

Regulations 2017-2018

1 GENERAL

- a) The full title of the competition shall be '**Eastern Counties Greene King Leagues**'. Every reference by Clubs to matches in the competition shall include the full title.
- b) All matches in the competition shall be played under the laws of Rugby Union Football and shall comply with the bylaws, resolutions and regulations of the Rugby Football Union. In the case of any conflict, the laws and directives of the Rugby Football Union shall apply.
- c) The management of the competition shall be vested in the Competitions Sub-Committee of the Eastern Counties Rugby Union ('The Committee'), who shall be responsible to the EC Management Committee for organising the competitions and shall have full powers to deal, in cases of disagreement between clubs, on the interpretation of these rules or on any matter not covered by these rules in connection with the competition and its decision on any matter shall be final and binding.
- d) The Committee has delegated to the League Secretaries, powers to deal with proven breaches of the Regulations and to take appropriate action in accordance with the Regulations. Section 8 covers this matter.

2 LEAGUE FORMAT

- a) The numbers of teams in each League shall be limited to a maximum of 14 teams with a minimum of six.
- b) If, as a result of a new Club or team entering the competition, or of the resignation of a Club or any of its teams from the competition, or for other reason the pattern or balance of the Leagues is changed, the Sub-Committee shall be empowered to revise the numbers of promoted or relegated Clubs to bring Leagues to the required number/strength in order to maintain a viable competition structure.
- c) Having nominated a team, each Club shall ensure that such team shall consist of players who would normally be expected to play for that team. If, in the opinion of the Committee, any Club fields an unrepresentative team in any competition match, that team shall forfeit any competition points gained in that match plus another **FIVE** points. The non-offending side will be awarded a five-point win and the score adjusted to 0-0. *Clubs should be aware that this rule is taken very seriously and League Secretaries WILL investigate if complaints are made or if results appear to be abnormal.*
- d) Clubs may enter more than one team into the League Structure, but no club shall normally have more than one team in any League. (In the interests of greater participation this rule may be waived by the Committee at the lowest Division in each geographical area. Where this situation arises due to promotion or relegation at the higher levels, the "lower" side will be relegated to ensure that this rule is adhered to.)

3 PROMOTION & RELEGATION

- a. The position of the teams in each Division shall be established in accordance with RFU Regulation i.e. four points for a win, two for a draw, plus the addition of 1 or 2 bonus points where a team scores four tries and/or loses by seven match points or fewer.
- b. In all Divisions the winner shall be the team with the highest points awarded. In the event of equality, positions will be determined by the team with the most wins from games played. If this does not decide a winner, then the team with the greater positive points difference shall be placed higher.
- c. At the end of Phase 1 in EC1 Area Divisions, the top two teams from each Area Division shall enter the Championship Phase to determine the final rankings for promotion to London 3 Eastern Counties (Level 8), in accordance with DOC rulings. Remaining teams in EC1 Area Divisions will enter a Phase 2 Competition whereby teams finishing 3rd and 4th, 5th and 6th, 7th and 8th in their respective Area Divisions will play their opposite numbers in the other two Divisions. In all cases, teams will carry forward to the Championship / Phase 2 competition their results against the team they have played in Phase1. There will be a trophy for the winners of each competition.
- d. London Division regulations do not allow 2nd or lower sides to be admitted to Level 8.
- e. The bottom two teams in each Area EC Division 1 at the end of Phase 1 will normally be relegated. This may be varied under the provisions noted in 2b)
- f. Promotion between EC3 & EC2 and relegation between EC2 & EC3 regional Leagues will be as advised by the League Secretaries at the start of each season. (A team may ask the Competitions Committee to forego promotion before the end of the league season. If granted, such request will only be allowed for one season
- g. If necessary to maintain balanced numbers in each league once issues of promotion and relegation have been resolved the Committee may transfer one or more teams between EC regional Leagues.
- h. If any team does not fulfil 75% of its fixtures, the Committee has the power, at its discretion, to remove all their results from the records to determine promotion & relegation.

