

Derbyshire Rugby Football Union

KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS RULES

- 1.0 The Derbyshire Rugby Football Union Knock-Out Competitions (**The Competition**) shall comprise of five separate competitions as detailed in paragraph 1.1
- 1.1 **Derbyshire RFU 1st XV Cup**
Derbyshire RFU 1st XV Shield
Derbyshire RFU 2nd XV Cup
Derbyshire RFU Presidents Trophy
Derbyshire RFU Pennant
- 2.0 Clubs that compete in the RFU Leagues at Level 4 or above shall be excluded from The Competition.
- 3.0 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Rugby Union Football.
- 4.0 **Competition Eligibility**
Entrants into each competition shall be determined as follows:
- 4.1 **The Derbyshire RFU 1st XV Cup**
The 1st XV of all Level 6 & 7 Derbyshire clubs that have entered the competition are eligible for entry into the 1st XV Cup.
- 4.2 **The Derbyshire RFU 1st XV Shield**
The 1st XV of all Level 8 & 9 Derbyshire clubs that have entered the competition are eligible for entry into the 1st XV Shield.
- 4.3 **The Derbyshire RFU 2nd XV Cup**
The 2nd XV of all Level 6 & 7 Derbyshire clubs that have entered the competition are eligible for entry into the 2nd XV Cup.
- 4.4 **Derbyshire RFU 2nd XV President's Trophy**
The 1st XV teams of all remaining Derbyshire clubs that have entered the competition are eligible for entry along with any other affiliated teams from outside of the RFU League pyramid.
- 4.5 **Derbyshire RFU Pennant**
The 2nd XV of all clubs other than those included above along with any 3rd or 4th XV teams as well as any Development sides of any clubs. In the case of Development sides proof will be required to ascertain that the side is a genuine development team.
- 4.6 The ranking of clubs will be determined by the level at which they are playing for in the current season.
- 5.0 **Club Eligibility**
- 5.1 Only those Clubs that have paid the Annual Subscription to the Derbyshire RFU shall be permitted to play in any competition.
- 5.2 There will be no entry fee.
- 5.3 All clubs entering the competition must be members of the Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire RFU and fully affiliated members of the Rugby Football Union.
- 5.4 All Derbyshire clubs will be invited to enter The Competition, subject to satisfying the entry criteria as above, prior to the start of the season for which The Competition will take place.
- 5.5 No Club shall be permitted to enter more than one competition in any one season.
- 5.6 Clubs failing to fulfil fixtures may at the discretion of the Competitions Committee be barred from entering competitions in the following season.

6.0 **Arrangement of Fixtures**

- 6.1 The Competitions secretary will advise the latest date for the playing of all fixtures at the time that the draw for each round of the competition is circulated. It is the responsibility of the home club to make the first contact with the away club with regard to arranging a date for the playing of the fixture. Both clubs are however responsible for the satisfactory completion of a fixture and any difficulty in contacting a club or making a suitable date for the playing of a fixture should be advised to the Competitions Secretary at the earliest possible opportunity to ensure play by dates are adhered to. Once the clubs have arranged a date they should inform the Competitions Committee Secretary.
- 6.2 All competition matches shall all be played on or before the designated dates. The nature of the RFU structured season may mean that league games (scheduled or rearranged) or RFU Midlands knockout games prevent this. The club that cannot fulfil the fixture should immediately inform the Competitions Secretary in this case. In such circumstances the game is to be rearranged and this may include playing on Sunday or midweek. If the clubs cannot agree on a date then the Competitions Committee reserves the right to impose a date. Clubs will be expected to fulfil these rearranged dates and playing strength and unavailability of players is not accepted as a reason as to why a fixture cannot be played.
- 6.3 For the sake of clarification, even if a club has requested an RFU “non-playing” league weekend they may still be required to fulfil a competition match on this weekend.
- 6.4 Each round of each competition up to and including the semi-finals shall be the subject of a separate draw. No less than three members of the Competitions Committee shall make all draws.

