) points for a win; 3(three) points for a draw; and 1(one) point for a loss. No "bonus points" will be awarded.
- c) In all divisions the Division winner shall be the team with the highest points awarded. In the event of equality, positions will be determined by the team with the most wins. If this does not decide a winner then the team with the greater points difference shall be placed higher.
- d) If any team does not fulfil 75% of its fixtures, the Sub Committee has the power if necessary, to remove all their results from the records to determine promotion & relegation.
- e) The top teams in EC1 will be promoted in accordance with DOC rulings.
- f) The team finishing bottom in EC1 will be relegated to EC2.
- g) The three winners of the EC2 divisions and the second bottom team in EC1 shall play off for the right to play in EC1 in the following season. The second-bottom team from EC1 will play off against the EC2 division winner with the worst league record, and the other two EC2 division winners will play-off against each other. The winners of each game shall take their place in EC1 for the following season
- h) Each of these play-offs will take the format of a single match played at a venue to be determined by lottery. In the event of a play-off match being tied at the end of normal playing time, extra time will be played in accordance with the regulations laid down by the RFU for national cup competitions.
- i) If necessary to maintain balanced numbers in each league once issues of promotion and relegation have been resolved the Sub-Committee may transfer one or more teams between regional divisions
- j) Promotion and relegation between EC3 & EC4 regional divisions will be on the 'two up, two down' principle. (Promotion only, may be refused by teams at the discretion of the Sub-Committee.)
- k) In the event of a team/teams refusing promotion from either EC3 or EC4, the next best team in that division will be offered the chance to play off for promotion against the second bottom team. Venue will be decided by lottery. Any further reorganisation as a result of this scenario will be carried out in accordance with the principles of Rule 2.

4 Fixtures & Cancellations

- a) All Divisions - Each team must play two competition matches against every other team in its division. All Competition matches shall be played on specified Saturdays with specified kick off times unless prior permission has been obtained from the Sub-Committee. Dates and times will be distributed by the Competitions Secretary before the start of the season.
- b) For teams in EC3 & EC4, and providing both clubs are in agreement, these dates may be changed, but this must be done prior to the 1st September in any year, and the Competitions Secretary notified accordingly. Alternate dates MUST coincide with specified dates for EC1 & EC2 matches. Only if both sides agree in writing, may dates be chosen outside these parameters.
- c) All Divisions - Where a competition match is not played, or is abandoned before no side, because of adverse weather conditions, the Competitions Secretary will arrange a new date, and both clubs will be notified. Whenever possible, this will be done under the 'Next Available Week' protocol as published by the London & South East Divisional Organising Committee.
- d) EC1 & EC2 – Cancellations (other than under c) above) must be notified to the Competition Secretary as per Rule 4f. The team considered responsible will be deducted 5 points, and the match shall be awarded to the team not responsible with the score of 0–0 and 5 competition points. (as per current RFU regulations.)
- e) EC3 & EC4 - cancellations must be notified to the Competition Secretary as per Rule 4f. The team considered responsible for the cancellation will be deducted the point awarded for a loss plus another 2 points i.e. 3 points in all. The match shall be awarded to the team not responsible with the score of 20–0 and 5 competition points.
- f) In the event of a cancellation, the “home” team must notify BOTH the League Secretary and Results Service by email NO LATER than 2pm on the day of the match. Failure to do so will result in a fine or points deduction as decided by the Competitions Committee. A copy should also be sent to the “away” team for clarification.

5 Player Registration

- a) In EC1 & EC2, all players should be registered in accordance with current RFU Regulations.
- b) In EC2, teams may play up to 5 (five) unregistered players per match. These should normally be bona fide members of the Club.
- c) In EC3 & EC4, the obligation to register players will be waived, though still suggested.

6 Match Rules & Interchanges

- a) In EC1 & EC2, all games are to be played by teams of 15 a side. Each side may have up to three replacements (which must include at least one player capable of playing in the front row), and may make up to eight interchanges of players. Once these have been used, no further replacements may be made. In the event of a match having to be played wholly or in part with uncontested scrums the other relevant regulations of the National Leagues will apply.
- b) EC3 & EC4 - Clubs should not call off games due to shortage of players without first consulting with the opposing club. Clubs are encouraged always to provide players for opposing sides in order to fulfil each fixture. If there is a shortage of players, games should be played with no side starting with a numerical advantage of more than one. This situation should only change as a result of injury or a sending-off. If there are insufficient front row forwards then the matches should be played with uncontested scrums. In either of these situations the result and score will stand.

- c) EC3 & EC4 - interchanges will only be permitted in games where both sides start with 15 players. Where this condition is satisfied, teams may make eight interchanges, using up to eight players.
- d) In the event of players being loaned to the opposition – during the match, these players may be swapped for others, and will count as interchanges to the side receiving the new player.
- e) If, in the event of injury or other circumstances, the team loaning a player becomes numerically disadvantaged, players may be “reclaimed”, and return to their original team.
- f) Prior to the match, and only if both Captains agree, and inform the referee, the number, and the use of, replacements may be changed. This can allow more than eight interchanges, or the use of “rolling” replacements

7 Results reporting

- a) In EC1 & EC2, the home team must telephone the match result to the Snowdon’s Result Service by 5.30pm. This should be followed up with the fully completed Result Sheet being emailed to the League Secretary by 8pm of the Monday following the game.
- b) In EC3 & EC4, the home team must telephone the match result to the Snowdon’s Result Service by 5.30pm. They should also ensure the Result Card, showing the Match Result, and bearing the Referee’s signature, plus those of the two captains, is emailed to the League Secretary by 8pm of the Monday following the game.

8 Disputes

- a) The Sub-Committee shall have the power to expel or suspend any team or Club from membership of the competition or impose such other penalty as considered appropriate for breach of these regulations. The committee has power to deduct points for poor disciplinary record and or abuse of the referee by players and or officials or supporters.
- b) In the event of a dispute or complaint, objections must be received within 48 hours of the event causing the dispute. Objections should be sent to the Competitions Secretary or in the event of his absence to the ECRU Hon. Secretary. The dispute or complaint shall be determined by 3 officials appointed by the Chairman of the Competitions Committee. A representative of each Club involved may be invited to attend and be heard. The decision of this Committee regarding the dispute or complaint shall be final and binding.

9 Officials

- a) The referee for a competition match shall be appointed by the home team using where possible a referee from a recognised Referees’ Society. Should the appointed Referee fail to arrive at the ground or be unable to complete the match for any reason, another may officiate with the agreement of both captains. Each team should provide a Touch Judge.
- b) Each Division shall be overseen by a Competitions Secretary who shall be the first point of contact with any query. Clubs will be informed of their contact details before the start of the season.

10 Kick-off times

These will comply with London Competitions directives – when received, they will be circulated.

Yours sincerely, John Mackay, Chairman, EC Competitions Committee