



**ENGLAND MEN'S LEAGUES
SOUTH WEST REGION
SEASON 2025-26 – NEWSLETTER 4 – MARCH 2026**
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Fixtures

We don't need to tell you what a difficult few weeks it has been since the New Year with the weather playing havoc with the fixtures on a weekly basis. We now have games stretching into May. Where games are called off, we must adhere to the Next Available Weekend protocol or we run the very real risk of not completing the season. The Easter weekend is classed as a Red/Break Week where we cannot order clubs to play, however clubs are welcome, and encouraged, to consider playing on one of the days over that weekend in preference to games later in April or May. If you do agree to bring a game forward both sides need to go to the website and apply for the change under "Contact Us".

In extreme cases we may have to prioritise games which affect promotion or relegation ahead of other matches.

Promotion, Relegation and Playoffs

This season sees the reintroduction of playoffs at certain levels. Each week we update the predicted fixtures on our website. There is also a section on how promotion and relegation is shaping up. It should be noted these are only indicative and the final placings will not be known until the end of the season and any disciplinary decisions are included.

Transfer Deadline

As we are now past the end of season deadline, you can no longer RFU Register a player who is, or has been, RFU Registered at another club at any point this season. This also applies to loans. It is permissible to set up a new student or service pass. Any loan set up before the deadline can be extended, providing the application is made at least 48 hours before the current loan expires.

Walkovers and other sanctions

A reminder that post the transfer deadline, your league secretary has the option to carry over points deductions for things like walkovers to next season, if they would have no effect this season.

Next Season's Fixtures

As we battle to get the season completed, work is starting on 2026/27 fixtures. This cannot really start in earnest until the playoffs at Regional level have been completed and promotions and relegations confirmed. It is planned the fixtures will be released by mid-June.

Tribute Ale Sponsorship

Thank you for your continuing support for Tribute Ale's sponsorship of the South West. Please carry on promoting their logo on your websites and match programmes and watch out for their special promotional offers. In recent weeks we have distributed money from the sponsorship to the eight Constituent Bodies to be used for the benefit of Community rugby.