



GLOUCESTERSHIRE
RUGBY
FOOTBALL
UNION

GRFU District League Regulations 2023-24

1. NAME

- a. The competition shall be called the GRFU District Leagues ("**the Competition**").

2. ADMINISTRATION

In ALL matters the League Administrator should be the first point of contact

District League Chairman

Simon Collyer-Bristow 01285 851984 email: scb@crfc.co.uk

B & D Leagues Administrator

Matt Parcel 07795 212471 email: bdleagues@grfu.org

G & D Leagues Administrator

Gino Beaumont 07989 434212 email: ginobeauumont@icloud.com

Deputy Leagues Chairman

Stuart Gilbraith 07523 949854 email: competitions@grfu.org

- a. The league tables shall be supervised by Gloucestershire Rugby Football Union ("**supervising constituent body**") via its Competitions Sub-Committee ("**the Committee**"), who shall appoint League Administrators who will each be responsible for one or more leagues.
- b. The League Administrators shall administer the leagues and make such decisions as they deem appropriate to run an efficient and fair competition.
- c. Decisions of the League Administrators are subject to review under the GRFU Appeals procedure.
- d. The Committee shall have the power to alter or amend these regulations, as it deems appropriate.
- e. **A copy of these regulations MUST be available at the HOME club should clarification need to be sought by the referee.**

GRFU Cancellation Fixture Exchange

The GRFU Cancellation Fixture Exchange has been set up for GRFU District League Games that get cancelled that week so that the non offending side can still get some rugby played, it's not for fixture arranging.

Process

On notification of your game been cancelled contact the Exchange by phone or text, giving your Club team, Contact name and number.

The Exchange secretary will then either give you a contact or put you on a contact list.

It is up to you to make the game arrangements, including referee and to put the fixture on GMS.

If the matched contacts do not agree to play you can re-apply to the fixture exchange.

Cancellation Fixture Exchange Contact Steve Collier

Contact Number 07749 652431

WhatsApp Groups

Bristol and District group contact Matt Parcel

Gloucester and District group contact Gino Beaumont

3. BEHAVIOUR

- a. Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players, coaches and spectators at all times. Incidents involving bad behaviour and/or referee abuse are at variance from the core values of our game. Any breach of this may be referred to the appropriate GRFU Body.

4. CLUB ELIGIBILITY

- a. The competition is open to all GRFU Section 1 clubs.
- b. Eligible clubs shall be invited to enter 1st, 2nd and lower XVs into the competition.
- c. Any other clubs or teams outside of the GRFU may enter only with the express permission of the Committee.
- d. All clubs confirming entry into the District League must pay the sum of £60.00 per team (payable to the GRFU).
- e. In addition, each club must send a deposit cheque or BACS payment of £100 per team which will be returned if the team plays at least 75% of its scheduled fixtures. Fixtures cancelled due to the weather or for other reasons acceptable to the organisers will not count as scheduled fixtures. The deposit cheque should be post-dated to 31st March of that season.

5. STRUCTURE and FIXTURES

- a. The competition will comprise of Leagues with parallel Gloucester and District and Bristol and District leagues to minimise travel. The number of leagues and the size of each will be determined by the Committee and depend on the number of teams participating.
- b. The First Eleven Sports Agency shall draw up the fixtures for the season.
- c. Games must be played between 1st September and 30th April

6. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- a. Players do not need to be registered, but should be *bona fide* members of the club, subject only to Rule 8 b.
- b. Clubs are expected to stay within the spirit of the game, i.e. if a higher team does not play, those players should not be used to strengthen lower teams (see also regulation 9 i and regulation 12 e-g).

