



ENGLAND MEN'S LEAGUES
SOUTH WEST REGION TRIBUTE ALE LEAGUES
SEASON 2026-27 – NEWSLETTER 1 – JUNE 2026

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Fixtures

The fixtures for the new season are now available. They are later than we planned due to issues in the National Leagues. If you want a complete set of fixtures for the South West they can be downloaded from the SW website, or you can download just a single league. (Just go to the Latest News page.) As in past years clubs may mutually agree to move fixtures. The deadline is the 1st August and applications by **BOTH** clubs should be made via the SW website. Confirmation they have been agreed will appear on the RFU website in due course. You should also follow this procedure if you are moving a game from a Saturday to the preceding Friday night.

In the structured season, which is also available on the SW Website, you will notice there are some red “break” weeks. These are weekends when the competition does not plan to place any re-arranged games. However, if two clubs mutually agree to play on those weekends it will be permitted. Both clubs will need to inform the admin office and their League Secretary at least 72 hours beforehand to ensure the change can be made. ***All other weekends during the season are deemed to be available – so do not wait until you have a game postponed before nominating an unavailable weekend.*** With the pressure on available weekends only teams in leagues with ten or less teams will be able to nominate free weekends. This should be done via the website at least 8 weeks in advance.

Where a club has two teams in the leagues we have again tried to avoid ground clashes. Where teams play in different size leagues using different dates this becomes increasingly difficult. There also other situations where there are not sufficient permutations to allow a good split. However, as mentioned above, clubs do have the option to mutually agree fixture changes with their opponents.

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 and follow the instructions there – this must be done by 1st August and applies to all clubs even if you have updated your details in the last few weeks prior to the publication of this newsletter.

Registrations

Registration for the new season is due to open on 1st July. Please look out for separate publicity concerning the arrangements for the new season.

League Officials

Up to date details of all the current League Officials are now on the website. With the exception of registration queries and reporting results, they should be your first point of contact.

You will no doubt be aware that the SW Chair Dave McAteer retired in May after many years' service as both a League Secretary and a South West official. We wish him well.

He is replaced as Chair by Daniel O'Donnell from Buckinghamshire.

Regulations – 2026-2027

The RFU Competition Regulations for the coming season are being finalised and will be posted on www.englandrugby.com when they come into effect on 1st July. For clubs playing in the SW, the Administrative Instructions & Deregulated Leagues regulations will be posted on the SW website once they have been approved by the RFU.

The RFU Regulations will contain full details of the move to have five replacements at Regional 1.

Carried over points deductions

A number of clubs had points deductions in the latter part of last season carried over to the forthcoming one. These will show on the league tables after the first games are played.

Under 18's playing adult rugby

Please note that clubs operating only Adult XV teams must ensure that any player under the age of 18 has received the appropriate approval from their Constituent Body (CB) before participating. Applications for approval can be submitted via: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/0dfda3b353b74227aecc0774b3081287>

Sponsorship

The South West Regional Organising Committee are delighted to confirm that St Austell Brewery will continue its sponsorship of the SW Leagues, which will now be known as the **Tribute Ale Leagues**, through to at least the end of this season.

The Team of the Month Awards will continue. As well as recognition on both the SW, and individual CB websites, the successful team will win a slab of Tribute Pale Ale.

We are asking Clubs & Counties to do all you can to promote the sponsorship on websites, social media posts and match day programmes please.