

NOTES ON THE RFU COUNCIL MEETING

Held at The Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington - 3rd June 2016

The meeting was chaired by the President, Jason Leonard.

The meeting started with a period of reflection in memory of Seb Adeniran-Olule, the Harlequins & England youth player who died recently in a road accident at the age of 20 and in memory of George Cox former Council Member for Cheshire who also died recently.

The President then congratulated Bill Beaumont on his election as Chairman of World Rugby, the England team on winning the Grand Slam for the first time since 2003 and Saracens for winning the Aviva Premiership and the EPCR Champions Cup.

1. Chief Executive's Report

(Ian Ritchie - Chief Executive)

i. Heads of Agreement

- a. Ian Ritchie updated Council on the negotiations on the new Heads of Agreement with PRL.
- b. Negotiations are in the final stages and should be satisfactorily concluded shortly.
- c. Once the Heads of Agreement have been agreed a Long Form Agreement will be concluded.

ii. Senior England Squad

- a. Post tournament reviews have been undertaken on the senior and Under 20s squads.
- b. Neal Hatley has joined the senior squad as scrum coach.

iii. Professional Rugby

- a. Discussions continue on the new academy boundaries.
- b. Kevin Bowring is retiring at the end of June. The appointment process for a new Head of Professional Coach Development is ongoing.
- c. The 2014/15 Professional Rugby Injury Surveillance report was released on 28th March 2016.
- d. Work is continuing with World Rugby on the head injury event analysis project.
- e. Planning and consultation is under way on enhancements to the concussion risk management plan for the Premiership and Championship next season.
- f. A total of 333 tests have taken place for the illicit drugs programme with none positive.
- g. Preparations are well underway for the World Rugby Under 20s Championship in Manchester, which starts shortly.
- h. The Rugby Europe Grand Prix 7s event in Exeter has been renamed the Mitsubishi Motors Exeter 7s.
- i. Sarah Cox has been selected to referee at the Olympic games.
- j. Wayne Barnes, Matthew Carley and JP Doyle have been selected to referee in the summer tests. Luke Pearce has been selected as an assistant referee and Graham Hughes and Rowan Kitt have been selected as TMOs.
- k. The touring parties for Australia and South Africa have been announced. England are playing three tests against Australia and the Saxons are playing two matches against South Africa "A".

iv. Rugby Development

- a. The next Sport England Active People Survey report is due in June 2016.
- b. Sport England released their 2017/21 strategy in May 2016 and are shortly expected to release their investment guidance.
- c. Work is continuing on the development and implementation of the Artificial Grass Pitches strategy.
- d. Malcolm Wharton and Steve Grainger have been meeting with CB representatives to discuss issues being considered by the CGB and those of concern to the CBs.
- e. A successful CB conference was held in April 2016.
- f. The CGB has set up a Commission to consider the challenges and opportunities facing the current playing landscape for 14-19 year olds and to make recommendations for consideration by the CGB.
- g. Facility development grants have been made to 37 Clubs totalling £1.655m.

