

Season 2023/2024 Gloucestershire Leagues Deregulations

Regulations to be applied to Gloucestershire Leagues (Counties 2 and below)

The English Mens Leagues regulations will apply to all Gloucestershire Leagues, with the exception of the following amendments;

RFU Regulation 6 (appendix 2) 3 Principles of promotion (e)

Applies to Tribute Gloucestershire Counties 2 North and South Only

A deviation from two leagues to three leagues feeding the one above was approved at FCS /Adult Competitions Management sub-committee for both Dorset & Wilts and Gloucestershire.

Therefore, a play-off between the winners of Tribute Gloucestershire Counties 2 North & South to decide who goes up into Counties 1 Tribute Western North.

If a play-off is not possible then the team to be promoted will be the team with the best playing record.

The play off provisional date is set for the 13/04/24.

RFU Regulation 6.14. registration

Counties 3 and 4 only

1. All players must be registered with their club in accordance with the Player Registration Regulations 14, with the exception at Counties Level 3 & 4 that ***TWO*** unregistered players may play under RFU Regulation 6.14 before having to be registered. At counties 3 This player may only play for one week and Counties 4 he may play for two weeks or a subsequent week.
2. Teams may contain players who are not registered with that club; although players may be borrowed from other clubs to make up the numbers and encourage participation in the game. However, such teams may not play players holding Effective Registration with another club at Counties 2 or above. Borrowed players may only make 4 appearances in one season without being registered.
3. Players registered with another club may only be used where the Club which they are registered are at the same League level or the level above (i.e., Counties 3) and play with the prior approval of that club.
4. At Counties 3 and below, Electronic Match Cards must be completed including the names of participating players. Where an Unregistered or Borrowed player has played and their details have not been registered on the system their name, date of birth and any club of which they are a member must be clearly indicated in the "comments box" on the Electronic Match Card (EMC)

RFU Regulation 6.55. Game on Principles

Game on principles may only be applied **Counties 3 and below:**

[Game On \(englandrugby.com\)](http://englandrugby.com)

Regulation 6.58 (b) Replacements in all League Matches

The number of replacements and substitutes in all League Matches shall be as follows:

At any Level below Counties 2 & 3: not more than three replacements.

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In the interests of encouraging participation in the game at Counties 4 the captains may agree prior to a match to more than 3 (up to a maximum of 7) replacements being used by the teams in any match but still only have 8 interchanges. If agreement cannot be reached then 4 would be allowed

Regulation 6.63 ROLLING SUBSTITUTIONS (Permitted Player Interchanges)

Consent has been given by the South West Organising Committee (SWROC) to continue the use of Rolling Substitutions for season 2023-24 subject to Regulations 6.63 for reasons of clarity for all concerned in the Gloucestershire Leagues the MAXIMUM number of rolling substitutions ("Permitted Player Interchanges") is EIGHT interchanges.

1. In a Play-Off Match (*Gloucestershire Counties 2 North & South*) Player Interchanges will only be permitted where both participating teams have played their previous League Matches with Permitted Player interchanges.
2. After the Permitted Player Interchanges have been made no other replacements, substitutions or Player Interchanges will be permitted for any reason (including temporary or permanent injuries, sending offs and suspensions) In the event that a player is injured, sent off or suspended from the field the team will play with one less player and with uncontested scrums in the event that this involves a front row player and the game cannot continue safely with contested scrums.
3. For the avoidance of doubt, Player Interchanges replace the "blood bin". If a player has an open wound and thus has to leave the field, this will be classified as a Player Interchange if that Player is replaced by another Player. If a team has used all of its Player Interchanges, that Player may not be replaced and the team shall continue with one less Player than was on the pitch prior to the "blood bin". The player is permitted to return once the wound has been treated and the bleeding stopped.
4. Not more than **TWO** Player Interchanges per team may occur at any one time and may only occur during a stoppage in play and with the knowledge of the Referee who is entitled in his sole opinion to refuse to allow or postpone a Player Interchange if he believes either that the Player Interchange would prevent the opposition from restarting the game quickly or where a player has been injured or that it would not be safe for the replacement player who has been previously injured to play in the match.
5. A player must enter the field of play on the halfway line.
6. A player who is a replacement shall not be entitled to take a kick at goal until a passage of play has taken place since that player has taken to the field of play.
7. A Player who suffers two injuries in a match which has necessitated that Player being replaced on each occasion is not permitted to act as a replacement following the second injury.
8. Under dispensation provided to Unions by the International Rugby Board, where these rolling substitutions regulations conflict with the Laws of the Game these Regulations shall take precedence.

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Concessions and Point Deductions for clarity

1. Matches will require adherence to the usual Regulations for replacements and front row replacement, i.e., at least 4 players capable of playing in the front row must be available in the Squad.
2. If a team has used all its permitted player interchanges and then suffers a FR injury, even though they may have a FR replacement still available, they would not be able to use them and would therefore cause the match to go to uncontested scrums and the side plays with one less.
3. Penalty points will be deducted if a team fails to fulfil a league fixture however, if a team concedes a match but still enables a game to be played then no league points will be deducted. For example, if a team is unable to field a team or contest the first scrum of a match before any injuries have occurred to a front row player - i.e., they started the match without a front row - then the match is forfeit but no league points will be deducted as long as a game takes place.
4. Any issue that arises over whether a league match can/cannot be played – such as ground condition or lack of players – must be discussed urgently with the league secretary **before any final** decision is made to cancel a game. Clubs should make every effort to play a game whenever possible.
5. The only acceptable reason for not fulfilling a fixture is if a pitch is deemed unfit to use **by an independent/neutral person** and no alternative is available regardless of distance from the home club or available time slot (this **MUST** be discussed urgently with the league secretary **before any final** decision is made to cancel a game. Failing to fulfil a fixture for any other reason is subject to a five-point deduction for the offending team, unless played as a friendly with the non-offending team awarded a nil-nil win.
6. The EMC must contain ALL the required details of the players participating in the match as indicated on the match card. Unregistered players names and date of birth can be added to the comments section of the EMC.
7. Failure to comply with these simplified regulations may result in the deduction of points/sanctions in the normal way.
8. Clubs are expected to act within the spirit of the game and uphold the RFU's core value of sportsmanship. Therefore, clubs must not deliberately strengthen their 2nd XV's with a number of regular 1st XV players.

This could occur:

- a. When the club's 1st XV does not have a match, but the club's 2nd XV has a league match.
- b. When the club's 1st XV has a match, and the club's 2nd XV match has a very direct impact on promotion and relegation.

If this is suspected, then the matter will be investigated by the league secretary who may apply any sanctions he feels are justified and allowed within the regulations.