7. MATCH ORGANISATION

- a. The home side shall use its best endeavours to secure the services of a referee supplied from the Gloucestershire Federation of Rugby Union Referees ("GFRUR") – Bristol/Gloucester Societies.
- b. In the event of the GFRUR being unable to appoint a referee the home side shall be responsible for providing the referee.
- c. The home side shall be responsible for informing the referee of these regulations.
- d. If in the opinion of the referee, there is a colour clash the home side shall change its shirts.
- e. Matches shall be played on Saturday afternoons unless mutually agreed between the participating clubs concerned. On agreement both sides must let the League Administrator know the new date and kick off time.
- f. All other match arrangements shall be made as for usual club fixtures.
- g. Where it is necessary for a match to be rearranged, due to the scheduled match being postponed or abandoned, the Clubs will be informed of the new date for playing the match by First Eleven within seven (7) days of the original date. This will almost invariably be the next available non-league weekend. If either Club does not accept the new date it must ask for a review (within three days of being notified) by the League Administrator whose decision shall be subject to further appeal to the GRFU Competitions Sub Committee if desired. If a Club lodges an application to the GRFU it shall advise the opponent Club at the same time.
- h. Club may rearrange matches by mutual agreement before the original fixture date or within 2 weeks after the original date but no later and must consult with the League administrator prior to rearranging the fixture.

8. PLAYING CONDITIONS

- a. All league matches will start with a minimum of **TEN** club players which must include a capable front row to qualify as a league match.
- b. A minimum of **Eight** club players plus **Two** borrowed players will be required for a league game to class as a friendly.
- c. Every effort should be made to play the match with equal numbers by borrowing/loaning players.
- d. If the team with more players refuses to loan players' they may only have a maximum of one player extra and play as described below.

If a match starts with one side having a minimum of 10 or 11 players the opposition can have one additional player on the field of play. With these minimum numbers of players, 5 of each side must enter a scrum.

If a match starts with one side having a minimum of 12 players the opposition can have one additional player on the field of play. With these minimum numbers of players, 6 of each side must enter a scrum.

If a match starts with one side having a minimum of 13 or 14 players the opposition can have one additional player on the field of play. With these minimum numbers of players, 8 of each side must enter a scrum.

- e. If a side goes down to more than one player difference then the opposition must go down a player to maintain the one player difference unless the reduction is due to Red or Yellow cards.
- f. Should there at any time be insufficient suitably trained and experienced front row players on the field, the match shall continue with uncontested scrums. (See Regulation 10 b).
- g. Any of the RFU "Game on Principles" may be used by agreement so that a league game is played and must inform the referee which principles are to be adopted before kick-off.
- h. Replacements:
 - An open number of replacements can be agreed by both captains and referee before the commencement of the match subject to a maximum of 7.
 - If agreement cannot be reached, a maximum of 5 NOMINATED replacements will apply (this will apply regardless of the number of players starting the match).
 - Rolling substitutions shall be used with a maximum of 8 player interchanges.
 - If a team has used the 8 permitted interchanges and then suffer a front row injury, even if it has front row replacement available, it will be not permitted to use him and the match will revert to uncontested scrums. (Man of Rule)
 - It is encouraged that all players get a minimum of half a game.
 - If a team has less than 15 players, every effort must be made to even up the numbers before the match starts (which may include loaning players to the opposition).
 - Initially a team may not have more than a one-player advantage, any extra players being available as reserves.
 - Subsequently a team may only increase its numbers with the agreement of the opposition

9. TIMES/COLOURS/POSTPONEMENTS/ABANDONMENTS etc.

- a. **Kick-Off Times.** Matches will kick off between 2pm and 3pm on Saturdays at the Home Club's usual kick-off time, unless mutually agreed to kick off at a different time and / or day.
- b. **Colour Clashes.** The Home team will change its shirts to avoid a colour clash to the satisfaction of the appointed referee.
- c. **Postponements.**

No match shall be postponed, for whatever reason, before consultation with the Clubs' League Administrator. Such consultation shall be conducted by the Nominated League Contact. Where the issue is the condition of a pitch the League Administrator may, at his absolute discretion, require that the home Club arranges or accepts a third party arrangement for a pitch inspection by the match referee or, when unavailable by a neutral referee.

