

**GREENE KING EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUES**

**REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE 2023-24**



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. These regulations cover the leagues administered and regulated by Eastern Counties in the season 2022-23. For the avoidance of doubt, the leagues are:
  - i) Eastern Counties 1 North
  - ii) Eastern Counties 1 South
  - iii) Eastern Counties 1 West
  - iv) Eastern Counties 2 North (East)
  - v) Eastern Counties 2 North (West)
  - vi) Eastern Counties 2 South
- 1.2. The management of these leagues has been delegated by the Eastern Counties Rugby Union to the Eastern Counties Competitions Committee, hereafter referred to as 'the Committee'.
- 1.3. The RFU has set out regulations that have general applicability to all adult rugby competitions. These are set out in RFU Regulation 6 and its appendices and can be found on the RFU website at: <https://www.englandrugby.com/dxdam/65/656ceb07-0363-47e3-b247-34f99e49ee28/Regulation%206.pdf>.
- 1.4. The London and South East Regional Organising Committee have set out Administrative Instructions and other useful information in relation to the RFU Regulations. These can be found at <https://rfulondon.com/regs>.
- 1.5. The RFU regulations are supplemented by the league-specific regulations set out by the Eastern Counties Competitions Committee contained within this document.
- 1.6. Any reference to 'regulations' should be taken as encompassing each of those three documents unless the reference is to one specific set of regulations. In the case of any conflict between the sets of regulations the set most specific to the competition in question shall prevail.

## 2. REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL LEAGUES

- 2.1. The regulations set out in this document apply to all the leagues specified in paragraph 1.1 regardless of the level of match or the format of the league itself other than section 3 which applies only to the Greene King Eastern Counties 1 leagues ('Level 9') and section 4 which applies only to the Greene King Eastern Counties 2 leagues ('Level 10').
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. 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, including the '[Game On](#)' principles. In the case of any conflict, the laws and directives of the Rugby Football Union shall apply.

- 2.4. The management of the competition shall be vested in the Competitions Committee of the Eastern Counties Rugby Union ('The Committee'), who shall be responsible to the Eastern Counties Management Committee for organising the competitions and shall have full powers to rule, in cases of disagreement between clubs, on the interpretation of these regulation or on any matter not covered by these regulations in connection with the competition.
- 2.5. The Committee has delegated to the League Secretaries, powers to deal with proven breaches of the Regulations, and to take appropriate action in accordance with the Regulations.
- 2.6. Provisions for the management of disputes or appeals arising from the decisions of the League Secretaries or the Committee are set out in Section 10 of these regulations.

#### ***Adjustment to league composition during the season***

- 2.7. In the event that it appears to the Committee that any team is, or becomes, unable to fulfil its published fixtures, the Committee shall have the power to remove such team from that league and implement any subsequent reorganisation in order to protect the integrity of the leagues. In the event of a team being removed from the league in these circumstances all previous results to that point will be expunged from the records.
- 2.8. In the event of changes to league composition arising from 2.7, the Committee may issue revised fixture lists in consultation with the affected teams to preserve the integrity of the competition and to maintain a viable playing schedule for the affected teams.

#### ***Higher teams not playing***

- 2.9. A club with more than one team competing in the league structure – which encompasses the English Clubs Championship and the Greene King Eastern Counties Leagues - must always honour its highest fixture. If a higher team defaults and a lower team plays on the same day then the lower team shall be deemed to have lost and a '0 – 0' score shall be recorded.
- 2.10. Further to the above if a higher team fixture does not take place for reasons beyond their control or it does not have a fixture, there will be grounds of appeal to the League Secretary to review the result if it is suspected that a lower team has fielded a significant number of players from the higher-level team.
- 2.11. It should be noted that these provisions apply throughout the league structure and that the League Secretary or the Competitions Committee may investigate such instances regardless of whether a complaint is received by an opposing club or any third party.

