



**English Mens Leagues
South West Leagues
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire**
Admin Office, P O BOX 3781, SWINDON, SN2 9GW
Email:admin@bborugby.co.uk

Season 2025/26
Tribute Ale Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire
League Regulations (BBO Regulations)

These BBO Regulations govern Rugby Football Union (RFU) Leagues named Counties 1 Tribute Ale Southern North (C1SN), Counties 2 Tribute Ale BBO East and West (C2BBOE or W), Counties 3 Tribute Ale BBO North and South (C3BBON or S), Counties 4 Tribute Ale BBO North and South (C4BBON or S), in conjunction with the RFU Regulations particularly those for the RFU English Rugby Men's Leagues 2023/24 (EML) Regulation 6 & 14 and the definitions contained in RFU Regulation 1.

In addition, the South West ROC Administrative Instructions (see www.swrugby.co.uk) and any written agreement or undertaking signed by a club as a condition for participation in EML will apply, save for the exceptions and amendments contained in BBO Regulations 1-10 below.

Where there is a conflict between the RFU Regulations and the BBO Regulations, these BBO Regulations will take precedence and apply.

Any team participating in a League match during the 2025/26 season will be deemed to have accepted the applicable **RFU regulations**, **RFU protocol instructions**, the **South West Administrative Instructions**, these **BBO Regulations**, and any other applicable agreements or undertakings entered into, as a condition of continued participation.

1. Eligible Clubs:

At Counties 1 and below, 1st XV's of Clubs (of an appropriate standard) and Lower XV's of Clubs whose 1st XV plays in EML are eligible for inclusion in the BBO Leagues.

- This eligibility is subject to ongoing consent from the BBO Committee.
- These teams will be known by their Club name and numbered (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.).
- The decision regarding:
 - Which teams from which Clubs participate,
 - The level at which these teams enter, and
 - The structure of the BBO Leagues for the 2025/26 season and beyond,

It is delegated by the RFU South West Regional Organising Committee to the local League Organising Committee (BBO Committee), within the limits permitted by the RFU Adult Competitions Sub-Committee



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2. Replacements/Substitutes:

Player Replacements: [RFU. Reg 6.56-69](#)

- At Counties 2, teams can have a maximum of **five** replacements. If one team lacks additional replacements, the other team is **encouraged to lend players** to even up the numbers. If no agreement is reached, **three** replacements per team are allowed to participate in the League Match.
- At Counties 3 and below, teams can have a maximum of **seven** replacements. If one team lacks additional replacements, the other team is **encouraged to lend players** to even up the numbers. If no agreement is reached, **three** replacements per team are allowed to participate in the League Match.

3. Minimum Number of Players:

At Counties 2 and below, clubs are able to follow the RFU [Game On Guidelines](#) referred to in the [RFU Reg 6.53 and 60](#) may be applied to League Matches, where a Team plays a match as a friendly with borrowed players, the defaulting team must provide a minimum of 10 players in line with Game On principles and the game should be played with an equal number of players per side, excluding replacements, to qualify as a friendly. The League points will be awarded to the nonoffending side, but the defaulting team will NOT suffer a points deduction PROVIDING notification of this is reported to the League Secretary and SWROC AO before the scheduled kick-off. There is then no requirement to telephone the match score or submit a match card afterwards as it will be recorded as a 0-0 win to the non-offending team. A Team cannot play more than three (3) fixtures per season as friendlies.

4. Front Row Requirements:

Match Forfeiture and Friendly Matches: [RFU Reg 6.63-69](#)

- Officially, the result is recorded as a 5-point 0-0 win for the non-offending team.
- If played as a friendly, the home team must report this to the Admin Office and League Secretary by **15:30 pm** on match day. Teams do **NOT** need to complete an EMC

Counties 3 & Below:

- Teams are encouraged to start with suitably trained front row players. If a full front row is not possible, the team must inform the **opposition** and **match official before kick-off**. The match may begin with uncontested scrums, and the result stands.

5. Unplayed Matches:

Please Refer to: [RFU Reg 6.70-72](#) & [SWROC Administrative Instructions](#)

Counties 4

Only:

In Counties 4 Tribute Ale BBO North & South, teams will have the opportunity postpone and/or re-arrange fixtures under the RFU Pilot Leagues protocol should [Game On Guidelines](#) not be achieved for the original scheduled fixture.

6. Regulations:

[RFU.Reg 6.64](#) The “Man Off Rule “will apply to all League Matches containing uncontested scrums. Additional guidance is available <https://www.swrugby.co.uk/forms/frontrow2.pdf>

7. Match Result Cards and Result Notification:

This regulation will be enforced at all levels within the BBO Leagues. Please refer to [SWROC Administrative Instructions](#)

8. Promotion and Relegation:

[RFU Reg 6 Appendix 2](#) shall apply to all BBO Leagues.

Additional Decisions:

- Any further promotion or relegation required or deemed necessary by the RFU or the South West Organising Committee will be decided by the **BBO League Committee**.

Team Transfers:

- If the number of teams in any one League exceeds or falls short of the prescribed number, the BBO Committee has the power to **level transfer** teams to another League of the same level.
- The goal is to ensure that every club in the other League has the minimum travel distances required for fulfilling its League Match program.
- However, increased travel distances resulting from reorganisation shall not be grounds for any club to appeal the BBO Committee's decision to level transfer a team.

9. Loading of Lower XV's

Please refer to SW Admin Instruction 7.5 Higher Teams Not Fielded:

Additional Terms and Breach:

- If any club has additional terms or regulations (Additional Terms) in writing as a condition for membership or continued participation in the BBO Leagues, breaching these Additional Terms constitutes a breach of the RFU Regulations and BBO Regulations.
- Sanctions can be reviewed under [RFU Regs 6.95 to 6.98](#) and are subject to appeal under [RFU Reg 19](#).

Unfulfilled Fixtures:

- Teams competing at Counties 4 Tribute Ale North & South will be **exempt** from expungement for the season **2025/26**

Re-Entry and Refusal:

- Teams with expunged results or voluntary withdrawal from the BBO Leagues can apply to re-enter the following season.
- Approval is required from both the Club's Constituent Body and the BBO Committee.
- The application deadline is **4th April 2026**, or an earlier date specified by the RFU.
- The BBO League Committee reserves the right to refuse re-entry.
- Clubs can seek a review of refusal decisions or object to additional readmission terms in writing within **14 days**.
- A right of appeal under [RFU Reg 19](#) is available if exercised within **7 days** of notification of the review outcome.

Special Note:

- These regulations establish a competitive structure for both 1st XV teams and lower-tier teams across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire.
- The goal is to encourage rugby participation by providing opportunities for more players to participate.



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- Any questions about these regulations should be directed to your **League Secretary**, not the match referee.
- In case of disputes, **the BBO Committee's** decision on interpreting the BBO Regulations is final, but clubs can seek review and appeal under **RFU Regulations**



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