4 FIXTURES & CANCELLATIONS

- a) All Leagues - Each team must play two Competition matches against every other team in its League.
- b) Competition matches shall be played on specified Saturdays with specified kick off times unless prior permission has been obtained from the appropriate League Secretary. Specified kick off times are attached to this document and will be placed on the EC website.
- c) For teams in EC2 & EC3, and providing both clubs are in agreement, the specified dates may be changed, but this must be done prior to the 1st September in any year, and the League Secretary notified accordingly.
- d) Postponements or Cancellations must be notified to the League Secretary prior to the change. Teams considered responsible for a cancellation will be deducted 5 points. The match shall be awarded to the team not responsible with the score of 0–0 and 5 competition points.
- e) In EC2 and 3, postponement of fixtures will not incur a 5point penalty if BOTH the relevant League Secretary and the opponents are informed and agree to such postponement. The League Secretary must be informed by 09.00 on the Thursday before the scheduled fixture

and with a proposed rescheduled date. In EC1, postponements for any reason other than weather or wholly exceptional circumstances are not permitted.

- f) Teams in all Leagues are encouraged to give as much notice as possible to their opponents if a match has to be cancelled. Teams suffering a cancellation are encouraged to attempt to find an alternative friendly fixture. To this end, a closed Facebook Fixture Exchange page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ECFixtureExchange/>) has been set up by EC and all League Contacts are encouraged to register via their League Secretary and recommended to utilise this facility to the full.
- g) In the event of a cancellation /postponement under any circumstances, the “home” team must notify the League Secretary by email NO LATER than 14.00 on the day of the match. A copy should also be sent to the “away” team for clarification.

**The Results Service should also be informed by telephone by 17.30 on match day
Failure to do so will result in a £25 fine.**

- h) It is the home team’s responsibility to notify the appointed referee of a cancellation /postponement for any reason. This notification must be given at the earliest possible opportunity and confirmation obtained from the referee. Failure to observe this rule may result in financial and/ or other penalties at the discretion of the Competitions Committee.
- i) For the 2017/2018 season each Club in the EC Leagues may nominate ONE non-league Weekend to be designated “non-available for the rearrangement of a postponed/abandoned match”. This nomination must be made in writing, signed by a recognized Club Official, to the appropriate League Secretary not later than 30th September 2017. The League Secretary will acknowledge the nomination by Email, which shall be retained by the Club as evidence of such agreement. A Club cannot nominate a scheduled League Weekend or a Weekend scheduled for a play-off match.

5 PLAYER REGISTRATION

- a) In EC 1, all Players must be registered in accordance with current RFU/DOC Regulations
- b) In EC 2&3, the obligation to register Players will be waived, though still encouraged

6 MATCH RULES & INTERCHANGES – In EC1 all games are to be played by Teams of 15-a-side. Each squad may have up to 18 Players, which **MUST** include at least four Players capable of playing in the front row, in the event of injury. Each team may make up to eight interchanges of Players, but once these have been used, no further replacements may be made. In the event of a match having to be played wholly or in part with uncontested scrums, the other relevant Regulations of the National Leagues will apply.

- a) In EC2, all games are to be played by teams of 15 a side. Each squad may have up to 18 Players, and may make up to eight interchanges of Players. Once these have been used, no further replacements may be made.
- b) EC3 - Clubs should not call off games due to shortage of Players without first consulting the opposing club. Clubs are encouraged always to provide Players for opposing sides in order to fulfil each fixture. If there is a shortage of players, games should be played with no side starting with a numerical advantage of more than one. This situation should only change as a result of injury or a sending-off.
- c) EC3 - If there are insufficient front row forwards, the match should be played with uncontested scrums. However, regular shortage of front row players by one Club will be investigated by the League Secretaries. The opposition should always be informed before kick-off.
- d) If the Team asking for uncontested scrums wins the match, the score will stand, but the League points will be shared as if it were a drawn match. If suitable Players are offered on loan by the opposing team, but the offer is declined, the match will be forfeited, and the points awarded to the team fielding a front row.
- e) EC3 – In either the situations in (b) and (c) above the result and score will stand.
- f) EC3 - interchanges will only be permitted in games where both sides start with 15 Players. Where this condition is satisfied, teams may make eight interchanges, using up to 8 Players.
- g) EC3 - In the event of players being loaned to the opposition – during the match, these Players may be swapped for others, and will count as interchanges to the side receiving the new Player.
- h) EC3 - If, in the event of injury or other circumstances, the team loaning a Player becomes numerically disadvantaged, players may be “reclaimed”, and return to their original team.
- i) EC3 - Prior to the match, and only if both Captains agree and inform the referee, the number, and the use of, replacements may be changed. This can allow more than eight interchanges.

