

LEAGUE CRITERIA FOR THE SEASON 2008/09

Premiership

- The Fixture dates will be pre-set in the RFUW calendar.
- Matches can only be cancelled for:
 - i) Adverse weather conditions (with sides making every effort to find alternative venues) or
 - ii) 5 or more players are away on England Senior International Duty.
- Clubs will have to demonstrate that they have a minimum of 32 registered players at the start of the season, for clubs that run 2 sides then a minimum of 50 registered players is required and 70 players if clubs run 3 sides.
- All Development plans must be updated and presented to the Competition's Officer for review by the 23rd May 2008.
- The Coach Information forms sent out with affiliation forms must be completed for all the coaches within the women and girls section.
- Clubs must commit to send at least one delegate to a yearly meeting with the RFUW Performance department.
- Club to support and commit to attendance at the local Women's and Girls Forum in conjunction with your local WDRM.
- The Premiership will play to full IRB Laws.
- Referees for matches will be appointed by the RFU panel. (Please note that it is the club's responsibility to pay all referees expenses)

Championship 1 North and South

- The Fixture dates will be pre-set in the RFUW calendar.
- Matches can only be cancelled for:
 - i) Adverse weather conditions (with sides making every effort to find alternative venues) or
 - ii) 5 or more players are away on England Senior International Duty.
- Clubs will have to demonstrate that they have a minimum of 32 registered players at the start of the season, for clubs that run 2 sides then a minimum of 50 registered players is required.
- All Development plans must be updated and presented to the Competition's Officer for review by the 23rd May 2008. Including any new teams wishing to enter this league.
- The Coach Information forms sent out with affiliation forms must be completed for all the coaches within the women and girls section.
- Club to support and commit to attendance at the local Women's and Girls Forum in conjunction with your local WDRM.
- Championship 1 leagues play to full IRB Laws.

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Championship 2

- The Fixture dates will be pre-set in the RFUW calendar.
- Matches can only be rearranged with the agreement of both teams and the RFUW Competitions Officer.
- Clubs will have to demonstrate that they have a minimum of 28 Registered players at the start of the season, for clubs running 2 sides a minimum of 50 Registered players is required.
- Championship 2 is split into North, Midlands, South East and South West leagues.
- Championship 2 play to full IRB Laws.
- Clubs must submit their development plan to the Competition's Officer.
- The Coach Information forms sent out with affiliation forms must be completed for all the coaches within the women and girls section.

If for any reason a club has had to cancel a league match, other than those reasons written above, then that club may be spoken to about their ability to continue at this level. If clubs cannot guarantee to abide by the fixed dates it will be suggested that they drop down to a league that best suits the club needs.

Development Leagues (playing to IRB U19 Law Variations)

National Challenge 1

- The Fixture dates will be pre-set by the RFUW calendar.
- Matches can only be rearranged in agreement of both teams and the RFUW Competitions Officer.
- Matches will be 15 a side.
- All matches for league points must be contested scrums.
- Clubs will have to demonstrate that they have a minimum of 25 Registered players at the start of the season.
- National Challenge 1 will be split into North, Midlands, South East and South West leagues.
- Clubs must submit their development plan to their Competition's Officer.

National Challenge 2 and below

- The Fixture dates will be pre-set by the RFUW calendar.
- Matches can only be rearranged with the agreement of both teams and the RFUW Competitions Officer.
- All matches can be played with reduced numbers and teams either match 15 or 12 a side.
- Clubs must liaise with the opposition in the week prior to the fixture to discuss playing numbers.
- Uncontested scrums are allowed in prior agreement with the opposition.
- No Club will be considered for promotion if they play less than 80% of their matches with uncontested scrums.
- Clubs will have to demonstrate that they have a minimum of 22 Registered players at the start of the season.
- Clubs need to work on a Development Plan throughout the season and must produce one to play League Rugby for 2009/10.

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If a club has found that during the season they have had to cancel the majority of their fixtures it may be suggested by the RFUW that, rather than affiliate to play league rugby, you affiliate as a club under the “friendly” criteria. This enables a club to play friendly fixtures with other affiliated clubs and they can then choose their fixtures and the date to suit their capabilities. Clubs will be expected to return match report forms to record their friendly games and only if a side plays at least 8 matches during the season will they be considered to play league rugby the following season. This may give sides struggling in the league the time to help develop their section to meet the stricter criteria of league rugby.

Any team that plays friendly rugby and is working towards league status for the 2009/10 season will have to pay a set £50 player registration fee.

New Teams

If you are a new team wishing to enter the League system please return the “intention to affiliate” form with a list of your registered players including dates of birth and a copy of your friendly results throughout the season.

Note:

Please note that it is the club's responsibility to pay all referees expenses
