



OFFICIAL BEER OF  
SOUTH WEST RUGBY

**ENGLISH CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP  
SOUTH WEST LEAGUES  
SEASON 2021-22 – NEWSLETTER 4 – FEBRUARY 2022**

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### **Future Competitions Structure**

Work continues apace at Twickenham regarding Season 2022/23. The deadline for expressions of interest from Clubs wishing to enter their Lower XV's into the English Clubs Championship and Constituent Bodies to vote on whether or not to allow Lower XV's into Level 7 & below, have both now passed.

The structure at Levels 3 -6 are agreed, Level 3 (National 1) will be one League of 14 clubs, Level 4 will be three Leagues of 14 clubs, Level 5 will be six Leagues of 12 Clubs and Level 6 will be twelve Leagues of 12 Clubs.

Lower XV's will now be able to rise to Level 7, which again will be twelve team Leagues.

If your Lower XV is already in the English Clubs Championship you will **NOT** have to reapply, unless your fall into either of the following categories;

- The Lower XV was expunged from the League for failing to fulfil its fixtures on 2021/22
- The Lower XV voluntarily withdrew from the League in 2021/22

In either of these cases you will need to gain Constituent Body approval to rejoin next season.

We would appreciate early notice of Clubs/Teams withdrawing from the English Clubs Championship as work is currently underway locally to put Leagues together for 2022/23.

We anticipate that publication of fixtures will be in the usual timeframe as previous seasons.

### **Transfer Deadline.**

With the deadline having now passed, Clubs are reminded that they can only transfer in front row players, if they can prove exceptional circumstances such as long term injuries, retirement etc.. You may however, still register players that do not hold effective registration for any other Club providing they also have not been registered at any point this season.

### **Unplayed/Postponed Matches**

We would like to remind clubs that unplayed or postponed matches will be re-scheduled for the Next Available Saturday. Please note this does include Six Nations weekends and Easter Saturday. The only exception being if a Club in a 12 team league has applied for a "Free Weekend" due to other commitments such as Tours etc.. Teams may bring fixtures forward from their rescheduled date and in some parts of the country, Friday night matches under lights have proved popular where that facility is available to them. We do reserve the right to carry over the five point deduction for failure to fulfill a fixture to next season, in line with regulations, where deemed necessary to maintain the integrity of the competition.

### **Electronic Match Result Cards**

The vast majority of teams are fulfilling their obligations and completing the EMCs within the agreed timeframe (ie. Midnight on Monday night). We have allowed an amnesty for the first 5 months of the season, but that has now come to an end and £25 fines are being issued. If you are struggling with getting the card completed please go to [help.rfu.com](http://help.rfu.com). We do appreciate that on occasions there may be difficulties outside of your control, but unless we are told about it, we can't help.

### **Tribute Sponsorship (Team of the Month)**

The website carries a selection of the monthly winners so far this season. Awards are not based solely on winning every game, there have been several examples this season of Teams winning the award for showing good sportsmanship and going that extra mile to get matches played.