- h. 616 Clubs have registered for NatWest RugbyForce and 48 Clubs have been selected for visits by Keith Kent, the RFU's Head Groundsman.
 - i. The Youth Rugby Ambassador (YRA) programme has been relaunched.
 - j. 727 Clubs have now been accredited.
 - k. 11,736 coaches are now licenced enabling the RFU to communicate directly with active coaches.
 - l. 758 attendees attended the 36 Communities of Practice sessions.
 - m. The "Keep Your Boots On" campaign continues.
 - n. The England Rugby Referees Association went live in April.
 - o. Work is continuing to develop "University Partnerships".
 - p. Over 240 Clubs have signed the Old Mutual Wealth Kids First pledge.
 - q. Over 100 people attended the 18 Age Grade Competition Roadshows.
 - r. Over 13,600 individuals are now registered at 300 O₂ Touch Centres.
 - s. 50 new "Return to Rugby" centres have been identified for the 2016/17 season.
- v. **Commercial & Marketing**
- a. Samsung has become the Official Partner to the World Rugby Under 20s Championship in Manchester.
 - b. England Rugby is now the most followed rugby team on Twitter.
 - c. EnglandRugby.com recorded a year on year 49% growth in users, a 67% growth in sessions and a 25% uplift in page views.
 - d. Instagram now has nearly 300k followers and is the Union's fastest growing social media presence.
 - e. Bi-weekly "How to Guides" are being published on EnglandRugby.com aimed at assisting grassroot Clubs.
 - f. "Real Rugby Stories" on EnglandRugby.com are continuing to grow in popularity.
- vi. **Legal and Governance**
- a. The Financial Integrity Project is continuing.
 - b. A successful disciplinary conference has been held.
- vii. **International & Public Affairs**
- a. The Local Legacy Fund has allocated its final £60,700 to local projects.
 - b. East Stand Development consultations with key stakeholders are underway.
 - c. The Government has published a new Governance Code for Sport, which will come into effect in April 2017.
 - d. A fundraising partnership is being explored with Comic Relief.
 - e. A four year events programme to raise funds for Try for Change is being developed.
 - f. The Rose and Poppy Gates, to commemorate those who fell in the Great War, were unveiled on the 29th April 2016.
- viii. **East Stand Project**
- a. It is hoped that the planning application will be ready to be submitted by the end of June 2016.
 - b. It is hoped that work will commence immediately after the 2017 Six Nations with a view to being able to use the facilities for the first time for the 2018 Autumn Internationals.
- ix. **Executive Team & Recruitment**
- a. Steven Brown has now, after completing his work as CEO of England Rugby 2015, resumed his CFO role.
 - b. Joanna Manning Cooper has joined as Digital Communication and Marketing Director.
 - c. Nigel Melville will commence as Professional Rugby Director on 4th July 2016.
 - d. Simon Massie-Taylor will be joining as Chief Commercial Officer.

2. **Budget & Business Plan**

(Stephen Brown - Chief Financial Officer)

- i. Stephen Brown presented the 2016/17 Business Plan and Budget.
- ii. 2016/17 is the first year of normality following the 2015 Rugby World Cup.
- iii. Due to a strong match profile, turnover is expected to be £152m.

- iv. Rugby investment will be £96m (a 7% increase on 2015/16), of which £37m will be invested in Rugby Development, an increase of 9%.
- v. Total overheads will increase by 2%, of which half is due to the increased depreciation following the recent stadium upgrade work.
- vi. Twickenham Experience Limited (TEL), of which the RFU owns 60%, will continue to grow.
- vii. There will be a small reduction in the total number of staff.
- viii. Total capital spend will be 35m of which £25m will be spent on the Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) project and the East Stand Development.
- ix. It will be necessary to draw down a further £8m against the Union's £50m facility, but this will still leave headroom of £17m.
- x. The balance sheet will remain strong.
- xi. Council **APPROVED** the 2016/17 Business Plan and Budget.

3. Nominations Committee Report

(Simon Collyer-Bristow - Chairman of Nominations Committee)

- i. Council **APPROVED** the following appointments
 - a. Representative on World Rugby and World Rugby Representative on the Board of Directors:
(Three-year term)
Jonathan Webb
 - b. National Members on Council
Maggie Alphonsi
Richard Hill
 - c. Nominations Standing Committee
(Two year terms)
Simon Collyer-Bristow
Andy Shorney
 - d. Compensation Advisory Panel (CAP)
Malcom Caird (Chairman)
Colin Baldwin
Jeff Blackett
Steven Brown
Sean O'Hare (Independent)
 - e. Council members on Standing Committees & Sub Committees
See Appendix 1
 - f. Council Members representing the RFU on other bodies
See Appendix 1

Except where stated all appointments are for a one-year term.

- ii. Council **APPROVED** the Nominations Committee's recommendation that **David Martin** be elected as a Privilege Member of the Union.
- iii. In addition Council **APPROVED** the continued co-option of Jeff Blackett to Council for such time as he serves in any position on the Board of Directors.
- iv. Ian Metcalfe has completed nine years on the Board and is thus time served. He will therefore be stepping down from the Board and stepping down as Chairman of the Professional Game Board.
- v. Bill Beaumont was awarded Privilege Membership in 2007, which was "frozen" when he returned to Council. When he formerly leaves Council to take up his position as Chairman of World Rugby later this year, the awarded will once again become live.

