



Amesbury Rugby Club

Membership Subscription Policy

FAQs

Contents

What is the Membership FAQ document for?	3
Why does the club have a membership subscription fee?	3
What is the membership subscription fee used for?	3
Doesn't sponsorship pay for the cost of the rugby club?	3
When is membership subscription to be paid?	3
Why is paying on time important?	4
What happens if I have not paid?	4
What if I am not around to play a lot of games?	4
What if a team needs a short term player to make up squad numbers?	5
What if I can't afford to pay the full fee?	5
What if I join during the season?	6
What are the membership subscription options?	6
What happens if I don't want to pay a membership subscription fee?	7
Volunteering:	7
Match_Fees:	7
Can I reduce my membership subscription fee by volunteering in the club?	7
How does subscription payment affect selection?	8
Can I apply for international tickets if I am not a fully paid member?	8
Can I vote at the AGM if I am not a fully paid member?	8
Can I pay my membership subscription fee in instalments?	8
I am a full time student. Am I expected to pay a full Subscription fee?	8
Membership Types	8



What is the Membership FAQ document for?

- To help make our policy on membership subscriptions clearer.
- To explain the importance of membership subscriptions.

Why does the club have a membership subscription fee?

- Amesbury Rugby Club is a membership based club. That means it is funded primarily through income from fees from its members.
- Payment of a subscription fee is required to be a full voting member of this club.
- Without paying a membership fee a person is not considered a voting member of the club and therefore not entitled to use the benefits & services of the club or to be selected as a player.

What is the membership subscription fee used for?

- The subscription funds are used to help pay for the running costs of the game of rugby such as our rent, disciplinary hearings, RFU affiliation, coaching courses, equipment, playing strips, D&W membership, insurance, referees, marketing, etc.
- Subscription fees help provide financial stability of the club now and in the future.
- Subscription fees are an important investment for the ongoing development of the club now and into the future.

Doesn't sponsorship pay for the cost of the rugby club?

- Sponsorship funds are important but they are not a guaranteed or consistent income on which to base the finances of the club.
- Sponsorship when available will be invested back into the club and used to help fund the purchase of items we might otherwise not be able to buy.
- Sponsorship also provides additional funds for bespoke events such as Inner Warrior, Mini Warrior and Tournaments.

When is membership subscription to be paid?

- After membership fees are communicated at the club AGM
- Subscription is open in August.
- New members joining during the season will need to pay a pro rata subscription fee before being eligible to play and would be expected to pay within two weeks of attending training.



Why is paying on time important?

- Receiving subscription fees at the start of the season enables the club to have a clearer financial picture and aids financial planning for the season ahead.
- We don't have the resources to keep asking players to pay their subscription fees.
- Chasing payments is no fun for anyone to do. It takes time and is a waste of resources that can be better used to do positive things in the club.
- Any membership benefits will be given priority to members paying up on time.

What happens if I have not paid?

- Your membership is not renewed until you have paid your subscription.
- If you have not paid any membership fees you are not eligible for any membership benefits such as access to international tickets, a vote in club matters or access to club events for free.
- If you are a player, you are not eligible to play for the club after your initial 2 trial matches.
- Anyone's subscription that is not paid by the due date will not be entitled to the same benefits of membership put in place from time to time, as a member who has paid.
- It would be unfair for you to be on the same rugby pitch as someone who has paid their subscription fee.
- If you are a player and attending training and matches then expect your team manager and or the membership manager to check with you for an update on your membership payment.

What if I am not around to play a lot of games?

- We recognise that some players may be away a lot of the season and so the club is happy to accommodate that situation.
- If this is the case for you then please talk to your team manager / coach or one of the club management team.
- Players who are only occasionally available for example students or military personnel back short term between deployment can have the option to play a maximum of 3 consecutive games with the payment of match fee of £10 per game with approval of the team manager.
- You will need to ensure the match fee is paid on the day and paid by card / cash within the clubhouse via the "SUM UP App".



What if a team needs a short term player to make up squad numbers?

- If a team needs to utilise a player who is not a paid up member of the club it can only be achieved as a one off and subject to the **player registration regulations** in place at the time.
- It is the responsibility of the team manager and coach to ensure they are eligible to play.
- Disregarding the regulations can result in a team being penalised points in the league and leaving the club subject to a fine.
- **Regulation 13 states:**
'Occasional Player' means a player that prior to playing in a match does not have a Home Club. They may be a lapsed player, retired, or have moved geographically to a new area. As such, they may play as a one off for a club on the first occasion without having Registered in advance of the match as long as they Register by no later 12 noon on the Tuesday following the match (regardless of the day on which the relevant match took place), failing which they shall be deemed to be Unregistered. If an Occasional Player is already Dual-Registered, they will need to de-register from their second Club (i.e. not their Home Club) in order to register for the Club at which they played as an Occasional Player, within 24 hours of the final whistle;
- At the levels set out below, a Player is eligible to be Dual Registered and participate in Regulation 13 Rugby Activity for both their Home Club and a second Club:
- **a.** Men's Counties 3 (Level 9) and below; or
- **b.** Women's National Challenge 2 (Level 5) and below.
- If a team manager is short of players they must ask the social media team (via the management group) to start recruiting for new players asap.

What if I can't afford to pay the full fee?

- If for any reason you do not feel you can pay your full subscription fee then please just talk to your team manager / coach or one of the club management team to discuss alternative arrangements.
- Membership fees can be paid by direct debit to help spread the load. Ask the membership manager for details. Your team manager can help.
- The club will take into account cases of hardship, or make a refund to a Member who becomes unable to use the club for a substantial part of the year on account of injury, illness, or departure from the area.
- The key thing here is to communicate your situation. If you do not raise it correctly and proactively then you will be chased for payment



What if I join during the season?