### **3. GREENE KING EASTERN COUNTIES 1 NORTH, SOUTH AND WEST**

- 3.1. The Greene King Eastern Counties 1 Leagues will be regulated locally under the supervision of the named league secretaries and the Eastern Counties Competitions Committee. Guidance is given in the next section on the approach that will be taken to managing these leagues, but clubs should be aware that, in the absence of any specific variation, the relevant regulations of the London Regional Organising Committee (the ROC) will apply.

- 3.2. Subject to the provisions of section 10 of these regulations, League Secretaries have been given delegated authority to interpret and apply the Regulations including the imposition of any penalties. Any appeal against the decision of the League Secretary on any matter will be determined by the Eastern Counties Competitions Committee. Any such appeal should be forwarded in written form to the Chair of the Competitions Committee whose contact details are in the Appendix to these regulations within 7 calendar days of the decision being issued. No appeal will be heard until the appropriate administrative fee has been lodged with the Chair of the Committee.
- 3.3. Reporting of results will be via Electronic Match Cards (EMCs) on GMS. A considerable amount of help and information is available on these. If you have any queries, please speak to your League Secretary.
- 3.4. Should you have any queries on the RFU regulations or other matters affecting this league, your first contact is your League Secretary, details of whom can be found at the end of this document.
- 3.5. Clubs are expected to make all reasonable efforts to ensure a game takes place as scheduled. This should include the full use of the adjustments available under the defined 'Game On' principles. In the event of difficulty in reaching an agreement to play the scheduled fixture, the relevant League Secretary can advise on the options available to the clubs concerned. In the event that a game does not take place, the League Secretary will investigate the circumstances leading to that failure and will apply such sanctions as they deem appropriate in accordance with Appendix 3 of RFU Regulation 6.
- 3.6. In the event of a scheduled match being unable to be played on the scheduled date for reasons of inclement weather or other extraordinary circumstances, regulations require that those matches be rescheduled to be played on the next available weekend. However, should both clubs agree, in advance of the scheduled date and with good reason, to play on an alternative date the League Secretary may, at their absolute discretion, agree to such a change provided that they are satisfied that the competitive integrity of the league would not be undermined by doing so.
- 3.7. At the end of the season, the team winning each of the three Greene King Eastern Counties 1 leagues will normally be eligible to be promoted. The teams finishing in the bottom two of each league may be relegated.
- 3.8. Teams will be relegated into Greene King Eastern Counties 1 from the Counties 2 Eastern Counties league and will be promoted into the league from the Eastern Counties 2 leagues. Teams may, at the discretion of the Eastern Counties Competitions Committee, be transferred between the North, South and West divisions of Greene King Eastern Counties 1 to maintain an appropriate balance of numbers between those leagues.
- 3.9. Squad sizes for league matches will be limited to eighteen players unless the two clubs agree a greater number. No more than eight interchanges shall be permitted for each side in any league match.

- 3.10. All players must be duly registered with your club before they play in a league match except that a team may play up to two non-registered players in a match. The player(s) must not be registered to another club and may only appear under this concession ONCE in any season; they must be clearly identified as being non-registered and playing under this concession.
- 3.11. The provisions of 3.10 regarding player registration shall not apply when a match is taking place under 'Game On' principles. Clubs must advise the relevant League Secretary when this is the case so that the Electronic Match Card can be properly interpreted.
- 3.12. Matches are expected to be played with contested scrummages with fully capable and trained front rows.
- i) In the event that a sufficient number of front row forwards are not available then the clubs may agree before kick off to play with altered scrummages in accordance with 'Game On' principles.
  - ii) If, in the opinion of the referee, or by agreement between the two teams, it becomes apparent that it is impossible or dangerous for contested scrummages to continue then the scrummaging conditions can be altered during the course of the match.
  - iii) In either of the circumstances described above the result of the game as played shall stand. There shall be no requirement for either side to withdraw any players from the pitch as a consequence of a decision to discontinue contested scrummaging.