4. Recruitment and Remuneration of the Chairman of the Board

(Bill Beaumont - Chairman of the Board of Directors & Geoff Simpson - Chairman of the Compensation Advisory Panel)

- i. Following Bill Beaumont's election as Chairman of World Rugby, he has to step down as Chairman of the RFU's Board of Directors.
- ii. The new Chairman of the Board will be appointed by Council on the recommendation of the Nominations Standing Committee.
- iii. Under the RFU Rules an external candidate can be considered.
- iv. Once appointed the Chairman automatically becomes a member of Council.
- v. Without remuneration the candidate pool for the role will reduce considerably.
- vi. Council **APPROVED** the recommendation from Bill Beaumont and Geoff Simpson that the Chairman of

the Board be remunerated and that the level of remuneration be set by the RFU Remuneration Committee.

5. Consolidation of International Tickets Policy

(Nigel Gillingham - Member of the International Rugby Ticket Sub Committee (IRTSC))

- i. Over the last two years, Council has agreed a number of amendments to the RFU's ticket policy to take into account inter alia that member Clubs may no longer sell tickets to Official Licensed Operators (OLOs) and that an official ticket exchange platform will be set up.
- ii. The IRTSC recommended to Council that all of the current policies be consolidated into one document.
- iii. The IRTSC also recommended the following policy changes:
 1. An increase in the administration fee that Clubs may charge on each ticket from a maximum of £5 to a maximum of £10 (including VAT). There is no obligation on the Clubs to charge any fee and they are free to set a lower fee if they wish.
 2. Clubs, CBs and Referee Societies will be permitted to raffle or auction up to ten tickets without obtaining RFU approval provided that such raffles or auctions are only used for charitable purposes or for the benefit of the Club, CB or Referee Society. The Club, CB or Referee Society will retain responsibility for the tickets distributed in this manner.
- iv. Council **APPROVED** the new RFU Ticket Policy for senior England men's internationals at Twickenham.

6. Rugby Football Referees Union (RFRU) Constitution

(Jeff Blackett - Chairman of Governance Committee)

- i. The RFRU constitution needs to be updated so that the RFRU can become a Constituent Body of the RFU.
- ii. Council **APPROVED** the new constitution of the RFRU.

7. National Clubs Association (NCA) Constitution

(Jeff Blackett - Chairman of Governance Committee)

- i. The NCA will remain an unincorporated association.
- ii. The changes to its constitution focus mainly on making it compliant with the RFU's Rules.
- iii. Council **APPROVED** the new constitution of the RFRU.

8. Regulations Review 2016/17

(Jeff Blackett - Chairman of Governance Committee)

- i. Jeff Blackett presented a summary of the 2016/17 Regulations Review to Council.
- ii. Council **APPROVED**:
 - a. That in respect of the Ground Moves section under Regulation 3, delegated authority be granted to Governance to determine who should approve Club moves.
 - b. That, in respect of the Premiership Regulations, the Championship Regulations, the Academy Compensation Regulations and Regulation 16 (Women's Regulations), authority be delegated to Governance to finalise the drafting of these regulations.
 - c. The key changes to all other RFU Regulations, but granted delegated authority to the Legal and Governance Department to finalise the drafting of these regulations (see Appendix 2).

9. Council Members', Past Presidents and Privilege Members Aide Memoires 2016/17

(Peter Baines - RFU Senior Vice President)

- i. The Aide Memoires set out the administrative arrangements and entitlements for the season.
- ii. Council **APPROVED** the Council Member's, Past Presidents and Privilege Members Aide Memoires for the 2016/17 season.