Where there is a possibility that a game could be postponed for any reason, the Club seeking such postponement must keep the opposing Club fully informed through its Nominated League Contact of any

actions taken and decisions made. Where in the opinion of the League Administrator a Club has not complied with this rule and the opposing Club has suffered a resultant cost that could have been avoided the League Administrator may at its discretion require that the Club which has failed to comply with this rule should compensate the other Club to the extent of its loss.

Where a home ground is pronounced unfit or is unavailable for play and the scheduled match is the first of the two matches in the season between the Clubs the venue, if time allows and the reverse venue is fit for play and is not being utilised for another League match, will be reversed. The League Administrator must be advised prior to kick off. The home Club shall be the Club upon whose pitch the match is played.

Where a match is postponed due to unfit ground at the same venue for a second time the League Administrator may order the match to be played at a different ground specified by the League Administrator. This may be at neutral venue or at the opposition's ground.

If a match is postponed due to inclement weather or a reason beyond the control of the clubs it is to be played on the next available Saturday at the original venue. This will be advised by First Eleven Sports Agency, who collate fixtures and results.

- d. If that rearranged match does not happen, the initial non-offending team is awarded 5 league points and the offending team loses 5 league points. In addition, if there is still a corresponding match to play later in the season the offending team will play away (even if it was designated as their home fixture). This adjustment of points will be made by the League Administrator after they have confirmed the circumstances.
- e. However, if the initial non-offending team does not fulfil the match on the notified re-arranged date with no good reason, both teams receive no league points for the fixture. Furthermore, if there is still a corresponding match to play later in the season then its venue will remain unchanged. Again, this adjustment of points will be made by the League Administrator after they have confirmed the circumstances.
- f. If a team calls off after 5pm on the day before the match the club agrees to pay a fine of £50 to GRFU, which will be re-funded to the non-offending club to offset potential financial losses because of the late cancellation. The League Administrator will implement this regulation.
- g. **Postponement/Cancellation Action.** When a match is postponed or cancelled, both clubs are to inform the First Eleven Sports Agency **by 3:30pm on the day the match was due to be played** and the League Administrator at the earliest opportunity, and the Home Club is to advise the referee and the local referee society immediately.
- h. **Rearrangements.** Clubs by mutual consent can agree to rearrange a match, but only:
 - i. After informing the League Administrator
 - ii. In the week (Mon - Fri) immediately before the designated Saturday or any time two weeks immediately after the designated Saturday.
- i. **Inappropriate Players.** If a club's 1st XV or 2nd XV does not have a fixture and it is suspected that a significant number of their regular 1st XV or 2nd XV players play in this competition, then the match should be played, but the opposition have the right of complaint to the League Administrator afterwards, particularly if the match is lost. That complaint must be submitted within 3 days of the match. If the complaint is upheld, then the match will be deemed a "Nil-Nil" draw on the first occasion and a league points' deduction, decided by the League Administrator, on the second or subsequent occasions.

10. DETERMINATION OF RESULT

- a. If the referee abandons a match, for whatever reason, before three-quarters of the time has been played, then the match shall be void. After that time the result shall stand as though the match had been completed normally.

- b. In the event of uncontested scrums during the match the result will stand as though contested scrums had taken place throughout, although the side that caused the uncontested scrum will play with a man down.

