



DORSET & WILTS. RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Treasurer
Alison Hunter

County President
Nigel Mattravers

General Secretary
Gerald Burden
8 Blackmore Chase
Wincanton
Somerset
BA9 9SD

Date: 25 August 2026

Subject: New Season Welcome Letter and Key RFU Regulatory & Administrative Updates

TO: All Club Chairs, Honorary Secretaries, and Operational Leads

Dear Club Officers,

As we prepare for the start of the new season, we want to thank you for your continued dedication, hard work, and commitment to supporting your players, volunteers, and the wider rugby community. We appreciate that it is very disappointing that contact training and matches cannot start as planned because of the ground conditions. We know that the RFU is monitoring conditions very closely and we hope for further guidance and good news very soon.

Ahead of kick-off, it is important that you please review the critical regulatory and administrative updates outlined below:

- **Regulation 15 (Age Grade Rugby)**: Updated requirements are now in effect. Clubs must review the revised regulations to ensure all coaches, managers, and players remain compliant.
- **Under-17 Players in Adult Rugby**: The RFU has issued updated guidance governing U17 participation in senior rugby. Strictly verify that all eligibility, safeguarding, parental consent, and regulatory approvals are completed *before* any Under-17 player takes the pitch for an adult team.
- **Electronic Match Result Cards (EML)**: Revised match-day operational workflows have been introduced to streamline match reporting and clarify card submission requirements.
- **Game Management System (GMS)**: Platform updates have been implemented to align with the new regulations. Club administrators must familiarize themselves with these system changes and complete all required actions within the designated timescales.

Detailed documentation for Regulation 15, U17 approvals, EML procedures, and GMS updates can be accessed via the operational links on the RFU portal. For technical support or account access issues, please contact the **RFU Helpdesk**.

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Also for this season the RFU has introduced a very useful app, [England Ruby Learning](#). This tool is aimed not only at coach development but also will assist club volunteers get the necessary training for their roles. We recommend that you take a look at this valuable tool.

Thank you again for maintaining high standards across our sport. We wish your club every success in the upcoming season and look forward to working alongside you.

Best wishes

Nigel Mattravers

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President

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