10. Financial Report

(Stephen Brown - Chief Financial Officer)

- i. Stephen Brown presented the quarter 3 (March 2016) financial report.
- ii. Overall performance is £4.7m ahead of budget, mainly due to the Rugby World Cup.
- iii. Professional rugby investment is now running ahead of budget as a result of the team and coach bonus payments for winning the Grand Slam.
- iv. Development spend is marginally behind budget.
- v. By the end of March 2016, the £80m Rugby World Cup guarantee had been paid to World Rugby. The remaining £13m was paid in May 2016.
- vi. At the end of March, £25m of the new RBS £50m revolving credit facility had been drawn down.
- vii. No material change in the Union's financial position is anticipated before the year end.
- viii. The Union remains in a strong position.

11. Professional Game Board Report

(Ian Metcalfe - Chairman of the Professional Game Board)

- i. Former England internationals will be part of the next phase of a study examining the long-term effects of playing rugby on brain health. In conjunction with academics from a number of leading universities and colleges, the RFU is participating in a study of the possible link between concussion and neurodegenerative disease in rugby players.
- ii. The PGB has agreed to extend the independent post-match formal concussion monitoring process for the 2016/17 season.
- iii. The PGB has agreed to commission the PGB's Medical Advisory Group to investigate the appointment of independent match day pitch-side doctors for the Aviva Premiership, the Anglo-Welsh Cup and home European fixtures involving English Clubs for the 2016/17 season.
- iv. The PGB also agreed to commission the PGB Medical Advisory Group to investigate the deployment of real time head injury event video to be able to be reviewed pitch-side for the Premiership, the Anglo-Welsh and home European fixtures involving English Clubs for the 2016/17 season.
- v. The PGB is concerned that the French Union is not applying World Rugby's principle of universality in discipline cases.
- vi. Both PRL and RPA have expressed concern at a deterioration in the manner in which players are addressing referees. A presentation, prepared by PRL (which has already been seen by the PGB), will be made to the Governance Committee at its June 2016 meeting.

12. Community Game Board Report

(Malcolm Wharton - Chairman of the Community Game Board)

- i. The work on Payment of Players has been re-instigated and a group met to agree priorities, timescales and processes. The work should be concluded in time to be presented to the CGB at its September meeting with a view to it being brought to Council in October 2016.
- ii. A review of the aspirational teams is being undertaken and a report will be submitted to the CGB's September 2016 meeting.
- iii. Council received a written progress report on the Male Fifteen-A-Side Strategy, which will shortly be circulated to Clubs.
- iv. Following Council's decision to suspend the adoption of the league restructuring recommendations in the Adult Competition Review, the CGB is considering the matter and will report back to Council in due course.
- v. eMatch cards will be rolled out next season.
- vi. The CGB is currently focused on the following:
 - o Player tracking throughout a player's rugby journey to aid understanding of player movement and involvement in the game.
 - o Under 14 to Under 19 Landscape Review with a view to understanding the challenges and making recommendations to enhance participation in these age groups.
 - o Referee Appointment Priorities with a view of ensuring consistency of appointments across the country.
 - o Volunteer Recruitment & Leadership Pathway
 - o 2016/17 Key Deliverables
- vii. Dr Mike England, RFU Community Rugby Medical Director, will be giving a presentation to Council at its October meeting on injuries in the Community game.

13. Governance Committee Report

(Jeff Blackett - Chairman of the Governance Committee)

- a. Governance has received a presentation and paper from Stephen Watkins, the RFU Anti-Doping Manager, on the current level of testing together with recommendations as to further education and resourcing, which are being considered by the Committee.
- b. Discussions continue with World Rugby about the apparent breach of World Rugby's principle of universality highlighted by the Sempere case. Laurent Sempere was suspended for 15 weeks by an EPCR disciplinary hearing. The French Extension Committee considered the case and determined that the ban, contrary to the principle of universality, should not apply in France and Laurent Sempere was free to and has continued to play in the French Top 14 competition.
- c. Governance has prepared a Guidance note on allocating and distributing travel funding to off shore Clubs.
- d. Peter Baines, after seven years, is stepping down as Chairman of the Agents Review Board. A replacement is being sought.
- e. Peter Baines and John Spencer are both stepping down from the Governance Committee.