11. NOTIFICATION OF RESULT

- a. The Home and Away side are responsible for notifying results. Scores must be checked with the referee and submitted by 6pm on the Day a match is played.
Results should be phoned to 01275 277899 OR text sent to 07908 683303 by the 6pm deadline.
- b. Each club have a Nominate League Contact, who will be responsible for ensuring all results are notified, and who will respond to any queries.
- c. Both Clubs shall report the postponement or abandonment to its League Administrator as soon as possible giving full reasons. In the case of postponement this MUST be done before 3.30pm
- d. In the case of an abandonment, the score and the time elapsed in the match before it was abandoned should be reported.
- e. Separately and additionally, the home Club shall notify First Eleven before kick-off of any cancellation (including walkovers), postponement or abandonment of a match on the day it occurs and if it is cancelled by 2pm the day of the match by 3.30pm. **This notification should be phoned to 01275 277899 OR text sent to 07908 683303 by the 6pm deadline**

12. UNPLAYED MATCHES

- a. Where a Club declines or refuses to fulfil a fixture for reasons unacceptable to the League Administrator it will (subject to its right to apply for a review) be liable to League points deduction. Any such League points' deduction will not be limited to a deduction of five points where a harsher penalty is deemed appropriate.
- b. Where a Club plays a match as a friendly with borrowed players, the defaulting team must provide a minimum of 8 players and have a minimum of 10 aside including borrowed players, excluding replacements, to qualify as a friendly. The League points will be awarded to the non-offending side, but the defaulting team will NOT suffer a points deduction providing notification of this is reported to League Administrator and First Eleven before the scheduled kick-off. There is a requirement for the home team to telephone the match score as a walkover state whether it was played as a friendly or not. it will be recorded as a 0-0 win to the non-offending team.
- c. If the non-offending team refuse to play a friendly, they will be awarded only award 3 point.
- d. Where a Club declines or fails to fulfil more than 25% of the fixtures scheduled at the start of the season for reasons unacceptable to the League Administrator it shall be recommended its League results be expunged from the League with immediate effect. Teams may and are encouraged to play the remaining fixtures as "friendlies", but the results will not be included in the tables. The GRFU Competitions Sub-Committee may, at its discretion, recommend to the GRFU Management Board that the team be excluded from membership of the Leagues in the following season.
- e. If any matches are postponed due to weather or other reasons where they need to be re-arranged, First Eleven Sports Agency will update GMS and inform both clubs. Matches will be re-arranged for the next available weekend.
- f. All clubs will be expected to honour the senior fixture in a Club's list at the expense of a lower team's fixture.
- g. Players selected for a senior team should not be used to displace players in a junior team. If selection has not yet taken place, clubs should abide by Regulation 6b.
- h. In the event the League Administrator becomes aware that a member club has materially misled or deceived them to gain an advantage, the League Administrator reserves the right to impose such disciplinary action as they deem fit including expulsion from the league subject to appeal.

13. DETERMINATION OF WINNER OF LEAGUE

- a. 5 points shall be awarded for a win. 3 points for a draw and 1 point for a loss. A side losing by less than 15 points will be awarded 1 bonus point.
- b. 5 points will be awarded for a walkover and 5 points will be deducted from the offending team if not played as a friendly.
- c. 5 points will be awarded for a walkover and 0 points will be deducted from the offending team if played as a friendly.
- d. 3 points shall be awarded if the non-offending team for a walkover if they refuses to play a friendly.
- e. The winner of a League shall be the team with most points
- f. In the event two clubs having the same points, the club having scored the most points during their head-to-head matches shall take the higher position.
- g. If a club plays less than half its scheduled fixtures, the League Administrator may, at their discretion, discount all that team's matches in determining the winner of the League.

14. PROMOTION & RELEGATION

- a. As a general rule the top two teams in a league will be promoted and the bottom two will be relegated.
- b. Leagues may have to be reorganised to cater for the number of teams entering the Competition. Every effort will be made to promote at least the winner of each League, but this cannot be guaranteed.
- c. No club shall have two teams in the same League.
- d. The Committee shall resolve any problems arising from application of the regulations on promotion and relegation.

15. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In the event of an unresolved dispute between 2 teams, the League Administrator will have the sole right to determine the solution to resolve the matter, after listening to the case from both teams. The right of appeal against the decision, made by the League Administrator is set out in **Appendices 9 of the GRFU Operating Procedures, available on the GRFU Website.**