



## HELPING CLUBS TO PROSPER AND THRIVE

**COMPETITIONS NOTICE**

**August 2016**

### **ELECTRONIC MATCH CARDS**

We are making two very important changes in Surrey Leagues 1 - 4 this season, and it is crucial that you are aware of what is going on.

Referees do not actually have to do anything substantively differently, but in terms of Match Cards they will now be on a pc/mobile device not paper.

For more information, downloads, links etc. go to <http://surreyrugby.co.uk> > Snr Competitions > RFU ( <http://surreyrugby.co.uk/senior-competition/rfu/rfu-leagues> ) where you will find full details and more.

#### **Electronic Match Cards (EMC)**

These have been introduced fully at the top of the game (Levels 1 - 4: Premiership, Championship and National Leagues 1 & 2), but trialled only at the lower end by us in Surrey leagues 1 - 4). At last we can dispense with paper match result/team list cards and do it online!

We strongly suggest that you download the 'Match Card Instructions' at the following link and have a look (and ideally print them off and carry around in case the club doesn't have one - but you don't have to!) - <http://surreyrugby.co.uk/documents/resources/senior-leagues-1/110-match-card-instructions>

Referees are no longer required by regulation to be presented with the EMC before the game as the team details are already entered in to the RFU system. However prior to kick-off referees are required to know the details of any player who may be used as a front row replacement.

Your interest is the 'after the match section'. The referee must be shown the EMC online. Agree with the home side the result, which they will then send off. If there have been any red cards issued or the match has gone to uncontested scrums, ticking those boxes will result in a section revealed for brief details (just the same as there are sections for these on the paper form) for the referee to fill in.

You will then (or before if convenient) need to check that your name, phone number and, crucially, email address have been entered correctly on the card. This is because the referee will then be emailed a PDF of the match card to review and their acceptance of the information will act as their electronic signature. This will complete the sign-off process and the card will be submitted to the administrators. Fear not, you have until Monday to click on that email to accept it, although the sooner you do it the better as then it will go sooner to the League Secretary to check over.

Tony Price Chairman Surrey RFU Competitions Committee  
John Crate Vice-Chairman Surrey RFU Competitions Committee



**TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT DISCIPLINE SPORTSMANSHIP**



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#### FRONT ROW REPLACEMENTS

This season 2016/17 we are trialling a variation in the regulations as they cover Front Row Replacements in Surrey Leagues 1-4. For the forthcoming season, 2016/17, Law 3.5 has been varied, in Surrey Leagues 1- 4 matches only, so that there will be no regulatory requirement for a team to select a Front Row (FR) Replacement. Teams will still be allowed 18 in the squad with rolling replacements (restricted to 8 interchanges as previously), but only 3 of that squad need to be fully trained and experienced FR players, i.e. able to form and sustain a contested scrummage from the start of the game.

There is no other change in the regulations, so teams are still required to only replace a FR player with another FR player in order to continue with contested scrums. I.e. if they have an injury in the FR and cannot replace that player so that scrums can continue contested they cannot replace him at all and will have to continue with 1 less player than hitherto, often known as the 'one off rule'. Teams are not precluded from having an FR replacement, or more than one, and indeed are encouraged to do so, but they will not be penalised under regulation if they do not, i.e. the result of the game will stand.

Fuller details are available for download at

<http://surreyrugby.co.uk/documents/resources/senior-leagues-1/senior-leagues-front-row/109-front-row-variation-16-17>

The biggest concern of clubs in this trial is that clubs will fake an injury and opt to go uncontested to gain an advantage even with a player short. Accordingly, we really would like a report, however brief, on any league match where scrums do go uncontested because of no FR replacement and an advantage is gained. Please do that to either the relevant League Secretary or Tony Price, Chairman of Competitions ( [tp@lordprice.com](mailto:tp@lordprice.com) ) . This is important so we hope that you will find the time to do that.

Tony Price Chairman Surrey RFU Competitions Committee  
John Crate Vice-Chairman Surrey RFU Competitions Committee



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