#### **4. GREENE KING EASTERN COUNTIES 2 LEAGUES**

- 4.1. These regulations shall apply to the Greene King Eastern Counties Leagues listed below. Unless otherwise stated they apply throughout those leagues.
- i) Greene King Eastern Counties 2 South
  - ii) Greene King Eastern Counties 2 North (East)
  - iii) Greene King Eastern Counties 2 North (West)
- 4.2. The conduct of these competitions is governed by the Eastern Counties Competitions Committee (hereafter referred to as 'The Committee'). The Committee has delegated certain functions to League Secretaries for each competition – these individuals are listed in Appendix 4 of these regulations. Decisions made by a League Secretary are made with the full authority of the Committee.
- 4.3. The membership and operation of leagues may be reviewed during the season and in consultation with the relevant clubs and on the advice of the relevant League Secretary, the Eastern Counties Competitions Committee may, at its absolute discretion, administratively promote or relegate a team between leagues if it is considered that it is in the interests of that club and the promotion of the game to do so.

- 4.4. Any team that is promoted or relegated in accordance with the provisions in rule 4.3 shall not be eligible to be further promoted nor to be awarded a league winners trophy at the end of the season.

#### ***Player Registration***

- 4.5. In the leagues specified in paragraph 4.1 of these regulations there is no player registration requirement, though it is still encouraged. Wherever possible, players should, however, be bona fide members of the relevant club, unless they have been borrowed or lent to an opposing team or where the opposing team has agreed to 'guest' players being used.
- 4.6. Players who hold effective registration with another club cannot be used in a match unless both the club who holds the player's registration and the opposition agree.
- 4.7. Clubs are strictly responsible for ensuring that any player who plays in any of their teams is eligible to do so, is of an age to play (and authorised to do so in accordance with RFU Regulations) and is not subject to any disciplinary sanction that might render them ineligible to play in any match.

### **5. TEAMS OF APPROPRIATE STRENGTH**

- 5.1. Clubs may enter more than one team into the League Structure, but no club shall normally have more than one team in any League. (In the interests of greater participation this rule may be waived by the Committee at the lowest Division in each geographical area). Where this situation arises due to promotion or relegation at the higher levels, the "lower" side will be relegated or denied promotion to ensure that this rule is adhered to.
- 5.2. Having nominated a team, each club shall ensure that such team shall consist of players who would normally be expected to play for that team. If, in the opinion of the Committee, any club fields an unrepresentative team in any competition match, then the offending team shall forfeit any competition points gained in that match and penalised an additional five league points, the non-offending team shall be awarded five league points. The result of the match shall be adjusted to 0-0.
- 5.3. Clubs should be aware that this rule is taken very seriously and League Secretaries WILL investigate if complaints are made and MAY investigate in the absence of any such complaint if results appear to be abnormal.
- 5.4. Where a club or a team applies to either join or leave the EC playing structure certain criteria will apply. For those clubs outside EC wishing to join, agreement from their current CB must be evidenced, and a commitment to remain within the EC structure for a period of no less than five years will be required; for those wishing to leave the EC structure, such request must be made to their current League Secretary by the end of February of that season, and a return to EC would not be permitted for a period of three years.

## **6. LEAGUE FORMAT**

- 6.1. The numbers of teams in each League shall normally be limited to a maximum of 12 teams with a minimum of six.
- 6.2. EC clubs are encouraged to enter new teams into the playing structure. Before accepting a team for entry into the playing structure, the Committee will seek satisfactory evidence that the proposed entrant has the capability of meeting their playing obligations through a whole season.
- 6.3. 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 or balance of the Leagues is changed, the Committee shall be empowered to revise the numbers of promoted or relegated teams at the end of each season to bring Leagues to the required number/strength in order to maintain a viable competition structure.

## **7. RESULTS NOTIFICATION**

- 7.1. Results of matches for all leagues shall be submitted by whatever mechanism the League Secretary advises and any administrative instructions that might be issued by the Committee in the course of the season (Appendix 1).
- 7.2. The RFU has introduced a system for the recording of results using Electronic Match Cards (EMCs). EMCs must be used for the reporting of results. It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that the necessary information to meet the administrative instructions in place at the time of the match is confirmed and to communicate that information to the results service.
- 7.3. A cancellation or postponement for any reason MUST still be reported as a result.
- 7.4. The Results Service should be informed of the result of the match as soon as possible, but certainly no later than 1730 on Saturday. Failure to follow the appropriate instructions for notification of results may result in a £25 charge to the club whose responsibility it was to report the result.
- 7.5. If a charge is incurred the appropriate League Secretary will issue an invoice to the offending club with a copy to the EC Administration Manager. Settlement must be made in accordance with the instructions detailed on the invoice.