14. International Update

(Ben Calveley - Head of International and Public Affairs)

i. Rugby World Cup

- a. The 2015 Rugby World Cup was the 5th largest sporting event ever.
- b. The RFU and England Rugby 2015 have been praised for their organisation and management of the event.
- c. It is apparent that there are very few countries that can organise the event and produce the level of revenues that World Rugby now require.

ii. World Rugby

- a. At the recent World Rugby Council meeting Bill Beaumont was elected Chairman and Gus Pichot was elected Vice-Chairman. A new executive Committee (Exco) was also elected consisting of John Jeffrey (SRU), Brett Robinson (ARU), Pierre Camou (FFR), Bob Latham (USA Rugby), Mark Robinson (NZRU), Pat Whelan (IRFU) and Oregon Hoskins (SARU).
- b. The Governance review is now being implemented. Wendy Luhabe and Lord Mervyn Davies have been appointed as independent non-executive directors and will sit on the Council and Exco.
- c. The USA, Romania and Georgia will now have one seat and one vote on the Council.
- d. The pool draw for the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan will take place in May 2017.
- e. At the special Council Meeting changes to Regulation 2 (Compliance and Regulations), Regulation 6 (Anti-Corruption and Betting), Regulation 12 (Payments relating to Player Dress), Regulation 17 (Discipline – Foul Play) and Regulation 21 (Anti-Doping) were all adopted with effect from 1st June 2016.

The most significant change is to Regulation 17. Players can now challenge post-match red cards.

- f. Exco has agreed to World Rugby funding Tier 1 Unions high performance investment for the first time.
- g. World Rugby has agreed that the World Rugby Hall of Fame will have a physical presence in a museum in the town of Rugby. The museum will be funded by the town.

iii. Four Nations

- a. It was agreed that Gareth Davies will take over as Chairman from Bill Beaumont.
- b. A group, with a representative from each Union (plus the IRFU), will be set up to discuss the future of the GB7s.
- c. Greater communication is needed between Unions, tournaments and World Rugby regarding the handling of disciplinary cases in international matches.

iv. Six Nations

- a. Pat Whelan (IRFU) was elected as Chairman (in succession to Bill Beaumont) and John Jeffrey (SRU) was elected as Vice-Chairman.
- b. There will be a blue-sky review of the tournament.
- c. RBS will be rebranding the tournament in 2017. In England and Wales, the tournament sponsor will be NatWest, in Ireland the Ulster Bank, but in Scotland it will remain RBS.

Post meeting note: RBS has announced that 2017 will be the last year of their sponsorship of the tournament. A new sponsor is being sought.

v. Rugby Europe

- a. Unions are currently considering the changes to Rugby Europe Regulations which will be presented to the Rugby Europe AGM in June 2016.
- b. England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Italy have all confirmed that they will not participate in the 2017 Under 18s competition.
- c. Representation will be made to World Rugby seeking more matches against Tier 1 opposition for Georgia, Romania and Russia in the November and June windows.

vi. EPCR

- a. Saracens won the EPCR Champions Cup.
- b. Harlequins were runners-up in the EPCR Challenge Cup.

vii. Unity Project

- a. Phase One of the Unity project is coming to an end.
- b. Regeneris has been selected to complete an evaluation of the project.

c. Planning is underway to determine the RFU's international engagement strategy.

viii. **British & Irish Lions**

Mudhouse Wines, Canterbury, Rhino and Standard Life Investments have been confirmed as sponsors of the British & Irish Lions 2017 tour to New Zealand.

15. **Gift & Hospitality Register**

(Karena Vleck - Legal & Governance Director)

Council noted the latest written Gift & Hospitality report.

16. **Valete**

(Jason Leonard - RFU President)

i. The President acknowledged the contribution of the following Council members who are leaving Council:

Jonathan Dance (Past President)

Ian Elvin

David Martin

Malcolm Ross

Phil Vickery

ii. The President thanked Rob Andrew for his ten years of service to the Union.

iii. The President made a presentation on behalf of Council to Sandie Le Good, who is leaving the RFU after 17 years of service, on 30th June 2016.



