

**We Play Rugby: Game On!**

**GAME ON!**



# What is it?

An initiative and playing philosophy

From season 2019/20 will be in regulation for all friendlies, and all matches in competitions **OUTSIDE** the RFU English Clubs Championship, for men and women

# GAMEON!

Builds on some of the work and initiatives already happening to get games played

Overcome some other barriers by reducing the complexity of the game



# Some laws...

<b>Law 3.2: Team Numbers</b>	A match can take place with a minimum of 10 players on each team at the start of the match. It is encouraged that the number of players on each team is equal, subject to the laws of the game.
<b>Law 5.3: Match Duration</b>	A match can be a minimum of 40 minutes in duration.
<b>Law 3.34: Rolling substitutions</b>	Rolling substitutions are permitted in accordance with paragraphs [3(a) to 3(b)] above.
<b>Law 3.34: Half Game rule</b>	Where rolling substitutions are adopted, teams are encouraged to apply the half game rule to ensure each player in every match day squad plays at least half of the Available Playing Time (as defined in RFU Regulation 1).
<b>Law 18: Line outs</b>	Teams may agree not to contest or lift in the line out
<b>Law 19: Scrums</b>	Teams may agree that scrums will be uncontested

# Some regs...

- Both teams must agree which of the Game On Principles will apply to the match, and notify the referee accordingly at least 30 minutes prior to kick-off
- If both teams cannot agree which principles to apply, the match will proceed without the application of the Game On Principles.
- Competition organisers may request for the Game On Principles not to apply to a competition. To do this, they apply in writing to the RFU Head of Regulations

# Why are we doing this?

- Around one third of lower level XV matches aren't played: **WE NEED TO ENABLE THESE MATCHES TO GET PLAYED**
- The NRS shows that a quarter of players would play more rugby if they knew of available opportunities to enjoy more social and turn up and play rugby: **WE NEED TO LISTEN TO OUR PLAYERS WHO ARE LOOKING FOR DIFFERENT PLAYING OFFERS**
- Rugby is maintaining participation, largely driven by the female and age grade game. The number of planned and completed matches in the adult male game is falling: **MORE MATCHES = MORE PEOPLE IN CLUBS = MORE SUBS & MONEY BEHIND THE BAR = MORE SUSTAINABLE CLUBS**
- Game on is **one possible solution** to getting more matches played. It has been utilised across Wales and Ireland in different ways with some success.

# Benefits:

- To Players
  - Delivering what they have asked for
  - Enjoyment & retention
  - It is still RUGBY!
- To Clubs & CBs / Competition Organisers
  - More matches = healthier more sustainable and stronger clubs
  - More players, more subs / money behind bar, more volunteers
  - More satisfaction
  - More matches to count towards international ticket allocations
- To the wider game
  - More matches = healthier more sustainable and stronger Game
  - Hit personal and business targets
  - Supporting the core of the Game
  - Recognising and utilising power of Area Teams and providing them with tools to do their job

# What support will be available?

- Human resource, insights, and experience
- Dedicated space on <https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/playing/game-on>
- Regulations
- Assets
  - Posters (A4, A3)
  - Twitter, Facebook asset
  - Instagram swipe asset
  - Email asset (tiled, similar to Touchline)
  - Zed cards
- Supporting video to bring story to life and share case studies

# GAME ON!

**NOT GOT AN ADULT 15?  
HERE ARE SOME  
OPTIONS TO KEEP  
THE GAME ON!**



**WE PLAY  
RUGBY**



## **MATCH LENGTH**

MINIMUM OF 40 MINS  
IN TOTAL



## **ROLLING SUBS**

PLAYERS ABLE TO RETURN  
TO THE FIELD OF PLAY



## **LINE-OUT**

TEAMS MAY AGREE  
NOT TO CONTEST OR  
LIFT IN THE LINE OUT



## **HALF GAME RULE**

ALL PLAYERS TO PLAY  
AT LEAST HALF A MATCH



## **MINIMUM 10 PLAYERS**

TEAMS FROM 10 TO 15 A SIDE.  
EQUAL NUMBERS ENCOURAGED



## **SCRUMS**

TEAMS MAY AGREE THAT SCRUMS  
WILL BE UNCONTESTED

**CONFIRM WITH OPPONENT AND MATCH OFFICIALS PRIOR TO MATCH**





THE  
GAME  
OF OUR  
LIVES