



# RFU Regulations for Season 21-22

All RFU Regulations for Season 21-22 are now effective (as of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021) and are available [here](#).

In addition to some key changes already communicated to clubs pertaining to [Age Grade Rugby \(RFU Regulation 15\)](#) and [Payment of Players \(RFU Regulation 7\)](#) other key changes are:

**RFU Regulation 1 (Foreign Player definition):** Due to the United Kingdom no longer being a member of the European Union, the RFU is working with stakeholders to determine the position going forwards with regards to the regulatory classification of Foreign Players. Pending agreement on the long-term position, an interim position has been agreed for the 2021-22 season only being that the status quo will remain which means that those players who are or would have been classified as a Non-Foreign prior to 1 January 2021 will retain such Non-Foreign classification for the 2021-22 season. This applies to all players playing in the 2021-22 season, including those who are already playing in England or yet to arrive in England for the 2021-22 season. The RFU gives no assurances that players who are classified as Non-Foreign will be able to retain such status from the 2022-23 season onwards.

**RFU Regulation 5 (Insolvency Regulations):** Regulation 5 has undergone a thorough review and rewrite in order to ensure it is fit for purpose and in recognition that competitive league structures are dependent on the financial sustainability of clubs. More information on these changes and what they mean for Constituent Bodies and Clubs will be communicated in due course.

**RFU Regulation 7 (Approaches):** Note that the non-approach provisions pertaining to players have now been extended to capture coaches and such other contracted individuals.

**RFU Regulation 13, Appendix 3 (Non-fulfilment of fixtures due to non-Covid 19 reasons):** A new appendix has been added to introduce for 21-22 season only a new disciplinary framework to deal with non-fulfilment of fixture cases for all men's league matches for the 2021-22 season due to non-Covid 19 reasons. This document will be provided to panels for them to take into account when deciding on such matters. The Framework is developed alongside Regulation 22 which deals with specific Covid-19 related non-fulfilment of fixtures issues. Regulations 13 will continue to apply in cases where non-fulfilment is weather or pitch suitability related.

**RFU Regulation 19 (Discipline):** All discipline cases involving verbal or physical abuse based on a protected characteristic (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) will be heard by RFU Disciplinary Panels.

**RFU Regulation 22 (Covid 19 Variations):** In order to cater for the ongoing impact of the global Covid-19 crisis on rugby union in England, Regulation 22 was developed to set out agreed regulatory variations to ensure that, as far as possible, the regulations are flexible enough to deal with and adapt to the ever-changing Covid-19 landscape.

For any questions on the regulations, please contact [regulations@rfu.com](mailto:regulations@rfu.com).