

**RFU NORTH
COMPETITIONS
COMMITTEE**



**NORTH CLUBS
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2017**

Season 2017-2018

We make no apology for again reminding all Clubs that they must conform exactly to the RFU Regulations concerning the Effective Registration of their Players. Twelve months ago, Clubs were reminded of this fundamental requirement in the 2016-2017 Newsletter, and whilst there has been a slightly reduced number of such transgressions in the past season, there is still a need for further improvement.

If a Player does not have Effective Registration at the time of Kick Off in a League and/or RFU Cup Match, then the Player cannot play, or be a Replacement, until he is Effectively Registered.

Please ensure that your Effective Registration Lists are kept up to date, are checked weekly, particularly at the time of Kick Off, and in addition, when transferring names from the Lists on to the Match Card, you do so accurately, and legibly.

ELECTRONIC MATCH CARDS

All Level 5 (North Premier), and Level 6 (North 1 East and North 1 West) Clubs, have now received details of how to compile the new Electronic Match Cards, which are to replace the paper version, at these two Levels.

It will be interesting to see if their introduction is seamless, and we await the results with interest.

Further details if required from the appropriate League Secretary(s).

LENGTH OF SEASON

Many Clubs wrongly believe that the Playing Season ends with the date of their last League game, which historically, is usually the end of April. RFU Regulation 11 (The Season), gives full details of the appropriate dates, covering all Competitions, including Age Grade. **The 2017 – 2018 Season runs from 2 September 2017 until the 28 May 2018.** Up to and including the 28 May 2018 - Clubs may be asked to play League, RFU Cup, and Play Off matches.

CLUB TOURS

Please note that Club Tours will not be allowed to take place during the Season including non-League Saturdays. Provision for such Tours has been made over the Christmas and Easter periods.

LEAGUE SECRETARY CHANGES

Yorkshire 2: Jonathan McMillan has resigned, and his place will be taken by Peter Morgan, formerly League Secretary of Yorkshire 3.

Cumbria: Welcome to Brian Mitchellhill, who takes over from Ken Potter.

LEAGUE STRUCTURES & REGULATIONS

This topic continues to be a red hot subject as far as the North DOC is concerned. Primarily, because of the increasing need of Clubs to reduce travelling times to League Matches, thus enabling them to meet their Player's requirements as far as Work, Family and Social commitments are concerned. Different ways of meeting those needs, through League restructuring, have been explored, and will continue to be assessed.

In addition, in order to retain existing Clubs, and recruit more Clubs into the English Clubs Championship, the North DOC is examining whether or not it would be possible to relax certain Competition Regulations at the Lower Levels. To date - acquired via various Club Surveys - some relevant information has been obtained, and a partial relaxation will be in force for some Leagues in the 2017-2018 season. If any Club would like to submit and relevant suggestions on this topic, then please do so through your League Secretary.

RFU NATIONAL CUP MATCHES – NORTH DIVISION

Intermediate Cup Level 7

De la Salle v Aspatria
York v Medicals

POOL ROUND 1 October 14 2017

Senior Vase Level 8

Liverpool Collegiate v Whitehaven
Wath upon Dearne v North Shields

Junior Vase Level 9

Liverpool University v Creighton
Old Otliensians v Wallsend

Bowdon v De la Salle
Medicals v Gateshead

POOL ROUND 2 November 18 2017

Winnington Park v Liverpool Collegiate
North Shields v Bishop Auckland

Ramsey IOM v Liverpool University
Wallsend v West Hartlepool TDSOB

Aspatria v Bowdon
Gateshead v York

POOL ROUND 3 February 10 2018

Whitehaven v Winnington Park
Bishop Auckland v Wath upon Dearne

Creighton v Ramsey IOM
West Hartlepool TDSOB v Old Otliensians

Season 2017-2018

**By League - List of Number of permitted Substitutions,
Number of Players required for the Front Row, and Number of Permitted Interchanges.**

League	Level	No. of Subs	No. of FR	Interchanges
North Premier	5	3	1	8
North 1 West	6	3	1	8
North 1 East	6	3	1	8
North Lancs/Cumbria	7	3	1	8
South Lancs/Cheshire 1	7	3	1	8
Cumbria	8	3	1	8
South Lancs/Cheshire 2	8	5	1	10
Lancs/Cheshire 3 North	9	5	1	10
Lancs/Cheshire 3 South	9	5	1	10
Yorkshire 1	7	3	1	8
Yorkshire 2	8	3	1	8
Yorkshire 3	9	5	2	10
Yorkshire 4 (North West)	10	5	2	10
Yorkshire 4 (South East)	10	5	2	10
Durham/Northumberland 1	7	3	1	8
Durham/Northumberland 2	8	3	1	8
Durham/Northumberland 3	9	5	2	10

UNCONTESTED SCRUMS & PLAYER INTERCHANGES

Points to note:

- A Club responsible for causing a match to go to Uncontested Scrums shall be responsible for removing a Player. i.e. "Man Off Rule."
- A Club shall also be responsible for not exceeding the number of permitted interchanges. i.e. "Rolling Subs."
- If there breaches of the above Regulations, they will result in a 5 point deduction.

Clubs are strongly advised to study the relevant Regulations, Appendix 2. RFU Handbook 2017-2018.