

RFU REGULATION 10 – MATCH AUTHORISATION, TOURS AND SEVENS

10.1 Professional/Elite Matches

No Constituent Body, Club, Person, Team or Player may arrange or fulfil any of the following matches in England without the written approval of the RFU and any such application must be made in writing on a form prescribed by the RFU and submitted to the RFU not less than 6 months before the date of the proposed match or such other time frame the RFU may determine in exceptional circumstances:

- 10.1.1 a Premiership or Championship Club seeking to host a match against a National representative teams from a Union outside England ranked inside the IRB's top 20 Unions, or a professional club from France, Italy, Australia, New Zealand or South Africa;
- 10.1.2 any club or provincial team from another Union seeking to play a match against another club or provincial team from another Union;
- 10.1.3 a match between a senior National Representative Team or next senior National Representative Team and senior National Representative Team or next senior National Representative Team from two different Unions outside of England (as defined by the IRB);
- 10.1.4 a match between a scratch or composite team (as defined by IRB) and
 - (a) a Club; or
 - (b) a senior National Representative Team or next senior National Representative Team from any Union; or
 - (c) a professional club/province from another Union; or
 - (d) a scratch/composite team (as defined by IRB) (e.g. Barbarians, World XV)

10.2 Sevens and Sevens Tournaments

10.2.1 Definitions

“Authorised Sevens Event Manager” means a Club, a Constituent Body, Premiership Rugby Limited or such other person (including bodies corporate and unincorporated bodies) authorised by the RFU. The RFU may place the names and other details of Authorised Sevens Event Managers on the RFU's website.

“Registered Team” means a team registered with the RFU in such manner as the RFU may determine for the purposes of playing seven-a-side rugby.

“Tournament” means a competition or event, or series of competitions or events which form part of a competition between teams from four or more Clubs or Registered Teams playing seven-a-side rugby.

10.2.2 This Regulation 10.2 applies to Tournaments in which adult players participate. If the participants in a Tournament are exclusively U18 or below, then Regulation 15 shall apply.

10.2.3 General

No Club or Registered Team shall take part in a Tournament unless:

- (a) it is organised and managed by an Authorised Sevens Event Manager;
- (b) such Tournament is organised managed and played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as modified by the IRB seven-a-side variations, this RFU Regulation 10.2 and such other rules and regulations of the IRB and the RFU as are applicable and not in variance with this Regulation.

10.2.4 Tournaments

Any Tournament;

- (a) must be played in accordance with the published Laws of the Game as varied by the IRB seven-a-side variations and in addition the rules and regulations of the IRB and RFU insofar as the same are applicable;
- (b) must be played on the ground or pitches managed and controlled by a Club and upon which a Club regularly plays its matches; and
- (c) must be managed and controlled by an Authorised Sevens Event Manager;

unless agreed in writing prior to the Tournament by the RFU.

10.2.5 Registered Teams

In the event that a group of players or any other organisation association group or company other than a Club wishes to enter a Tournament it may do so provided it is a Registered Team. All Registered Teams will comply and be governed by the Rules and Regulations of the RFU insofar as are applicable.

10.2.6 Obligations of an Authorised Sevens Events Manager

An Authorised Sevens Events Manager:

- (a) shall not organise or manage any Tournament which includes teams which are members of unions other than the RFU without the written consent of the RFU and as required by RFU and/or IRB regulations the consent of the other union and /or the IRB;
- (b) shall not permit any team to participate in a Tournament which is not a Club or a Registered Team without the prior written approval of the RFU;
- (c) shall not organise or manage any Tournament in the Season which includes Clubs or players from Clubs playing in the Premiership, Championship or National Leagues without the prior written consent of the RFU;

