



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION NORTH COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2010

Essential Information for Clubs Season 2010-2011

Bonus Points System introduced for all Leagues

The new Season sees the introduction of the Bonus Points System for all Leagues. A win now counts for 4 points and a Draw 2 points. In addition, an extra point will be awarded for a Team scoring 4 tries or more, and an extra point will be awarded for a Team losing by 7 points or less.

All Clubs are asked to ensure that when their Representative telephones the Match Result into their League Secretary within 30 minutes of the end of the game, in addition to the final score, an accurate number of tries scored by each team is also provided.

PLAYER REGISTRATION

Please note that when a Club registers a Player Electronically, it must send a copy (photocopy, fax or scan) of the signed registration form to the League Secretary within 14 days of the date of signing.

Any Club in default of this requirement may have sanctions applied in accordance with the schedule of fines and penalties currently approved by the RFU North Competitions Committee

GAMES TO BE PLAYED OR REPLAYED

- Any match ordered to be played or replayed for whatever reason shall be played on the next available Saturday unless the Competitions Committee directs otherwise. The League Secretary shall determine the date and notify the Clubs as soon as the requirement is known. Any Appeal concerning this must be lodged within 48 hours of being notified of the date.
- Clubs playing in 12 home and away leagues or less may request that a specific non league Saturday be not designated a next available Saturday by written request to the Competitions Committee giving a maximum of three months notice. League Secretaries are not empowered to grant requests of this nature. Please note Clubs playing in 14 home and away leagues may not request that a specific league Saturday be so designated. The ruling only applies to 12 team leagues or less.

MATCH DAY ADMINISTRATION

IT CANNOT BE STRESSED ENOUGH, THAT ALL CLUB ADMINISTRATORS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE NAMES OF PLAYERS WHO THEY INSERT ON THEIR MATCH CARDS, ARE CONTAINED ON THEIR CLUB'S COMPUTERISED REGISTRATION LIST AT THE TIME OF KICK OFF, FOR THE MATCH IN WHICH THEY ARE SELECTED TO PLAY.

BASED ON LAST SEASON'S EXPERIENCE, MANY CLUBS WERE FOUND TO BE INSERTING THE NAMES OF PLAYERS, WHO WERE NOT ON THEIR CLUB'S COMPUTERISED REGISTRATION LIST.

THE RFU RULES & REGULATIONS ARE QUITE CLEAR THAT THE NAMES OF PLAYERS SELECTED TO PLAY HAVE GOT TO BE ON THE COMPUTERISED REGISTRATION LIST AT THE TIME OF KICK OFF.

PAST EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS THAT A REGULAR CHECK OF THE COMPUTERISED REGISTRATION LIST IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL. IN SEVERAL CASES, IT WAS FOUND THAT ALTHOUGH A PLAYER'S NAME WAS ON THE LIST, SAY ON THE DAY PRECEDING A MATCH, ON THE ACTUAL DAY OF THE

MATCH, FOR WHATEVER REASON, THE PLAYER'S NAME HAD BEEN REMOVED OR DELETED.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE NAME OF THE PLAYER WRITTEN ON THE MATCH CARD IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS THAT ON THE COMPUTERISED REGISTRATION LIST. BLOCK CAPITALS – SURNAME FIRST FOLLOWED BY CHRISTIAN NAME.

BOTH CLUBS SHOULD TELEPHONE THE MATCH RESULT TO THEIR LEAGUE SECRETARY NO LATER THAN 30 MINUTES AFTER COMPLETION OF THE GAME.

FULLY COMPLETED MATCH CARDS MUST BE POSTED TO THE LEAGUE SECRETARY TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 5 DAYS AFTER THE GAME HAS ENDED.

UNREGISTERED PLAYERS LEVEL 9 & BELOW

Please note that for the new Season, Clubs at Level 9 and below will be allowed to select up to 3 Unregistered Players, as Players or Replacements - without penalty - provided that they are eligible for registration. They must not be played again before Effective Registration is obtained.

