



**ENGLISH CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP
SOUTH WEST LEAGUES
SEASON 2017-2018 – NEWSLETTER 3 – DECEMBER 2017**

ADMIN OFFICE: P O BOX 3781 SWINDON SN2 9GW
TEL: 01822 678 272 FAX: 0845 226 0511
Email:admin@swrugby.co.uk Website www.swrugby.co.uk

International Clearance

In respect of players who last played in another union:

- Applications for player registrations for **contracted** players at Level 5 and below, must be accompanied by an international clearance;
- Applications for player registrations for **amateur, non-contracted** players at Level 5 and below, are not required to provide a copy of an international clearance for the player to be registered (nor evidence that international clearance has been applied for).

Registration Forms

A reminder the new registration and loan forms issued in the autumn will be the only ones accepted from the 1st January. They can be downloaded from the SW website.

Registration Transfer Deadline

The Transfer Deadline this season is **Friday 23rd February 2018**, therefore all registration paperwork must be received by the following dates:

- **Friday 16th February for standard 7-day**
- **12 noon Friday 23rd February for expedited**

This means that all registration papers are present and correct by those times as any incomplete applications may result in the player missing the Transfer Deadline.

Matches played as friendlies

At level eight and below clubs struggling to raise a side are reminded they may agree with their opponents to play the match as a friendly. This may be by using unregistered players or borrowing players from the opposition. In those circumstances the match will still be awarded as a bonus point win to their opponents. However the defaulting club will not be deducted any points and the game will not count towards the 25% limit after which clubs are expunged.

To make use of this facility clubs must have at least 12 of their own players before looking to borrow players and the decision to play the game as a friendly must be reported to the results service before the kick off. There is then no need to report the score after the game as it will be reported as 0-0 nor send in a match card.

Declining Promotion

Clubs are reminded the deadline to lodge an application to decline promotion is the 31st December. Such application should be sent by post or email to address above.

Please refer to Regulation 13.2.9 9 (b) and (c)

(b) A Club is permitted to submit an application to the Organising Committee to request an exemption from promotion subject to the following conditions:

(i) such request is received by the Organising Committee no later than the 31 December of the Season; and (ii) this right to submit a request is only available to each Club once at each level of the Leagues; and (iii) the Club must demonstrate that promotion would be detrimental to the finances and infrastructure of the Club;

(c) In the event that a request is submitted in accordance with 13.2.9(b), the request will be considered by the Committee who may request such additional information and supporting evidence as it requires. If a request is approved by the Committee and a Club is granted an exemption from promotion for the next season the following will apply:

(i) if the Club finishes in an automatic promotion place, the highest placed Club in the league above who was due to be relegated the following season will be reprieved from relegation.

(ii) if the Club finishes in a player-off place, then their opponents shall be awarded a walk-over.

Long Distance Travel Payments

There have been some delays in paying sums due for long distance travel but we understand all clubs who are eligible, and have supplied the RFU with their bank details, should now have received their allocation. A reminder that if, subsequently, a qualifying game is not played; the money paid will be reclaimed.

Sponsorship payments

All clubs should now have received their share of the Tribute or Wadworth sponsorship funds. Please note payments are made per club and not per team. The payment is determined by which league a club's highest ranked teams plays in the South West.

Weather

Although the weather has been kind so far this season, postponements are always likely at this time of year. New dates will appear on the fixture section of englandrugby.com AND the news page of the SW website usually within 24 hours. Formal confirmation will follow in the post. With bad weather likely make sure you follow the advice on getting games played and how to deal with postponements on the SW Website.

Result Cards

Any club which is running short of result cards for any reason should send an SAE of the appropriate size to the Admin with a note of which team it is for.

Season's Greetings

The Officers, League Secretaries and Staff of the South West wish all clubs the compliments of the season, and every success in 2018.