COUNCIL MEMBERS ON COMMITTEES, SUB COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

COMMUNITY GAME BOARD		GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Malcolm Wharton (Chairman) Jim Chapman John Douglas Nigel Gillingham Neil Hagerty Danny Hodgson Steven Pearson Mike Waplington		Jeff Blackett (Chairman) Colin Baldwin Simon Collyer-Bristow Jim Coulson CHRIS CUTHBERTSON Nigel Gillingham Stuart Potts Normal Robertson Keith Shurville Jonathan Webb Peter Whiting
COMMUNITY GAME BOARD - SUB COMMITTEES		GOVERNANCE - SUB COMMITTEES
RUGBY GROWTH	COMPETITION DEVELOPMENT	LAWS SUB COMMITTEE
Stephen Pearson Maggie Alphonsi James Cook Tracey Edmundson Peter Kyte Charlie McGinty	Jim Chapman Robbie Briers Malcolm Caird Ron Jones David McAteer John Rogers	CHRIS CUTHBERTSON (Chairman) Jim Coulson Jonathan Webb
PLAYER DEVELOPMENT	GAME DEVELOPMENT	SCHOOLS & YOUTH GOVERNANCE
Danny Hodgson Ted Atkinson Fred Batchelor David Ewing	Nigel Gillingham Jim Coulson Simon Guy Keith Shurville Robin Wannop Jonathan Webb	Stuart Potts (Chairman) Fred Batchelor Mike Cordell Chris Kelly Ivor Smith
CLUB DEVELOPMENT	EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT	ADULT COMPETITION MAN
Neil Hagerty (Chairman) Ken Andrews Alan Butcher Richard Nadin David Roberts Andrew Sarek	Mike Waplington (Chair) Deborah Griffin Chris Kelly Stuart Potts Geoff Simpson	Keith Shureville David McAteer Norman Robertson

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPRESENTING RFU ON OTHER BODIES

England Rugby Football Schools' Union

Stuart Potts

Students Rugby Football Union

Chris Kelly

Rugby Football Referees Union

Simon Collyer-Bristow

England Colleges Rugby Football Union

Jim Chapman

REFULATION CHANGES - SUMAMRY

REGULATION 1 - DEFINITIONS

Lowest Mileage

Replace with the following:

"Lowest Total Mileage is calculated as the sum total of the single journeys in each direction as calculated by [the Club Mileage Spreadsheet] via Google Maps on default settings. This shall be the quickest route, as calculated by the Google Maps software, in each direction. Using this method, the mileage calculated by the RFU/DOC at the start of the season for any given journey will remain the only definitive mileage calculation of that journey throughout the respective season."

Foreign Player

Tidying up to amend reference to 'European Player' in the note and change to Non-Foreign player

Committee

Amend cross-reference to 13.1.1

DOC/Organising Committee

Tidying up of definition

National Representative Body

Amend to tie in with the RFU Rules

Constituent Body (and related definitions)

Amend to tie in with the RFU Rules

REGULATION 2 - APPLICATION AND ENFORCEMENT

No proposed amendments

REGULATION 3 - MEMBERSHIP OF RFU

Referee Blueprint Changes

A number of changes are required to implement the recommendations of the Referees' Blueprint, in particular the key recommendation that Referee Societies should become eligible to become voting members of the RFU.

It has been recommended that, in order to become a voting member of the RFU, a Referee Society must:

- (a) have a written constitution acceptable to the RFU.
- (b) have management and ownership that is acceptable to the RFU.
- (c) have agreed to a minimum set of refereeing standards.
- (d) be a fully paid up member of the RFRU and must have been a member for at least one season.
- (e) have appointed referees to league matches for at least two seasons.
- (f) have provided an action plan for the training of referees.
- (g) have submitted an annual financial returnn to the RFRU.

REGULATION 4 - CLUB OWNERSHIP, MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

No proposed amendments

REGULATION 5 - FINANCIAL

No proposed amendments

REGULATION 6 - DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

No proposed amendments

REGULATION 7 - PLAYERS

Regulation 7.6

Regulation 7.6 pertains to the professional game only. It is proposed that Regulation 7.6 is removed from the Handbook and included in the Premiership and Championship Regulations. However, it is also proposed to include a short regulation in Regulation 7 to act as a signpost to the academy regulations in the Premiership and Championship Regulations.