## **8. LEAGUE REGULATIONS**

### ***League Positions***

- 8.1. The position of the teams in each league shall be established in accordance with RFU Regulation i.e. Four points for a win, two for a draw, plus the addition of 1 or 2 bonus points where a team scores four tries and/or loses by seven match points or fewer.

- 8.2. In all leagues the 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 from games played. If this does not decide a winner, then the team with the greater positive points difference shall be placed higher.

### ***Promotion and Relegation***

- 8.3. Promotion and relegation between Greene King Eastern Counties 1 and Greene King Eastern Counties 2 will be as advised by the League Secretaries at the start of each season. A team may ask the Competitions Committee to forego promotion before 1 January of the season in question. If granted, such request will only be allowed for one season. Such a request will not automatically be granted and clubs should not assume that it will be agreed.
- 8.4. If a team's league position is such that it would normally have been eligible for promotion but in the opinion of the Committee it has not demonstrated that it has the capability of sustaining a full season in the higher league (for example if it has made extensive use of the 'Game On' concessions) then the Committee may determine that the team shall not be promoted.
- 8.5. The bottom two teams in each of the three Greene King Eastern Counties 1 leagues will normally be relegated.
- 8.6. If necessary, to maintain balanced numbers in each league once issues of promotion and relegation have been resolved the Committee may transfer one or more teams between EC regional Leagues.
- 8.7. If any team does not fulfil 75% of its fixtures, the Committee has the power, at its discretion, to remove all their results from the records to determine promotion and relegation.
- 8.8. Promotion and relegation between the Greene King Eastern Counties 1 leagues and the Counties 2 Eastern Counties League is under the control of the London Regional Organising Committee and any enquiries regarding that matter should be directed to that Committee.
- 8.9. In the event of a team that is eligible for promotion not being promoted for any reason, the Committee shall use its discretion to maintain the appropriate numbers in each league by:
- i) relegating fewer teams,
  - ii) promoting an alternative team,
  - iii) carrying out level transfers in accordance with paragraph 8.6,
  - iv) or by some combination of these actions.

### ***Fixtures and Cancellations***

- 8.10. Each team must fulfil its agreed fixture schedule.
- 8.11. Competition matches must kick off no later than 1500 on the Saturday designated for the fixture.



- 8.12. With this proviso, teams are free to agree to play their match at any point in the week preceding the scheduled Saturday including under floodlights. If no agreement to an alternative time is agreed, the match shall kick off on the designated Saturday at the default kick-off time set down by the Committee. Default kick off times are detailed in Appendix 4 to this document.
- 8.13. Agreed kick off times and dates shall be notified to the relevant league secretary in advance of the date agreed.
- 8.14. Any club who wish to cancel or otherwise alter the agreed fixture list shall be responsible for initiating contact with the other club and with the relevant League Secretary. The club that initiates contact is responsible for ensuring that the other club has received and acknowledged their messages. Such contact should be by telephone or other personal contact to ensure that the other club is fully aware at the earliest possible stage. If it is necessary for the initiating club to send a written message or to leave a spoken message then this shall not be considered satisfactory communication unless the receipt of the message and its contents are fully acknowledged by the other club.
- 8.15. It is the responsibility of both clubs to ensure that any agreement reached to change the scheduled fixture or the basis upon which it is being played is communicated in writing to the relevant League Secretary in order to avoid any disputes after the fact as to what was agreed.
- 8.16. Cancellations must be notified to the League Secretary prior to the scheduled kick off time. Teams considered responsible for a cancellation will be deducted 5 competition points. The match shall be awarded to the team not responsible with the score of 0–0 and 5 competition points.
- 8.17. Voluntary postponement of fixtures will not incur a 5-point penalty if BOTH the relevant League Secretary and the opponents are informed and agree to such postponement and a revised date has been agreed by the two teams and communicated to the League Secretary. The League Secretary must be informed before the scheduled fixture and with a proposed rescheduled date.
- 8.18. Teams in all Leagues are encouraged to give as much notice as possible to their opponents if a match must be, or is at risk of having to be, cancelled. Teams suffering a cancellation are encouraged to attempt to find an alternative friendly fixture. A closed Facebook Fixture Exchange page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ecfixtureexchange/> has been set up by EC and all League Contacts are encouraged to register and recommended to utilise this facility to the full.
- 8.19. In the event of the away team cancelling a scheduled fixture, the home team shall be entitled to require that the venue for any remaining scheduled fixture between the two teams shall be reversed. Should the reverse fixture already have been played, the Committee may rule that a corresponding fixture in the following season should be reversed.