TRAVEL MILEAGE EXPENSES

The RFU North Competitions Committee calculated all the Travel Mileage Expense amounts for Clubs eligible to receive them, in June 2010. These should be credited to Club's Accounts on 1 September 2010 or soon after.

LEAGUE SECRETARY CHANGES

Dudley Gibbs has replaced Peter Spencer as League Secretary for Durham/Northumberland 3, whilst Ken Potter will act as League Secretary for the Cumbria League until a permanent successor can be found for Ian Shovelton.

KICK OFF TIMES + FLOODLIGHTS

Kick Off times will be 2.15 pm for the months of November, December, January and February. For all other months the Kick Off time will 3.00 pm.

However, when necessary or desired to facilitate travelling arrangements, the above Kick Off times may be amended, provided that:

- The League Secretary's permission is obtained prior to the revised Kick Off time being confirmed.
- The Match Referee is informed and his/her agreement is secured.

In addition, Clubs may use Floodlights provided they meet the minimum RFU Standard of 200 Lux, and that agreement has been secured from a Club's Opponents to use them. Again, similar to the above - the League Secretary's permission must be obtained, and the Match Referee informed. .

ALL LEVELS - UNPLAYED MATCHES – PITCH CONDITIONS

- The RFU North Competitions Committee have become increasingly concerned for some time, over what appears to be a growing trend, either to ignore, or pay little attention to the provisions of Regulation 18 which relates to Unplayed Matches and in particular to 18.1.2.

Regulation 18: Home Clubs have a duty to ensure that their pitch is playable. If the Home Club is concerned either on the day of a match or on day(s) preceding the date of the match that either the pitch or weather conditions will prevent the scheduled match being played, then they must advise their Opponents and the League Secretary of its concerns and keep them advised of the position. All steps possible must be taken to prevent unnecessary travel.

If a Club wishes to cancel the match on a date prior to the date of the scheduled match for Pitch or Weather Conditions, it should try and obtain an opinion from a member of the Club's Local Referees Society, as to whether the match is likely to be played or cancelled.

A match should not be cancelled without an inspection of the pitch by a Referee or the agreement of the League Secretary.

A Club whose ground is unfit to play should seek an alternative venue. In the event of Clubs failing to agree on the suitability of the alternative venue, a ruling will be made by the Committee through the League Secretary. During the first half of the season, Clubs playing in home and away Leagues will be expected in the first instance to exchange the venue to the one originally scheduled for the second half of the season.

BARRIER FROM THE FIELD OF PLAY

Despite numerous Reminders, Surveys of Clubs, and verbal warnings to Clubs, it is still apparent that Clubs are not making enough effort to observe the provisions of Regulations 17.2.1 through to 17.2.5.

In particular, it is essential that all Clubs ensure that with the exception of Permitted Personnel, all other persons are kept at a reasonable distance from the playing area by permanent or temporary barriers. Apart from the Match Officials and Permitted Personnel, no other persons should be allowed to stand pitch side.

It cannot be stressed enough that compliance with the provisions of these Regulations is absolutely mandatory.

Over recent seasons there has been a growing trend for Clubs to ignore the provisions of the above Regulations which in turn has resulted in several cases, of Spectators and Players being injured after colliding with each other. As a result, in some cases, Litigation has followed, with substantial damages being awarded to the non offending party. The consequences of such incidents are significant.

Although Clubs are usually insured for such accidents, in the current climate of people claiming for anything they can, whenever they can, and from whom they can, it is not beyond the realms of possibility to suggest that Club Officials could be found liable if they have been found not to have taken reasonable steps to ensure that the appropriate Regulations have been adhered to.

The North Competitions Committee will be monitoring the situation very closely, when the season commences, and all Clubs are forewarned that appropriate sanctions will be considered if the Regulations are not being adhered to.

FOR ALL RFU NORTH LEAGUE & CUP INFORMATION GO TO: <http://www.rfunorth.com>