REGULATION 8 - AGENTS

For some time, the ARB has expressed concerns about agents approaching youth players at a young age, and in particular the safeguarding concerns around such activity. In response to such concerns, the ARB has created guidance for youth players and their parents on this area as well as created a Code of Conduct for the agents, all of which have been circulated and are available on the website.

The ARB also discussed tightening up Regulation 8, namely Regulation 8.8.4. The ARB's recommendation is that the regulation should be amended to permit approaches from 16 and older, but that the concept of players being offered a non-refundable financial grant should be removed.

REGULATION 9 - MEDICAL SAFETY

Proposed new Regulation 9.10 to flag that *"There is further information regarding Age Grade Player safety in the Guidance to Regulation 15 which can be found at <http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/regulations/>"*

REGULATION 10 - MATCH AUTHORISATIONS, TOURS AND SEVENS

No proposed amendments

REGULATION 11 - THE SEASON

Updated to reflect the updated season dates.

REGULATION 12 - MATCH OFFICIALS

The Referee Department has proposed some changes, predominantly to reflect the change position with regards to Referee Societies/Federations.

REGULATION 13 - ADULT COMPETITIONS

- Regulation 13.1.3(b): Deletion of last sentence. Included in error.
- Regulation 13.2.5(b): To be amended to include a new (ii) to recognise that a team with a higher number of draws shall be placed ahead of a team with a fewer number of draws. The current (ii) (iii) and (iv) would all move down respectively.
- Regulation 13.2.11(d)(i): It is proposed to include a new regulation at 13.2.11(d)(i): *"The Club(s) with the Lowest Total Mileage in their 'home' league consistent with their Divisional and Constituent Body affiliation shall remain there and the other club(s) shall be Level Transferred."*

The effect of this will be the reduction of travel for all Clubs in the league which has to lose a club(s) on Level Transfer. It is suggested that this should have primacy over Clubs that played there in the previous season or 'Best Playing Record' in order to minimise travel.

- Regulation 13.6.6: Amend to refer to 'RFU accredited Match Official' instead of 'Referee'.
- Regulation 13.6.11 (b): It is proposed that if a home team cancels or postpones a fixture, the fixture should be deemed to be a reversed fixture. Following sentence to be added in between first and second paragraph: *"In 'Home & Away' leagues when the first fixture is defaulted by the 'away' team the return fixture shall be reversed and take place at the ground of the non-offending club"*.

- Regulation 13.7.2(b): To be deleted entirely.
- Regulation 13.10.5: Amend cross reference from 13.10.13 to say 13.10.3
- Appendix 1: Extra wording to be added to Sanction Guideline

ECC - deduction of competition points in current or following Season and/or order match to be replayed (having had regard to promotion/relegation issues, commitments of Clubs concerned, and giving priority to arguments of Club not at fault) - NB no power to award match points: Sanction = *Reversal of return fixture to ground of non-offending club.*

- Appendix 2: Laws Sub-Committee and the referees have requested some tidying up of the wording.

REGULATION 14 - REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- Application Documents: It is proposed by the Agents Review Board that the agent declaration forms part of the Application Documents going forward so that registration is conditional upon submission of the agent declaration. Currently, the agent declaration must be submitted within 28 days of signing of the contract.
- Regulation 14.5.1: To read as follows: *"To apply for Effective Registration, a Club must submit the completed Player Registration Form with the requisite Application Documents described at Regulation 14.6 to the relevant Registrar by post, fax or email within 28 days of the signature of the Registration Form by the Player. Clubs at Level 5 and below may use the online process within the same 28 days."*
- Regulation 14.5.3: To read as follows: *"A Club applying for registration of a Player already Effectively Registered for another Club must on the same day as submitting its application serve on that Club a Notification of Transfer Form unless the Player's current Club has provided a release. The Registrar/League official may request evidence of the Notification of Transfer Form being served on the current Club and failure to produce such evidence within 72 hours of it being requested will result in the withdrawal of the application for registration."*
- Regulation 14.5.4: To read as follows: *"For all applications (regardless of how they are submitted), the Registration Form and Application Documents must be fully and accurately completed and dated. The Club must retain the original signed Registration Form, copies of such other Application Documents (to include any Notification of Transfer form) for at least one year (including evidence of posting or, if sent electronically, evidence of dispatch)."*
- Regulation 14.5.12: To read as follows: *"When requested by the Registrar/League official the Club must provide, within 24 hours, copies of the fully completed Registration Form(s) and such other Application Documents as may be requested."*

REGULATION 15 - AGE GRADE RUGBY

Proposed amendments have already been approved by Council.