- 8.20. In the event of a cancellation/postponement under any circumstances, the home team must notify the League Secretary by email NO LATER than 1400 on the day of the match. A copy should also be sent to the away team for clarification.
- 8.21. In the event of an involuntary postponement of a match – where the cause of postponement is outside the control of either team – the League Secretary will set a date for the postponed fixture to be played. This will normally be the next available weekend in which neither club has a league fixture already scheduled. Any alternative date proposed by either team will be treated as a 'voluntary postponement' in accordance with the regulation above.
- 8.22. The home team remains responsible for informing the Results Service of the postponement, as though it was the result of the match.
- 8.23. It is the home team's responsibility to notify the appointed Referee of a cancellation. This notification must be given at the earliest possible opportunity and confirmation obtained from the Referee. Failure to observe this rule may result in financial and/ or other penalties at the discretion of the Competitions Committee. The notifying club should assume that the message of a cancellation has not been received unless the referee and/or the appointing society has confirmed that the information has been received.
- 8.24. Each club in the EC Leagues may nominate ONE non-league weekend to be designated "non-available for the rearrangement of a postponed/abandoned match". This nomination must be made in writing, signed by a recognized Club Official, to the appropriate League Secretary not later than 30 September 2023. The League Secretary will acknowledge the nomination by Email, which shall be retained by the club as evidence of such agreement. A club cannot nominate a scheduled league weekend or a weekend scheduled for a play-off match.

## **9. MATCH RULES & INTERCHANGES**

- 9.1. In accordance with the spirit of the RFU 'Game On' initiative, you should note the following provisions but any further variations allowed under Game On provisions may be applied.
- 9.2. Clubs should not call off games due to shortage of players without first consulting the opposing club. Clubs are encouraged always to provide players for opposing sides 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 because 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.
- 9.3. Interchanges will only be permitted in games where both sides start with an equal number of players. Where this condition is satisfied, teams may make eight interchanges, using however many players are available.
- 9.4. 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.

- 9.5. 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.
- 9.6. 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.

## **10. DISPUTES**

- 10.1. The Committee shall have the power to expel or suspend any team or club from membership of the League or impose such other penalty as considered appropriate for breach of these regulations. The committee, in conjunction with the EC Disciplinary Committee, also has power to deduct points for poor disciplinary record and/or abuse of the referee or other misbehaviour by players, officials or supporters.
- 10.2. In the event of a dispute or complaint, objections must be received by email by the relevant League Secretary by 2000 on the Monday following a Saturday game, or within 48 hrs if not played on a Saturday.
- 10.3. The League Secretary will gather information from all parties involved and having considered this, will inform those involved, in writing, of their decision within 14 days of receipt of the complaint.
- 10.4. Either party may appeal the League Secretary’s decision in writing within 7 days of receipt of the decision setting out full details of their case. This document will, where appropriate, be copied to any other club or person involved.
- 10.5. Any such appeal shall be determined by an Appeals Panel comprising 3 officials appointed by the Chairman of the Competitions Committee. A representative of each club involved will be invited to attend and be heard.
- 10.6. The Appeals Panel may uphold, overturn or increase any penalties levied by the League Secretary.
- 10.7. An administration charge will be levied against the club lodging the appeal and must be paid prior to the date of the hearing. The amount of the charge will be communicated to the club and is intended to cover any costs incurred (e.g. Travelling expenses for panel members). Such charge will be waived if the appeal is successful.
- 10.8. Appeal hearings may be heard using video technology to avoid unnecessary travel but if in the opinion of the Appeal Panel a physical meeting would be preferable then the Panel will determine the venue for the hearing.
- 10.9. These competitions operate under the auspices of the Rugby Football Union and the regulations adopted by them for the conduct of the game of Rugby Union in England. The provisions of this section of the regulations set out the process for the management of disputes or appeals within the structures of Eastern Counties Rugby Union. Clubs or other parties have a further right to appeal decisions arising from these regulations to the Rugby

