RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

RFU REGULATIONS 2012-13

KEY CHANGES

The annual review of the RFU Regulations has resulted in some key changes in addition to a number of minor amendments.

- **Regulation 1 (Definitions):**

"Loan Player": The definition has been amended to clarify that there must be written terms in place in respect of any loan arrangements. Applications for registration will not be able to be processed without written evidence of the loan arrangement.

"Permitted Player": The definition has been amended to include a player returning to a club at which the player was previously Effectively Registered provided the player has not been Effectively Registered with another club in the same season (and provided the player is also not a Contracted Player, Contracted Overseas Player, Foreign Player or an Overseas Player).

"Transfer Deadline": The deadline for all clubs (including Championship Clubs) is Friday 1st March 2013.

- **Regulation 5 (Financial):** The deadline for submission of financial statements for all clubs and Constituent Bodies will be 31 December, rather than 1 November (5.1.1 and 5.1.3).

- **Regulation 8 (Agents):**

All agents involved in a player contract/transfer must sign the agent statement in the contract or a separate agent declaration form. Failure to comply will constitute a breach of the Regulations (8.3.8).

Agents may be required to complete and pass a written test if requested to do so by the RFU (8.4.1(d)).

- **Regulation 10 (Match Authorisation):** In respect of certain professional and elite matches, the approval requirements have been changed so that for fixtures during the season, an approval request must be submitted to the RFU at least 2 months in advance or for fixtures outside of the season, at least 3 weeks in advance (10.1).

- **Regulation 11 (The Season):** The Regulation has been updated to reflect the dates for the 2012-13 Season and the 2013-2014 Season. The Age Grade Rugby section of Regulation 11 has also been amended to mirror the provisions of Regulation 15 as to what is permitted inside and outside of the Season.

- **Regulation 13 (Adult Competitions):**

Regulation 13.6.7(b): Amended to say that if a match is abandoned for reasons other than weather, the match should be reconvened on the same date on another IRB compliant pitch at the host venue unless the referee deems otherwise.

Rolling Substitutions 13.5.13 to 13.5.21: Divisional Organising Committees now have the discretion to introduce rolling substitutions in League and RFU Cup matches at Level 5 and below. It is understood that all DOCs have agreed to introduce rolling substitutions at Level 5 downwards. The number of player interchanges permitted by each team will depend on the number of replacements that form part of the team, as set out below:

- Up to 3 replacements = 8 player interchanges
- 4 replacements = 9 player interchanges
- 5 replacements = 10 player interchanges
- 6 or 7 replacements = 12 player interchanges.

Further guidance on rolling substitutions is available upon request to Alys Lewis (AlysLewis@RFU.com) of the RFU Legal Department.

- **Regulation 14 (Registration of Adult Players):**

Clarification that youth registration does not automatically mean a player becomes Effectively Registered as an adult to play in a RFU Competition (14.2.3).

The deadline for an expedited registration has now been moved to 12 noon on Friday and original documentation and a non-refundable cheque must follow within 7 days (14.5.8).

- **Regulation 15 (Age Grade Rugby):** There has been a complete re-write of RFU Regulation 15 and a summary of the key changes is set out below:

  - Clubs and schools with a small number of players are permitted to play in dual age grades between U7-U12s in competitive fixtures and festivals, subject to approval from head teachers and Constituent Bodies
  - U12s to U18s are permitted to play up one grade with the relevant consents
  - There is more flexibility in relation to playing down across all ages, subject to the relevant consents
  - There is more autonomy regarding local dispensations for Constituent Bodies, County Schools Unions, head teachers and parents/guardians
  - There is more flexibility and clarity as to what activity is permitted during the season and outside of the season and less activity will require RFU approval
  - U16s are not permitted to play in the front row if playing up two age grades, unless they are regional academy U16s who are centrally registered and approved England Academy Players
  - Girls' age grade regulations have now been integrated into Regulation 15.
  - The U13 girls' age band is now permitted to include U11s as well as U12s and U13s girls and for the 2012-13 Season any female players aged U13 and registered as an U12 player on Rugby First in the 2011-12 Season can apply for dispensation to play within the U15 age band by contacting Keeley Fathers on KeeleyFathers@RFU.com.

- **Regulation 19 (Discipline):** RFU Regulations 19.11.8 to 19.11.17, the sanctions table in Appendix 2 and other minor drafting changes have been made to reflect changes to IRB Regulation 17 that came into effect on 1 June 2012.

Please bear in mind that this is a summary of key changes only for information only and cannot be relied upon in any interpretation of the regulations or in any dispute or appeal. Reference should be made to the full Regulations, which took effect on **1st August 2012**, and which are printed in full in the RFU Handbook and available on the RFU website at www.rfu.com/regulations. Should you have any questions on RFU Regulations, please contact Alys Lewis on AlysLewis@RFU.com.