7.0 **Player Eligibility**

- 7.1 A player may only play for one Club in any one season in The Competition. Players may not play in The Competition if they hold effective registration [as defined by The English Clubs Championship Rules] for any Club other than the Club that they intend to represent in The Competition. All players must be bona-fide members of the Club they represent in The Competition.
- 7.2 If a player has played for a club's 1st XV in The Competition he is not allowed to play for the club's 2nd XV in the same season's competition. If a player has played for a club's 1st XV or 2nd XV in The Competition he is still eligible to play for the club's Vets in any Derbyshire RFU competitions within the same season and vice-versa.
- 7.3 A player that plays for the 2nd XV of a club in The Competition must not have played in any of the previous three games played by that club's 1st XV
- 7.4 Clubs shall forward a list of their playing squad for each match within 72 hours of the fixture to the Competitions Secretary, either by e-mail to geraint.prisk@rolls-royce.com. Match cards are available on the NLD website for this purpose.
- 7.5 The Competitions Committee may at any point refer to the lists of playing squads during the Competition or after if investigations need to take place. These investigations do not need to be instigated by a club. If a club does not supply its list of players within 72 hours of the fixture being played they may be disqualified from the competition.
- 7.6 Any breaches of rules 7.1 to 7.3 will result in disqualification of the offending club from The Competition and may incur suspension from further season's competitions.

8.0 **Final Games**

- 8.1 All Finals will be played on the date agreed by the Competitions Committee.
- 8.2 In the event of a club being unable to play a final on the designated date due to a re-arranged RFU league or play-off fixture the Committee may agree to the match being played on another date. This will nominally be the evening of the Wednesday following the designated date unless mutually agreed otherwise by the two clubs and the Committee. In the event of a club being unable to play on the designated date for this reason they should notify the Competitions Secretary at least three weeks before the due date of the finals.

9.0 **Determining the Result**

- 9.1 If a match is a draw after the completion of 40 minutes of play each way then extra time of 10 minutes each way shall be played with a 1 minute interval.

- 9.2 If the scores are then still level the team that has scored the most tries shall be the winner.
- 9.3 If this does not produce a result then the team that has scored the most conversions from tries shall be the winner.
- 9.4 In all but the final if none of the above produces a winner the visiting side (as defined by the initial draw) shall go forward to the next round.
- 9.5 In the final, in the event of rules 9.0 to 9.4 failing to produce a winner, the trophy shall be shared and, where appropriate, a coin will be tossed to decide which side is proposed for competitions in the following season.
- 9.6 If any fixture is unable to be played through to a conclusion for any reason (e.g. weather, serious injury, etc.) the Competitions Committee will determine whether the score at the time of the stoppage will stand or the fixture will be replayed.
- 10.0 **Match Referees**
- 10.1 The NLDRFU Referees Society is responsible for the appointment of referees to all matches. In addition, at the request of the Competitions Committee, the NLDRFUSR has the authority to appoint "teams of three" to any match with the two assistant referees having full authority in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- 10.2 It is the responsibility of the club that is drawn as the home team to ensure the appointment of an appropriate referee by the NLDRFU Referees Society and that club shall be responsible for all costs associated with the provision of a referee.
- 10.3 The provision of referees and touch judges for Final games will be organised by the Competitions Committee and all costs will be borne by Derbyshire RFU.
- 11.0 **Playing Colours**
- 11.1 In the event of a clash of colours, the Home team shall be responsible for changing its colours.
- 11.2 In the event of a clash of colours in any Final, the team holding the higher place in the RFU League structure, at that time, shall be responsible for changing its colours. Where neither club is in the RFU League structure, the team travelling the shorter distance to the Final venue from its home ground shall be responsible for changing its colours.
- 12.0 **Replacements**
- 12.1 In all rounds of the competitions other than the finals not more than three replacements or substitutes (eight interchanges) are permitted for the Derbyshire RFU 1st XV Cup and the Derbyshire RFU 1st XV Shield and not more than five replacements or substitutes (ten interchanges) for the Derbyshire RFU 2nd XV Cup and the President's Trophy. In all finals games seven replacements or substitutes are permitted (twelve interchanges). If a game is played as a double header with a league fixture then the league regulations will apply, including extra time if played.
- 12.2 In the interests of safety each team playing in each match in the competitions must have at least five players in their nominated match squad, all at least eighteen years old, who are suitably trained and experienced to be capable of playing in the front row to ensure on the first or second occasions (whether due to injury or consequent to a player(s) being temporarily suspended or ordered off) that a front row player is required to be replaced, the team can continue to safely play with contested scrums.
- 12.3 If in a match on the first or second occasion any front row player requires to be replaced and his team cannot provide a suitably trained and experienced replacement player at least eighteen years old to play in such a position in the front row to enable the teams to continue to safely play with contested scrums the referee, having made enquiry of and confirmed of this fact with the Captain (or such other person nominated by the club as the manager or person responsible for the team), the match shall continue with uncontested scrums and will be subject to Regulation 12.6 below.