Football Union. Any party considering such a further appeal should contact the Administrator of the London and South East Regional Organising Committee for information as to how to do so.

## **11. OFFICIALS**

- 11.1. The referee for a competition match shall be appointed by the home team using where possible a suitably qualified referee from a recognised Referees' Society.
- 11.2. Where a referee is not available or fails to arrive at the ground, another person may officiate with the agreement of both captains. Agreement should not be unreasonably withheld and there is no requirement that such person holds the membership of a Referees Society or any other specific match official qualification. Each team should provide a competent Touch Judge.
- 11.3. Each League shall be overseen by a League Secretary who shall be the first point of contact with any query. Contact details are in Appendix 5 to this document.

## **12. VALIDITY**

- 12.1. These regulations shall apply from 15 September 2023 and remain in force until revoked or amended by the Competitions Committee, who reserve the right to make any such changes at any time to ensure the smooth running of the Competition.
- 12.2. Any such changes will be communicated to all clubs prior to implementation.

# APPENDICES

## 1. ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE REPORTING OF RESULTS

### ***League Secretaries***

- 1.1. In the event of any queries, the first point of contact should be the league secretary responsible for the match concerned. Their contact details are contained in Appendix 5 of this document.

### ***Responsibility for Reporting Results***

- 1.2. It is the responsibility of the Home Team to ensure that all necessary information is gathered to enable the result to be reported in accordance with these instructions.
- 1.3. Should there be any dispute or difficulty in agreeing the information then both teams and the referee should independently advise the League Secretary of the circumstances leading to the difficulty who will investigate and determine the appropriate course of action. The home team shall, notwithstanding any dispute, report the result in any case.

### ***Method of Reporting Results***

- 1.4. Teams are **required** to report their results using Electronic Match Cards.
- 1.5. In all cases, teams are required to record their results on the RFU's Game Management System by midday on the Monday following the match.

### ***Reporting of Match Results using Electronic Match Cards***

- 1.6. Teams must be entered on the Electronic Match Card before kick-off time.
- 1.7. Results must be reported to the Result Service by 5:30pm on the day of the match if played on Saturday, or by 5:30 pm on the Saturday following the match if played earlier in the week.
- 1.8. If you are having problems sending your EMC, you must telephone the result by the deadline above to the result service on the number specified in Appendix 4 (0114 232 5555).
- 1.9. In the event of a result having to be reported by telephone, the relevant Electronic Match Card must be completed and sent by midday on the Monday following the match. If clubs are in any difficulty in meeting this deadline, they should advise their League Secretary.
- 1.10. Failure to adhere to the above may result in fines issued by your League Secretary.

### ***Results Service***

- 1.11. This results reporting telephone line opens ONE HOUR AFTER normal kick-off time.

- 1.12. The Results Service will normally be staffed on all dates of rearranged matches and the same rules apply for phoning the result of the match.

***Game On etc***

- 1.13. Teams are expected to make all reasonable efforts to ensure that where 'Game On' concessions have been applied that the submitted Electronic Match Card accurately reflects the conditions under which the match was played. The fact that 'Game On' principles have been used should be recorded in the 'Notes' field on the Electronic Match Card.
- 1.14. There is no acceptable reason for the identity of players and their affiliations not to be accurately recorded.