- If you are joining part way through the season then a pro rata fee can be applied from the 1st of the month you join.
 - The membership manager amesburyrfc.membership@gmail.com can let you know the fee due to be paid.
- New players will be expected to pay their subscription before they can play.

What are the membership subscription options?

- Membership plans will change from season to season but they will be communicated at the annual AGM in July and then communicated to all members shortly after the AGM.
- We offer a number of membership options to try and encompass the main requirements for the majority of members across the different sections of the club.
- We understand that some of our members are not able to enjoy a full season playing due to work requirements or study taking them away for chunks of the year. For this reason we have put in place the option for part season payments. Please just be open with your team manager or the membership manager to agree an appropriate fee to suit your anticipated availability through the year giving you peace of mind you can play when available through the season.

Cases of hardship

- For anyone who feels they want to play rugby at the club but are going through a period of hardship for whatever reason then we want to try and apply reasonable support to help you continue to enjoy belonging to the club. Feel free to speak to your team manager, the membership manager or anyone from the Exec Team, each of which will get back to you with an arrangement.

Students on short availability

- For any student who is only available to play rugby during short and intermittent periods during the season please just speak to your team manager and come to an agreement on the anticipated availability and they can agree a match fee per game which is also discounted to reflect the student status.
- If the subscription fee options do not fit your circumstances then please come and talk to your team manager / coach or one of the club management team.

Contact point – amesburyrfc.membership@gmail.com



Player Men & Womens XV	Walking Rugby	Age Grade	Voting	Non Voting
Any person wishing to play in either mens and womens XV's version of the game. Covers all training, playing, voting rights, international ticket ballot, entry to club events and discounted rates as applied.	Any person wishing to play in the Walking Rugby version of the game. Covers all training, playing, voting rights, international ticket ballot, entry to club events and discounted rates as applied.	Any child in the youth (Age Grade) sections. Covers all training, playing, voting rights for a parent, international ticket ballot, entry to club events and discounted rates as applied.	For any person wishing to be a member of the club but not wanting to play any format of the game. Covers voting rights, international ticket ballot, entry to club events and discounted rates as applied.	This is only for any person undertaking a volunteer role in the club who is not requiring access to membership benefits but wishes to be seen as a recognised member of the club.
£100	£85	£55	£20	£0

If in any doubt ask your team manager or you can email the membership manager amesburyrfc.membership@gmail.com

What happens if I don't want to pay a membership subscription fee?

- If you don't want to pay a membership fee that is absolutely fine but you are not considered a member of the club.
- If you are a player, you will only be eligible to play one game as a non member but will still need to be registered as laid out above.
- It would not be fair to have a player who has not paid a membership subscription on the same pitch as a player who has.
- If you want to play for Amesbury Rugby Club but do not want to pay the subscription fee you can pay a match fee instead but to a maximum of 3 games.
- If you do not want to pay either a membership subscription or a match fee you will not be considered for selection and will no longer be considered a member of the club.
- You are welcome to come and talk to the team manager or the membership manager if you want to stay at the club and require dispensation.

Volunteering:

- You do not have to have paid a membership fee to be a volunteer at the club. However, if no membership fee has been paid then you will not receive membership benefits



except for any discretionary benefits the club may choose to put in place from time to time such as a club branded item of clothing as appreciation. Membership benefits are restricted to members who have paid a membership fee.

Match Fees:

- Match fees are only paid by a player when they have made arrangements not to pay a full subscription payment.
- Match fees are only used to cover up to a maximum of 3 consecutive games.
- Match fees must be paid on the day of the game played. If the fee is not paid you will not be selected to play any further games until you pay the match fee owed.
- Match fees do not make you a paid up member of the club.
- Match fees do not entitle you to be a voting member of the club.
- Match fees do not entitle you to apply for International tickets or receive any member benefits

Can I reduce my membership subscription fee by volunteering in the club?

- Yes. Subject to roles being available the club will support this.
- The role has to be recognised and agreed by the Club Exec team and should be fulfilled for the duration of the season.
- When you pay your membership, a standard discount is applied at checkout but you will still receive the benefits of membership as applicable at the time.
- All volunteer roles in the club will have their player / social subscription fee discounted at payment in GMS.
- Volunteers can decide not to pay a membership fee if they choose but they will not be eligible for the membership benefits enjoyed by a member who has paid a membership fee.

How does subscription payment affect selection?

- You need to be a paid member to be eligible for selection. Non-payment will result in you no longer being selected.

Can I apply for international tickets if I am not a fully paid member?

- No. You must be a paid member to apply for International tickets.

Can I vote at the AGM if I am not a fully paid member?

- No. You must be a fully paid up member to vote or ask questions of the club executive at the AGM.



Can I pay my membership subscription fee in instalments?

- Yes, you can pay in instalments. GMS now has a Direct Debit option available to help budget your payments over 3 instalments. Other options may be considered on a case by case basis.
- If you have any questions or require more information then please contact the club [treasurer](#) or [membership manager](#)

I am a full time student. Am I expected to pay a full Subscription fee?

- No. A full time student playing senior rugby can arrange to pay a lower fee if you speak to the team manager to discuss a suitable arrangement either as a membership fee or a match fee payment of £10 per game

Membership Types

- Adult Playing Member (M&W)
- Walking Rugby Member
- Age Grade Member (Under 18s)
- Family Membership
- Social Member
- Volunteer Member (Non Voting or Benefits)
- Volunteer Member (Full benefits)



Need Assistance?

If you are in any doubt just ask your team manager or email the membership manager on amesburyrfc.membership@gmail.com