



# Kent County Rugby Football Union Limited

[www.kent-rugby.org](http://www.kent-rugby.org)

## PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RULE 14 (PAYMENT OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION BY ASSOCIATE MEMBER CLUBS)

### Proposal

The Executive Committee seeks to amend the Constituent Body's (CB) Rules to accommodate the KCRFU levying an associate membership fee on those clubs based outside of Kent, but whose teams participate in the RFU Counties Kent Leagues 1-5 (and/or our CB-run Met and Rural leagues and cup competitions).

This is to cover the administration costs incurred by the KCRFU of having these teams in these leagues, specifically those relating to the CB-run disciplinary process. Amending the CB's Rules places it on a firmer footing to facilitate this.

### RFU Regulations

RFU Regulations do not allow a CB to levy an annual subscription on a club from another CB. However, they do allow a CB to levy an administration fee on a club from another CB, specifically in disciplinary matters. These fees are outlined in [RFU Regulation 19 Appendix 3](#) ("For cases heard by Constituent Body Panels, each CB may set their own disciplinary administration fees for hearings, save that they shall not exceed £125."). The RFU does not generally allow a CB to charge a standard competition administration fee to clubs from other CBs for participating in a competition. The fees mentioned above relate specifically to disciplinary and appeal processes.

### Rationale

In the context of KCRFU Rule 14, the Executive Committee believes that it is wholly reasonable to include the contribution from these non-Kent clubs to our Discipline administration costs, not least because if the Panel were in the fortunate position to have to hear fewer cases, even with the majority being proven and hence invoking the standard £125 fee, the total sum accrued over the season may still not cover the full costs of hiring the room to hear cases and any associated expenditure. This gap would have to be met from the CB's budget (i.e. from full and associate member clubs' subs).

For a non-Kent club, the £125 fee is levied only if it appears before a Panel and the case against that club (and/or individual from that club concerned) has been proven and a sanction imposed. Moreover, the annual Associate fee currently stands at £40 only per season.

We therefore propose to amend Section 14 of the Rules as suggested as follows:

#### 14 Associates

The Committee may appoint Associates of the Constituent Body. Such Associates shall not be members of the Constituent Body and shall not have the right of voting at General Meetings but will have such rights as the Committee may decide and will pay an annual subscription as fixed ~~from time-to-time~~ by the Committee.

**ADD:** As provided for by RFU Regulation 19, Appendix 3, an administration fee shall be paid annually to the Constituent Body by any club based outside of Kent but whose teams participate in those RFU and/or other leagues which are administered (through RFU delegated authority or otherwise) by the Constituent Body. Such fees will be used to offset any administration costs

legitimately incurred by the Constituent Body relating to the disciplinary process which fall within its aegis.

For the avoidance of doubt, a non-Kent-based Associate Member Club will retain its RFU voting rights through its full membership of its 'parent' / primary CB

**Proposed by: Executive Cttee**  
**Seconded by:**

**Nigel Fray**  
**Hon. Secretary & Director of Governance**  
**September 2025**