***Postponed matches***

- 1.15. Early postponements may be notified to the Results Service by e-mail ONLY to [ecrugby@snowdons.co.uk](mailto:ecrugby@snowdons.co.uk) at any time BEFORE 1400 on the day of the match. Thereafter, the rules for phoning the Results Service not later than 1730 apply. The League Secretary should be copied into this email.

## **2. BARRIER FROM FIELD OF PLAY AND TECHNICAL AREAS**

- 2.1. Clubs **must** familiarise themselves and comply with RFU Regulations 6.29 to 6.33 which include but are not limited to:
- i) Ensuring that (with the exception of coaching and medical staff, replacements and water carriers) all other persons are kept at a reasonable distance from the playing area by permanent or temporary barriers.
  - ii) Provision of Technical Areas. If a Club committee has deemed it impractical or unnecessary for pitch side barriers or Technical Areas to be in place then, unless the referee agrees otherwise, the area between the 10-metre and centre line at the end of the pitch in which its team plays the first half of the match shall form the Technical Area. Both teams shall be on the same side of the pitch as determined by the home team.
  - iii) Coaching and medical staff, replacements and water carriers are expected to remain in the Technical Areas when not undertaking their duties. There shall be no more than four water carriers per team (including medical staff and replacements).
- 2.2. Sanction Guidelines (RFU Regulation 6, Appendix 3) enable the ROC to impose such penalty as deemed appropriate including the deduction of 5 or more league points for failure to comply with these requirements (including report by the referee).

### **3. PROTOCOL FOR THE APPLICATION OF 'GAME ON' PRINCIPLES**

- 3.1. The Rugby Football Union has approved a set of principles entitled 'Game On' with a view to ensuring the maximum number of games take place, even in the face of the unavailability of players or those capable of playing in specialised positions. These principles apply to all the leagues covered by these regulations.
- 3.2. These principles are set out in RFU Regulation 6. The relevant extract of that regulation is set out below.
- 3.3. For the avoidance of doubt it is permitted for teams to borrow players from their opponents or other clubs in order to field sufficient players to allow a game to take place.
- 3.4. The procedure clubs should adopt in the application of these principles is as follows:
  - i) Clubs should advise their scheduled opponents at the earliest stage possible that they wish the game to be played using one or more of the 'Game On' concessions.
  - ii) Clubs are expected to make every effort to agree a set of conditions that will allow the game to take place and to do so in a manner as close to a fully-contested 15-a-side game as possible. In particular:
  - iii) Clubs are required to offer to loan players to their opposition in order to achieve the numbers necessary for a game to take place. Clubs are equally required to accept the loan of such players.
  - iv) Clubs are required to offer the loan of front row or other specialised positions to ensure that as many phases of the game may be contested as possible. Clubs are also required to accept the loan of such players.
- 3.5. No game shall commence with an inequity of players greater than one. Nor shall such inequity be permitted to arise during the course of the game other than as a result of a player being sent from the field of play by the referee.
- 3.6. In the event that one side is short of players and the other has a surplus, the side with a surplus of players shall not be permitted to make interchanges unless those replacement players are equally available to both sides.
- 3.7. In the event that a game is cancelled due to unavailability of players, the league secretary shall enquire as to the circumstances and whether a game might have been played by the application of the Game On principles. Should the League Secretary take the view that a game could have been played, then the match shall be recorded as a loss for both teams.
- 3.8. If during any game, it becomes apparent to the referee that it is not safe to continue the match under normal laws or the agreed conditions, they may require the conditions of the match to be adjusted so that it can be continued safely – whether by the removal of players from one or both teams, requiring phases of play to be uncontested or such other adjustment as they see fit. Should either side not agree to these adjustments being made, the referee shall have the authority to abandon the match and report the circumstances to the relevant League Secretary.