- 12.4 Subject only to the proviso contained in Regulation 12.5 below if in any match in a competition on the third or subsequent occasion any front row player requires to be replaced and his team cannot provide a suitably trained and experienced replacement player to enable the teams to safely play with contested scrums the referee, having made enquiry of and confirmed of this fact with the Captain (or such other person nominated by the club as the manager or person responsible for the team), the match shall continue with uncontested scrums, and subject to Regulation 12.6 below, the result will stand.
- 12.5 Where a player or players is/are temporarily suspended from the field of play (which includes a blood injury) which creates a third or subsequent occasion that a front row player needs to be replaced and his team cannot provide a replacement or other suitably trained and experienced player to enable the teams to safely play with contested scrums the referee, having made enquiry of and confirmed of this fact with the Captain (or such other person nominated by the club as the manager or person responsible for the team), of the side affected the match shall continue with uncontested scrums (but such uncontested scrums shall only continue for the duration of the temporary suspension). The match result will not be deemed to be invalidated by reason of part of it being played with uncontested scrums.
- 12.6 If on any occasion the referee has to order uncontested scrums due to a lack of suitably trained and experienced front row players then the team causing this shall not be allowed to replace the player leaving the field. For the sake of doubt, this still applies even if the team have interchanges remaining.

- 12.7 The Competitions Committee will review the circumstances in every case where a match in a competition is completed with, or contains a period of uncontested scrums. The Competitions Committee shall have the final decision on the result of the match and all such decisions shall be binding on all participants.

It is the responsibility of both clubs to contact the Competitions Committee in such a situation to advise the Competitions Secretary of the following information:

- When during game uncontested scrums were called
- The reasons for uncontested scrums being called
- The points score at that time
- The referee's name and phone number
- The final outcome of the match

This information must be forwarded to the Competitions Secretary within 24 hours of the game being played. The Competitions Committee will let the clubs know of their decision within 48 hours of the information being received.

13.0 **Completion of Fixtures**

- 13.1 All matches, unless agreed by the Competitions Committee, shall be resolved before or on the specified date. In the event of a mutually acceptable "early" date not being agreed the match shall be played on the specified date. It is the responsibility of each club to provide a side and replacements to fulfil the fixtures by the allotted date for the round they are playing in. If clubs cannot mutually agree a date the match will be played on a date determined by the Competitions Committee. Failure to fulfil the fixture on that date will result in elimination from the competition of one or both clubs.

- 13.2 In the event of a dispute between clubs the Competitions Committee Chairman and two other Committee members shall form an Appeals Committee to adjudicate. Members will be chosen to reflect County representatives other than those of the clubs in dispute plus another representative from the committee independent of any league of those of the clubs in dispute. The Appeals Committee will receive background information from the Competitions Secretary and will accept written submissions from the clubs involved via the Competitions Secretary. The Appeals Committee may consult additional members of the Competition Committee in arriving at their decision. **The decision of the Appeals Committee is binding and there is no further right of appeal.**

- 13.2 In the event of the Home team pitch being unplayable; it shall be the Home team's responsibility to find alternative playing facilities; if necessary, by the use of the Away team's facilities. The following order of priorities shall apply:

- 13.3 In the event that, despite the clearly demonstrated efforts of both teams, the match cannot be played, the Away team (as defined by the initial draw) shall go forward to the next round.
- 14.0 **Pitch Management**
The Home team is responsible for ensuring the proper marking of its pitch (including technical areas), and for making proper provision for ensuring that all spectators, replacements, coaches and officials [with the exception of assistant referees] are kept at a reasonable distance from the field of play.
- 15.0 **Match Result**
- 15.1 It will be the winning team's responsibility to communicate the match outcome to the NLD Competitions Committee Secretary.
- 15.2 The outcome of a match (who won and by what score), or where a match was postponed and for what reason must be passed through to the Competitions Secretary within 72 hours of the fixture, and can be communicated as such:
i) By email to geraint.prisk@rolls-royce.com
ii) By telephone or text +447809 505949
- In all cases a completed match card, signed by the match referee, must be submitted to the Competitions Secretary as detailed at 7.4 within 72 hours of the completion of the game by both clubs.
- 16.0 **All other matters**
All other matters, not specifically referred to within these rules, shall be the subject of decision by the Competitions Committee, and all such decisions shall be binding on all participants.

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