- (d) shall not organise or manage any Tournament in the Season which only includes Clubs or players from Clubs other than those playing in the Premiership Championship or National Leagues unless the written consent of the Constituent Body in which the Tournament is to be played;
- (e) shall notify the RFU (and Premier Rugby Limited where it is proposed that a Club in the Premiership will participate) at least 30 days in advance of any Tournament involving Clubs in the Premiership the Championship or National Leagues to be played out of Season;
- (f) shall notify the Constituent Body in which it is to be played at least 30 days in advance of any Tournament involving Clubs other than those in the Premiership the Championship or National Leagues to be played out of Season;
- (g) must only organise Tournaments at venues controlled by Clubs in accordance with Regulation 10.2.4(b) above (unless otherwise agreed in writing by the RFU) and ensure that such Clubs have adequate public liability insurance;
- (h) must ensure that the rules or regulations for any Tournament provide that Registered Teams and Clubs from the Premiership Championship or National Leagues do not include in the team or squad representing them more than two (2) Foreign Players;
- (i) must ensure that at any Tournament the pitch and facilities are safe and suitable for the Tournament and comply with standards required by law, RFU and IRB regulations;
- (j) must ensure that all teams and players participating in a Tournament have such insurance cover as is prescribed by the RFU (as is provided by the RFU to its Clubs);
- (k) must ensure that at any Tournament all referees are supplied by the RFU or where applicable the local Referees' Society;
- (l) must ensure that the participating teams in any tournament are aware of the regulations and rules of the Tournament together with the disciplinary regulations and procedures in effect and that such disciplinary regulations and procedures incorporate and comply with RFU disciplinary rules regulations and procedures;
- (m) must ensure that there is adequate medical cover and facilities and/or such medical cover and facilities that may be specified by the RFU;
- (n) must prior to permitting a team to play ascertain from the participating teams in any Tournament whether or not any player is a Contracted Player and if so ensure that such player is not in breach of the terms of his contract and where required has the requisite consent to participate in the Tournament prior to permitting the player to play;

- (o) must provide to the RFU within 21 days of being requested to do so full financial statements in relation to any Tournament to include but not be limited to full details of all monies or benefits received in respect of the Tournament (to include entry fees, sponsorship, sales receipts commissions benefits and values in kind gifts and other receipts goods services or things having a value) and payments made or other value given to any third party to include payments for expenses incurred services, bonuses, participation payments prize monies, other payments fees or salaries given to teams and/or players and/or officials all of such income and payments to include those made by a third party on behalf of the Authorised Sevens Events Manager; and
- (p) must comply with any directive requirement or stipulation of the RFU given in relation to any Tournament supplemental or additional to or in substitution for Regulations 10.2.4.(a) – (o) above.

10.3 Tours

- 10.3.1 Subject to RFU Regulation 10.1 and 10.3.3 no Constituent Body, Club, Team or Player may arrange or fulfil an Overseas Tour or a fixture or series of fixtures with a team coming from another Union at any level (including Mini, Midi and junior rugby) (“an Incoming Tour”) without previously:
- a) obtaining the appropriate Constituent Body’s written consent (except in the case of a Premiership or Championship Club’s senior adult teams); and
 - b) in the case of an Overseas Tour arranging travel and other insurance at least equal to the cover and benefits of the RFU’s Accidental Death and Disability Insurance Scheme (Tours Extension); and
 - c) giving at least one month’s written notice to the RFU of the proposed Overseas or Incoming Tour (with details of the fixture or fixtures to be played), such notice to be accompanied by evidence of the insurance referred to in (b) above together with copies of such permissions and consents as may be required under IRB Regulations; and
 - d) complying with any such conditions or requirements as the RFU may impose upon receipt of the documents referred to in (b) above. For the avoidance of doubt the RFU shall have the right to refuse to permit Overseas Tour/Incoming Tour to take place.
- 10.3.2 Within one month of completing an Overseas Tour, the official in charge shall submit to the RFU an official report form duly completed.
- 10.3.3 The RFU hereby consents to Overseas and Incoming Tours and matches against all clubs from Ireland, Wales and Scotland providing the requisite insurance pursuant to Regulation 10.3.1(b) is in effect.
- 10.3.4 The RFU may in exceptional circumstances delegate to a Constituent Body all or any of its powers under this Regulation 10.3 in relation to any Club or member of that Constituent Body.