RFU WOMENS COMPETITIONS - ENTRY CRITERIA – 2024/25 SEASON

Entry criteria should be read in conjunction with RFU Regulation 6 – Adult Competitions including Regulation 14 – Adult Player Registration.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 23:59 SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2024

If you have any general questions about the entry process, please contact womenscompetitions@rfu.com

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The diagram and information below show the current structure and the differences you can expect at each level. If you wish to enter the competition structure, please ensure you can meet any expectations described at the relevant competition level.

TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT DISCIPLINE SPORTSMANSHIP

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Level 2 - Championship 1

- Leagues of no more than 10 teams based on best geographical fit.
- Championship 1 will be split into 2 divisions: North & South
- Teams may mutually agree to move fixtures to a different day - all fixture dates will initially be pre-set in line with the RFU Women's Structured Season Calendar.
- Matches will be full World Rugby Laws.
- In the 23/24 season Championship 1 teams required an average of **43** registered players to fulfill matches. Clubs should ensure they have an appropriate number of active players registered on the Game Management System (GMS).
- Clubs that run two sides should have minimum of **50** players registered.

Level 3 - Championship 2

- Leagues of no more than 10 teams based on best geographical fit.
- Championship 2 is split into North, Midlands, South East and South West leagues.
- Teams may mutually agree to move fixtures to a different day - all fixture dates will initially be pre-set in line with the RFU Women's Structured Season Calendar.
- Matches will be full World Rugby Laws.
- In the 23/24 season Championship 2 teams required an average of **43** registered players to fulfill matches. Clubs should ensure they have an appropriate number of active players registered on the Game Management System (GMS).
- Clubs that run two sides should have minimum of **50** players registered.

Level 4 - National Challenge 1

- Leagues of no more than 10 teams based on best geographical fit.
- There are 8 National Challenge 1 leagues.
- Teams may mutually agree to move fixtures to a different day - all fixture dates will initially be pre-set in line with the RFU Women's Structured Season Calendar.
- Matches will be full World Rugby Laws.
- In the 23/24 season National Challenge 1 teams required an average of **37** registered players to fulfill matches. Clubs should ensure they have an appropriate number of active players registered on the Game Management System (GMS).
- Clubs that run two sides should have a minimum of **50** players registered.

Level 5 - National Challenge 2

- Leagues of no more than 10 teams based on best geographical fit, with an appropriate number of fixtures agreed in consultation with the clubs.
- Teams may mutually agree to move fixtures to a different day - all fixture dates will initially be pre-set in line with the RFU Women's Structured Season Calendar.
- Flexibility and options for clubs to help them to play games. These include:
    - Game On principles in line with Regulation 6.
    - Player matching is mandatory in line with the laws of the game.
- Flexibility and options for clubs to help them to play games. These law variations are outlined in RFU Regulation 6 – Adult Competitions.
- Clubs should aim to contact their opposition in the week prior to the fixture to discuss applying Law Variations that may be needed for the game to go ahead.

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In the 2023/24 season National Challenge 2 teams required an average of **34** players to fulfill their matches. Clubs should ensure they have an appropriate number of active players registered on the Game Management System (GMS).

Level 6 - National Challenge 3
(Playing with World Rugby U19 Law Variations and Game On principles)

- Leagues of approximately 6 – 10 teams based on local need and best geographical fit, with an appropriate number of fixtures agreed in consultation with the clubs.
- Flexibility and options for clubs to help them to play games. These include:
    - Law variations.
    - Game On principles in line with Regulation 6. (All World Rugby Under 19 Law Variations will take precedence over any conflicting Game On principles. E.g. game length will be at most 70 minutes).
    - Player matching is mandatory in line with the laws of the game.
- Clubs should aim to contact their opposition in the week prior to the fixture to discuss applying Game On and/or law variations that may be needed for the game to go ahead.
- Teams may mutually agree to move fixtures to a different day - all fixture dates will initially be pre-set in line with the RFU Women's Structured Season Calendar.
- In the 2023/24 season National Challenge 3 teams required an average of **31** players to fulfil their matches. Clubs should ensure they have an appropriate number of active players registered on the Game Management System (GMS).

Inner Warrior Series (IWS)

- IWS aims to suit the needs of players through local development playing opportunities.
- These can vary in playing format (e.g. XRugby7s, T1 Rugby, 10 aside, 15 a-side, application of Game On principles or a combination of these).
- Teams may mutually agree to fixtures dates and times.
- Relaxed playing regulations in agreement with those involved.

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If you have any general questions about the league entry process, please contact womenscompetitions@rfu.com

Please note: submitting your application does not guarantee entry into the desired league selected. If you are unsure of which level you should be competing at then please contact your Competitions Development Officer:

South West	Katie Oldrieve	katieoldrieve@rfu.com	07706 000780
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