## **EXTRACT FROM REGULATION 6: GAME ON PRINCIPLES**

**RFU Regulation 6 sets out the 'Game On Principles' designed to ensure as many games as possible take place as scheduled. Clubs are encouraged to make full use of these principles to ensure that games take place. For the avoidance of doubt, these principles apply to all leagues covered by these regulations.**

55. The Game On Principles (as set out below) may apply as follows:

- (i) Men's League matches at Counties League 1 and below (formerly Level 7 and below) provided prior approval of the Organising Committee<sup>1</sup> is obtained;
- (ii) Women's League matches at National Challenge 3 and below without further approval; and
- (iii) in non-RFU Competitions (including merit tables and friendlies) without further approval.

subject in all cases to both teams agreeing which of the Game On Principles will apply to the match, and notifying the Referee accordingly at least 30 minutes prior to kick-off. If both teams cannot agree whether a Game On Principle will apply, the match will proceed without the application of that Game On Principle.

56. The Game On Principles are as follows:

<b>LAW</b>	<b>GAME ON PRINCIPLE</b>
Law 3.2: Team Numbers	A match can take place with a minimum of 10 players on each team at the start of the match. It is encouraged that the number of players on each team is equal, subject to the laws of the game. Effective from 1 August 2022
Law 5.3: Match Duration	A match can be a minimum of 40 minutes in duration.
Law 3.34: Rolling Substitutions	Rolling substitutions are permitted in accordance with regulations 63 and 64 below.
Law 3.34: Half Game Rule	Where rolling substitutions are adopted, teams are encouraged to apply the half game rule to ensure each player in every match day squad plays at least half of the Available Playing Time (as defined in RFU Regulation 1).
Law 18: Line Outs	Teams may agree not to contest or lift in the line out
Law 19: Scrums	Teams may agree that scrums can be contested push and strike (maximum 1.5m push) or uncontested.

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<sup>1</sup> London Regional Organising Committee has not yet determined its position on the level to which Game On principles can be used.

# THIS IS GAME ON

## EVERY GAME MATTERS

Even if you don't have a full 15, the game's never up. GAME ON lets the game go ahead with a minimum of 10 players, so you can still escape to the wonderful world of rugby.

## HOW IT WORKS

### SCRUM OPTIONS



- Contested push and strike
- Contested push and strike (maximum push 1.5m)
- Uncontested push and uncontested strike

### SUBS



- Rolling subs
- The half game rule

### LINEOUT OPTIONS



- Flex numbers to reflect team size
- Agree to contest/not contest
- Agree to lift/not lift

### MATCH DURATION & PITCH SIZE



- Adapt match length to 40 to 80 minutes
- Adapt pitch size to suit player needs

#### **4. KICK OFF TIMES FOR ALL EC LEAGUES 2022-23 SEASON**

- 4.1. The Committee has agreed the following kick-off times, for those clubs without suitably certificated floodlights.
- i) September, October, March, April, May 1500.
  - ii) November, December, January, February 1400
- 4.2. Where the two clubs wish to agree on a kick off time prior to these times, they may do so but must advise the relevant League Secretary in advance of the match.
- 4.3. Clubs with the benefit of floodlights must, before the 1 September 2023, inform their League Secretary and all their opponents of any desired variations from the above kick-off times for the forthcoming season. A match may be played at a different time on a Saturday provided the League Secretary is satisfied that the provision of a result will not be unduly delayed. A match may be played on any day in the week preceding the relevant Saturday provided the League Secretary has received confirmation from the opposition that they are content to play the match at that time.

## 5. EASTERN COUNTIES CONTACTS 2023-24 SEASON

### *Eastern Counties Competitions Committee*

#### **Chair**

**John Mackay**

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7PH

H: 01508 480950

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[Johnprmackay51@gmail.com](mailto:Johnprmackay51@gmail.com)

### *League Secretaries*

#### **Counties 2 Eastern Counties**

##### **EC1/2/3 North**

**Gary Lee**

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##### **EC1/2/3 South**

**Colin Garrod**

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##### **EC 1/2/3 West**

**Alasdair Bovaird**

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### *London Regional Organising Committee*

**London ROC can, if necessary, be  
contacted through its Administrator,  
Ian Forton**

[london.competitions@btinternet.com](mailto:london.competitions@btinternet.com)

### *Results Service*

#### **Snowdons Results Service**

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