



REGULATION 22: COVID-19 CONSEQUENCES

BACKGROUND

1. All matches played under the jurisdiction of the RFU and/or in RFU Competitions or any other competition, merit table or friendlies must be played in accordance with World Rugby Laws (including any variations or trials that may be adopted and approved by the RFU), World Rugby Regulations, the RFU Rules, the RFU Regulations and any competition specific regulations applicable to a competition.
2. All of the above mentioned regulations are approved by the RFU Council and any variations to those regulations must be approved by the RFU Council, unless otherwise provided for within the regulations. This power of Council is set out in RFU Rule 16.1(a).
3. This Regulation has been drafted to cater for the unprecedented occurrence of the global Covid-19 crisis, given that at the time of drafting the RFU Regulations for the 2019-20 season, it was inconceivable that the public health crisis of the magnitude Covid-19 could have been foreseen.
4. In response to the Covid-19 crisis, on 16 March 2020 the RFU suspended all rugby activity in England from 17 March 2020 until 14 April 2020. On 20 March 2020 the RFU announced the end of the 2019-20 season for all league, cup and county rugby in England, other than in respect of the Premiership.
5. Regulation 22 was made by the RFU Council, pursuant to the Powers of Council set out in RFU Rule 16.1(a). It was made based on the principles of:
 - a. Integrity of competition ensuring fair and balanced outcomes;
 - b. Player welfare
 - c. Club sustainability
6. RFU Council decisions made pursuant to RFU Rule 16.1(a), including any regulatory changes made pursuant to such decisions, are not appealable.

Definitions

22.1 The following definitions shall apply to this Regulation 22:

22.1.1 “**2019/20 Final Calculation**” shall have the meaning given in Regulation 22.4.

22.1.2 “**Relevant Leagues**” shall mean:

- the English Club Rugby Union Championships at Level 2 and below; and
- RFU Women Competitions at Level 2 and below.

22.1.3 Save as set out in this Regulation 22, the RFU Regulations (including all applicable



competition regulations) will continue to have full force and effect.

General application

22.2 Notwithstanding any statement to the contrary in any RFU Regulation, this Regulation 22 shall take precedence over other RFU Regulations, including without limitation Regulation 13, Regulation 16, and all competition Regulations (including without limitation the Championship Regulations, the Tyrrells Premier 15s Regulations, the County Championship Regulations and all cup competition regulations), and all RFU Regulations shall be deemed varied by this Regulation 22. Save as set out herein, the RFU Regulations and all applicable competition regulations will continue to have full force and effect.

22.3 Regulation 11.1 shall be varied to read:

In adult rugby the RFU Competition Season (during which all RFU Competitions, merit tables and local leagues must be played with the exception of representative rugby, play-offs and 7-a-side or similar competitions) shall be:

Season 2019/2020 will run from Saturday 7 September 2019 until Monday 16 March 2020 (other than in respect of the Premiership, for which Season 2019/20 shall run until Saturday 20 June 2020 or such other date as agreed by the Council).

Season 2020/2021 will run from Saturday 5 September 2020 until Monday 24 May 2021 (other than in respect of the Premiership, for which Season 2020/2021 shall run for such other dates as agreed by the Council).

Relevant Leagues

22.4 The process for determining how end of season league tables in Relevant Leagues for the 2019/20 season will be calculated is as follows (the “**2019/20 Final Calculation**”):

1. Final tables are as at 16 March amended as follows:
2. Average number of points (including Bonus Points) gained for all ‘Home’ games played up to 16 March. This amount will be added to the Club’s points total for each outstanding ‘Home’ game.
3. Average number of points (including Bonus Points) gained for all ‘Away’ games played up to 16 March. This amount will be further added to the Club’s points total for each outstanding ‘Away’ game.
4. Any outstanding disciplinary sanctions are then applied.
5. If two or more clubs have the same number of points, final league positions shall be determined firstly by the number of wins achieved, then draws, each as a percentage of the number of games actually played, and then on the basis of match



GAME OF OUR LIVES

points difference as a percentage of the number of matches actually played as at 16 March 2020.

- 22.5 For Relevant Leagues in the English Clubs Rugby Union Championship, at Levels 3 and below, where two Leagues support one League, the top club in each of the supporting Leagues shall be promoted to the higher League (or Level). Additionally at Levels 4 and below, the second placed club with the 2019/20 Final Calculation shall be promoted to the higher Level.
- 22.6 For Relevant Leagues in the English Clubs Rugby Union Championship, at Levels 4 and below, where one league supports one league the top two clubs from the lower League shall be promoted to the higher league (or Level).
- 22.6 For Relevant Leagues in the RFU Women Competitions at Level 2 and below the 2019/20 Final Calculation will also be utilised to determine promotion between those who had qualified for the promotion playoffs. In some scenarios, more than one team will be promoted.
- 22.7 Relegation and promotion will be based on existing RFU Regulations (save as varied by this Regulation 22).
- 22.8 The final league tables published on www.englandrugby.com shall be final and binding save for the correction of any errors in calculation and/or any point deductions arising from any ongoing or subsequent disciplinary process.

Tyrrells Premier 15s

- 22.9 The Tyrrells Premier 15s season shall be deemed concluded on 16 March 2020, there shall be no playoffs, and there shall be no winner of that competition.

County Championship

- 22.10 All remaining fixtures in the three elements of the County Championships for 2019/20 are cancelled.
- 22.11 In the Bill Beaumont Cup, 2019/2020 should have been the second season when promotion and relegation should have been defined, by combining results from 2018/2019. These will now be combined with results arising in the 2020/2021 season
- 22.12 Both the Gill Burns and Jason Leonard tournaments will start the 2020/21 tournament with the pool structures as defined for the 2019/2020 season. As permitted by regulations, consideration will be given to any team which applies to join the competitions or considers that it is placed in too high a league. These options may require the remaining pools being modified by the relevant Organising Committee in accordance with the County Championship Regulations in force at that time.

RFU Cup Competitions



GAME OF OUR LIVES

22.13 All RFU Adult Cup Competitions for the 2019/20 Season will not be concluded in the 2019/20 Season.