7 RESULTS REPORTING

- a) In EC 2 &3, the home team must telephone the match result to the Snowdon's Results Service by 17.30 on match day to **03331 210803**. They should also ensure the Result Card, showing the Match Result, and bearing the Referee's signature plus those of one club official from each side is emailed to the League Secretary by 8pm of the Sunday following the game.
- b) In EC1 results must be reported via the electronic match-card system by 17.30 on the match day. Should the home team be unable to report the result by this system, they must revert to the Results phone number, **03331 210803**. A confirming phone call is still required in any case.
- c) The match result card requires the CAPTAINS to note whether or not uncontested scrums occurred during the match and the reason for this.
- d) Late reporting or failure to comply without due cause will attract a charge of £20. A cancellation /postponement for any reason MUST still be reported as a result (see 4g).
- e) If a charge is incurred as in 7b), the appropriate League Secretary will issue an invoice to the offending club with a copy to the EC Administration Manager. Settlement must be made in accordance with the instructions detailed on the invoice.

8 DISPUTES

- a) The Competitions Committee shall have the power to expel or suspend any team or Club from membership of the League or impose such other penalty as considered appropriate for breach of these regulations. The committee, in conjunction with the EC Disciplinary Committee, also has power to deduct points for poor disciplinary record and /or abuse of the referee or other misbehaviour by players, officials or supporters.
- b) In the event of a dispute or complaint, objections must be received in writing (email acceptable) by the relevant League Secretary by 20:00 on the Monday following a Saturday game, or within 48 hrs if not played on a Saturday.
- c) The League Secretary will gather information from all parties involved and, having considered this, will inform those involved, in writing, of his decision within 14 days of receipt of the complaint.
- d) Either party may appeal the League Secretary's decision by writing to him within 7 days of receipt of his decision setting out full details of their case. This document will, where appropriate, be copied to any other club or person involved.
- e) Any such appeal shall be determined by an Appeals Panel comprising 3 officials appointed by the Chairman of the Competitions Committee. A representative of each Club involved will be invited to attend and be heard.
- f) The Appeals Panel may uphold, overturn or increase any penalties levied by the League Secretary.

- g) An administration charge will be levied against the Club lodging the appeal and must be paid prior to the date of the hearing. The amount of the charge will be communicated to the club and is intended to cover any costs incurred (e.g. travelling expenses for panel members). Such charge will be waived if the appeal is successful.
- h) The decision of the Appeals Panel regarding the dispute or complaint shall be final and binding.

9 OFFICIALS

- a) The referee for a competition match shall be appointed by the home team using where possible a suitably qualified referee from a recognised Referees' Society.
- b) In both EC2 & EC3 Area Divisions, where a referee is not available or fail to arrive at the ground, another may officiate with the agreement of both captains. Agreement should not be unreasonably withheld. Each team should provide a competent Touch Judge.
- c) Each League shall be overseen by a League Secretary who shall be the first point of contact with any query. Contact details are on this document.

10 ENTRY TO LEAGUES

- a) Entry to the Leagues is controlled solely by the Committee. A club wishing to enter the Leagues in the following season shall signify this fact in writing to the Committee Chairman by 20th May of the current season. The Committee shall consider the application and decide in the light of all the circumstances, whether or not to grant entry and, if so granted, which League is the appropriate level of entry.
- b) In addition, the Club must satisfy all entry requirements laid down from time to time by the Committee not later than 30th April in the current season. For entry in the 2017/18 season these requirements include; having a minimum of 25 playing members of whom at least five shall be capable of playing in the front row in accordance with RFU Regulations; being able to display the ability to sustain a full League Programme of fixtures on the appointed dates and such other conditions as may be reasonable in all the circumstances. The Committee may take into account previous playing history.

11 VALIDITY

- a) **These rules shall apply from 1st September 2017 and remain in force until revoked or amended by the Competitions Committee.**

KICK OFF TIMES FOR ALL EC LEAGUES 2017 - 2018 **SEASON**

The Committee has agreed the following kick-off times, for those clubs without suitably certificated floodlights*.

September, October, March, April, May: 15:00.

November, December, January, February: 14:00

Where the two clubs wish to agree on a kick off time outside these times, they shall only do so in conjunction with the League Secretary.

***Clubs with the benefit of certificated floodlights must, before the 1st September 2017, inform their League Secretary and all their opponents of any desired variations from the above kick-off times for the forthcoming season.**

EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE SECRETARIES 2017/18 SEASON

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SNOWDONS RESULT SERVICE

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RESULTS REPORTING TELEPHONE NUMBERS: EC1,2 & 3 - 03331 210803