



**ENGLISH CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP  
SOUTH WEST LEAGUES  
SEASON 2020-21 – NEWSLETTER 1 – JULY 2020**  
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**Fixtures**

Enclosed with this mailing are the fixtures for Season 2020-2021.

Please study the following carefully.

The season has been divided into three windows. Your league has been split into two groups based on geography. In the first window you will play each team in your group home and away. Dates have been allocated to these games. If we do not start on time each week will be automatically moved to the end of the first window. Thus if we don't start until, say, week 6 – it is week 6's fixtures which will be your first game. Therefore you will always have maximum notice of what your fixtures will be. **Please note: It is not yet confirmed when the season will start – the dates shown may well change as outlined above.**

If we complete the first window successfully we will then move to the second which will see you playing teams from the other group in your league once – either home OR away. If there is still time after that the third window will be played – where you will meet the teams from the opposite group at the opposite venues to the second window.

Some things to note

- You cannot move fixtures from each window to a date outside that window although where appropriate you can reverse home and away fixtures. If you do wish to apply to alter a fixture you should fill in the appropriate form on the SW Website – look under Contact Us.
- With the smaller groups we are limited in our options to keep teams within a club apart. You may need to explore Friday night games or staggered kick off times.
- No decision has yet been made about RFU Cup competitions.
- If only the first window is possible a playoff between the leaders of the two groups will be staged to decide the league winner.
- The fixtures will not be placed on GMS, and thus filter through to club websites, until a start date is confirmed.

**Next available weekend**

As outlined above, where the start of the season is delayed a whole week's fixtures will be moved to the end of the first fixture window. Where an individual game is off due to weather, no referee etc it will be rescheduled as normal to the next available weekend, or if no weekend is available to the of the relevant fixture window. Games will not be placed on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2020 or, except for 14 team leagues, the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 but all other weekends will be available including Easter Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

## **Regulations**

In adopting this format for the season it will be necessary to modify or dis-apply some regulations. These are being worked on at present and details will be circulated once they are available.

## **Confirmation of Nominated League Contacts**

Each year we ask clubs to confirm or update their nominated league contact (NLC). Now the new league make ups are confirmed we can start the process for next season. Please go to [www.swrugby.co.uk/nlcconfirm](http://www.swrugby.co.uk/nlcconfirm) and follow the instructions there – this must be done by 31<sup>st</sup> August.

## **End of Season 2019/20 plaques**

These have been awarded to the clubs shown as champions on the revised tables issued by the RFU. With end of season presentation evenings cancelled due to the current emergency, they have been sent direct to the nominated league contacts of the clubs concerned. We are still awaiting the scrolls for the SW Cup winners – these will be sent out as soon as we receive them.

## **Overdue Fines**

Thank you to all clubs who had fines outstanding – all overdue fines have now been paid.

## **League Secretaries**

There have been some changes to League Secretaries. Up to date details are on the website.

## **Future Competition Strategy**

Thank you those who attended the online sessions last month. The information gained from those is now being worked through at Twickenham. No decisions have yet been made. We do not expect any further information until October.

## **Carrying over of points**

As previously announced it was agreed that in the exceptional circumstances we find ourselves in any points deductions which normally would have been carried over to next season were deducted last season before the final tables were calculated.

## **Registrations**

Several clubs have asked if it is possible to start registering players for next season now. The answer is yes but please remember all players need to complete and sign a paper form before you either process it on line or submit it to the Admin Office. With the current rules on isolating and distancing it may not be possible to complete the form and so any registration will have to wait.

## **County Cups**

Although not the responsibility of the South West, Constituent Bodies may decide to run their county competitions once we have a clearer idea of when the season can start. Please liaise with them for further information but bear in mind League fixtures will take priority over county cup fixtures.

## **SW Website**

We will continue to provide updates via the website ([www.swrugby.co.uk](http://www.swrugby.co.uk)) and Twitter. We will also continue to issue newsletters as appropriate. If you have any queries you are welcome to contact your league secretary or the Admin Office, but please check the website first to see if the answer you require is there.