



**ENGLISH CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP
SOUTH WEST LEAGUES
SEASON 2017-2018 – NEWSLETTER 1 – MAY 2017**
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2017-2018 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. As in past years clubs may mutually agree to move fixtures. The deadline is the 30th 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 23rd or 30th December so there is no need to declare those dates as unavailable. You cannot nominate any date on which a re-arranged game has already 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 match is postponed on two occasions due to the weather the home club will be required to find a different venue for the third staging – this can be a neutral venue or in default the away team's ground.

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.

Pilot League

The fixtures for the Pilot League will be available shortly once the participants have been confirmed.

Duchy League

The Duchy League has opted out of the English Clubs Championship. Fixtures for this competition are being published separately.

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) as soon as possible. Look under “Contact Us”. Occasionally league secretaries have to contact clubs at short notice, so 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 2nd/3rd/4th 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 1st July.

Tribute Sponsorship

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

SW Website

The South West website contains 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.

Player Discipline

Please note if a registered player is red-carded or suspended you must inform the SW Admin Office in writing within 48 hours.

Electronic Match Cards

The RFU proposes to introduce electronic match cards for teams playing in South West Premier (formerly National 3 South West), South West One East and Tribute South One West.

Full details of the scheme will be published in the summer and training offered. The method of reporting match results by telephone or text remains unchanged.

RFU Regulations

The RFU will publish next season’s regulations on their website at the beginning of August. You will be able to find them here –

<http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/regulations/>