



Cheshire Rugby Football Union

(EST. 1875)

“RFU Statement on the start of the Community Rugby Season”

Clarification for Cheshire Clubs

Following the decision by the RFU to move the start of the season back for Player Welfare concerns due to the unusually dry weather we can confirm the following:-

Cheshire Clubs who play in the RFU Leagues at Regional 1(NW), Regional 2 (NW),adm Counties 1, adm Counties 2 and adm Counties 3 cannot play any competitive rugby until after 21st September 2026.

This also includes any games in the Impact North-West Intermediate Leagues, MOTiQ Colts Leagues and Cheshire Cup competitions.

Cheshire Mini and Junior are currently unaffected as they are not due to start until October.

Circumstances may change as quick as the weather does. However, we must follow the procedures as laid out in the RFU statement link below.

<https://www.englandrugby.com/follow/news-and-media/statement-start-competitive-community-rugby-season>

We are aware that pitch conditions vary across our county. Training sessions and friendly matches, where possible due to local conditions, may go ahead, in order to help prepare players for the competitive season, with pitch safety assessed following the published RFU guidance link below

<https://www.englandrugby.com/follow/news-and-media/drought-guidance-rugby-clubs>

We'd encourage adult and age grade players, coaches and volunteers alike to keep getting down to the club over the coming weeks. T1 Rugby and non-contact formats remain a great way to get members to your clubhouse and keep them active - subject to the usual pitch risk assessment - while also giving squads valuable time to properly prepare for the return to contact when the season begins.

JDM

Aug 26