REGULATION 16 - WOMEN'S REGULATIONS

No proposed amendments

REGULATION 17 - ANTI-CORRUPTION

World Rugby has amended its regulations and therefore, given we have mirrored WR Regulation 6 in our RFU Regulations, some knock on changes are required. For example, WR have changed the definition of 'Wagering' to 'Betting'.

REGULATION 18 - IP & MEDIA RIGHTS

No proposed amendments

REGULATION 19 - DISCIPLINE

Only minor changes are envisaged.

REGULATION 20 - ANTI-DOPING

- It is proposed to amend RFU Regulation 20 to provide that anti-doping matters are heard by the National Anti-Doping Panel rather than the RFU judiciary. This will result in improved management of the Anti-Doping hearings. A procedure will be included to allow a discount in sanction for a prompt admission.
- The new World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code 2015 is complex and raises the following issues:
 - o The length of time that Anti-Doping cases are taking before panels (many are contested due to the fact that the starting point suspension is one of 4 years under the new WADA Code and there are numerous legal arguments being run);
 - o The fact that most Anti-Doping cases will need to start in the day going forwards and not in the evening after working hours (as RFU Disciplinary cases presently are) to ensure that they get completed on that day and do not go part-heard;
 - o Whether payment is likely to be required for members of panels to hear such cases in the future, in particular given the length of time that panels are sitting on cases and Chairpersons, in particular, are having to spend on drafting a considered judgment.
- The NADP is comprised of 25 individuals. It is led by a NADP President and contains legally qualified members who chair tribunals and specialist members with relevant experience in high performance sport, sports science and sports medicine, who sit as wing members. It is understood that DCMS that requires NADP to assist any sport that uses the WADA Code on a **nil cost basis**. It was therefore agreed at the meeting that we would contact Richard Harry, Chief Executive of SR has confirmed that the RFU would be able to use this service at nil cost and would be able to maintain control over its own Anti-Doping cases and prosecute them as it would normally do, but to a NADP panel. Richard Harry has confirmed that this is the case. (We understand that the England Cricket Board has a similar agreement with SR).
- The NADP would be of significant benefit to the RFU in terms of the experience of the NADP members and that this is at nil cost to the RFU. World Rugby is being consulted, but it is not expected that this will raise any issues as the WRU and SRU have delegated all conduct of cases to UKAD and NADP will therefore hear all their cases.

Prompt Admission Cases

- In addition, following the issues raised in a recent case we have proposed some changes to ensure that in “prompt admission” cases (i.e. where a Player is potentially subject to a four-year suspension under World Rugby Anti-Doping Regulations) and where the RFU is of the view that the player or person concerned is entitled to a discount for this prompt admission (potentially down to a minimum of two years, depending on the seriousness of the violation and the Player or other Person’s degree of Fault), that our Regulations reflect World Rugby Regulations /WADA Code. This would mean in practice that we would be required to obtain the consent of WADA (and World Rugby) before considering any reduction of sanction and that any sanction reduction proposed by the RFU under the World Rugby provisions would be done administratively by the RFU. In cases where the Player or Person concerned does not accept the sanction proposed by the RFU then the matter shall be determined by the NADP.

REGULATION 21 - SAFEGUARDING

New Regulation 21.2.7 to be added to say

“Any organisation which provides individuals to Clubs or schools to work in Regulated Activity with Children in Rugby Union must comply with the RFU DES process as outlines in this Regulations. Any Clubs or schools using such an organisation must require them contractually to provide individuals who have been through the RFU DBS process.”

End