



**ENGLISH CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP  
SOUTH WEST LEAGUES  
SEASON 2016-2017 – NEWSLETTER 1 – MAY 2016**  
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### **2016-2017 Fixtures**

Please find enclosed your fixtures for the new season. If you want a complete set of fixtures for the South West they can be downloaded from the SW website from 28<sup>th</sup> May. As in past years clubs may mutually agree to move fixtures. The deadline is the 30<sup>th</sup> June and applications should be made via the SW website. Confirmation they have been agreed will appear on the RFU website in due course.

With the exception of those in 13/14 Club Leagues clubs will be able to nominate one non-league weekend when they will not be available for re-arranged matches. These nominations must be made using the downloadable form on the website or preferably directly on line, giving a minimum of eight weeks' notice. (In the event eight weeks notice is not given such nomination will automatically be ineffective). **All weekends during the season (INCLUDING EASTER SATURDAY but excluding Christmas (see below)) are deemed to be available – so do not wait until you have a game postponed before nominating an unavailable weekend. If you have a tour booked already – close the date now!** Clubs will not be ordered to play any re-arranged games on the 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> December so there is no need to declare those dates as unavailable. You cannot nominate any date on which a re-arranged game has been scheduled – even if it is within the eight weeks. In leagues where there are playoffs you cannot declare that weekend as unavailable.

### **Important regulation change**

Please note there is significant change for next season to the regulations concerning unplayed/postponed games.

Where a team cries off an away game in the first half of the season, the return fixture later in the season will automatically be reversed so the offending club will be expected to travel.

### **League Secretaries**

An updated list of League Secretaries is available on the website. Please note there have been a number of changes and a reshuffling of email addresses.

### **Admin Office closure**

The Admin Office will be closed from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June. Messages may be left but there may be a delay in dealing with them and postal correspondence.

### **Nominated League Contact**

All communications from this office are sent to the nominated league contact. Clubs are required to **confirm or amend** the latest details on the website ([www.swrugby.co.uk](http://www.swrugby.co.uk)) as soon as possible. Look under "Contact Us". Occasionally league secretaries have to contact clubs at short notice, it is essential that your records are up-to-date. If you do not have an email address, please supply an emergency one of another club official.

Any changes made after the form has been submitted can be notified via the website. Clubs with 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> teams in the leagues are advised to nominate separate contacts for their lower teams to that used for the first team. Clubs are warned **the return of this form is mandatory** and in default will be fined £50 if the confirmation is not received by 1<sup>st</sup> July. Last year a lot of time and effort was spent chasing these and clubs are asked to meet the deadline without the need for reminders.

### **Tribute Sponsorship**

Clubs in the Tribute Leagues who are eligible are being contacted to ensure their bank details are correct before their share is paid.

### **Player Registration**

Club membership secretaries have already been contacted by Twickenham with regard to the "spring clean" of club membership data. This does not directly affect player registration unless you remove a registered player from your club membership list. You can find more information at [www.englandrugby.com/GMS](http://www.englandrugby.com/GMS) .

A reminder if you are registering a player on line **YOU MUST** get the player to complete and sign a registration form before entering his details on line. Heavy penalties are in place for clubs found not to be doing this.

### **Adult Competition Review**

Although the major restructuring of the league is not taking place, each Divisional organising committee has the opportunity to review its current structure to investigate if any changes can be implemented for the benefit its clubs. The South West will be looking at the boundaries of the leagues to try to reduce travel and correct the imbalance of the strengths of the leagues at the same level. The earliest any changes will be introduced is at the start of the 2017-18 season.

### **SW Website**

The South West website contains a valuable information to assist clubs. As well as details of the South West Administration Instructions there are also the local rules for the deregulated leagues. Clubs can also apply for fixture changes, free weekends and update their contact details.

Throughout the season the news section is updated with important news items for clubs and, at times of fixture disruption, re-arranged dates for postponed games are posted on the website over the weekend.

You can also download copies of the player registration and notice of transfer forms.