

Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire Rugby Football Union

The NLD Knock-Out Competition

Rules and Regulations

- 1.0 The NLD Knock-Out Competition (The Competition) shall comprise four competitions:
- ✦ **THE NLD CUP**
 - ✦ **THE NLD SHIELD**
 - ✦ **THE NLD PLATE**
 - ✦ **THE NLD VASE**
- 2.0 Clubs with automatic entry into the RFU Senior Knock-Out Cup shall be excluded from The Competition.
- 3.0 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Rugby Union Football.
- 4.0 Entrants into each competition shall be determined as follows:
- 4.1 THE NLD CUP**
- a) The previous season's Cup Winners
 - b) Each of the previous season's Domestic County Cup winners (excluding those qualifying by virtue of (a) above);
 - c) The previous season's Shield winner (excluding those qualifying by virtue of (b) above);
 - d) The highest placed Clubs, who may wish to participate, within the League structure for the season in which the Cup is being played, (excluding those qualifying by virtue of (a), (b), or (c) above) necessary to bring the number of participants to eight.
- 4.2 THE NLD SHIELD**
- a) The previous season's Plate winner (excluding those qualifying for the NLD Cup competition)
 - b) The next highest placed Clubs, who may wish to participate, within the League structure for the season in which the Cup is being played, (excluding those qualifying by virtue of (a) above) necessary to bring the number of participants to sixteen.
 - c) The early rounds of the competition will be played in geographic conferences.
- 4.3 THE NLD PLATE**
- a) The previous season's Vase winner (excluding those qualifying for the NLD Cup or Shield competition)
 - b) The next highest placed Clubs, who may wish to participate, within the League structure for the season in which the Cup is being played, (excluding those qualifying by virtue of (a) above) necessary to bring the number of participants to sixteen.
 - c) The early rounds of the competition will be played in geographic conferences.
- 4.4 THE NLD VASE**
- a) The NLD Vase shall comprise the balance of all NLD Clubs (not qualifying to enter the Cup, Shield, or Plate competitions) who may wish to participate
 - b) Clubs who would normally qualify for the Vase but who were beaten finalists of the Cup, Shield or Plate in the previous season will be entered into that same competition for the next season
 - c) The Competitions Committee reserve the right to enter a club into the Cup, Shield or Plate where it is felt that their playing strength would see them reasonably competing in said competition
 - d) The Competitions Committee reserve the right not to run the NLD Vase should the number of clubs entering be less than four. Those clubs would then be offered a place in the NLD Plate.
 - e) The early rounds of the competition will be played in geographic conferences.
- 5.0 Only those Clubs that have paid the NLD Annual Subscription shall be permitted to play in any competition.

6.0 ENTRY FEE

There will be no entry fee; all clubs entering the competitions must be members of the Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire RFU.

6.1 Clubs who do NOT wish to enter into The Competition are asked to advise the NLD Competitions Committee Secretary by any of the methods laid out in Rule 20 by Friday 25th August 2006

7.0 No Club shall be permitted to enter more than one competition in any one season

8.0 PLAYER AVAILABILITY

8.1 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

8.2 Clubs are asked to forward to the Competitions Secretary by e-mail to wardencheck@aol.com or by post to **P. Elliott, NLD Competitions Secretary, Charnwood House, Farnsfield, Notts. NG22 8EA** list of their playing squad for each match within 72 hours of the fixture.

The lists of playing squads may be referred to by the NLD Competitions Committee at any point during The Competition, or after if any investigations needs 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.

8.3 Breaches of 8.1 or 8.2 will result in disqualification of the offending club from The Competition and may incur suspension from further season's competitions

9.0 The Vase competition shall include a Preliminary Round as necessary to provide sixteen Clubs in the First Round of the Vase competition.

10.0 Cup, Shield, Plate and Vase competition matches shall all be played before or on the designated dates

11.0 All Finals will be played at the date agreed by the NLD Competitions Committee

12.0 Each round of each competition up to and including the semi-finals shall be the subject of a separate draw. All draws shall be made by no less than three members of the Competitions Committee.

13.0 DETERMINING THE RESULT

13.1 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

13.2 If the scores are then still level, the team that has scored the most tries shall be the winner

13.3 If this does not produce a result, then the team that has scored the most goals from tries shall be the winner

13.4 In all but the final, if none of the above produce a winner, the visiting side (as defined by the initial draw) shall go forward to the next round

13.5 In the final, in the event of rules 13.1 to 13.3 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

13.6 If any fixture is unable to be played through to a conclusion for any reason (e.g. weather, serious injury, etc.) the NLD Competitions Committee will determine whether the score at the time of the stoppage will stand or the fixture will be replayed

13.7 Entry for the RFU Senior Cup (assuming all clubs are not barred from the RFU Senior Cup competitions for the following season):

- ✦ One Club qualify – winners (if the trophy is shared Rule 13.5 applies)
- ✦ Two Clubs qualify - both finalists
- ✦ Three Clubs Qualify – both finalists and the semi finalist who is the highest placed in the RFU League

structure at the beginning of the season when the National Trophy is played. Where clubs are placed in the same RFU level but different leagues, the Competitions Committee will apply a mathematical formula to determine which club is entered.

If there are not enough clubs qualified to fulfil RFU Senior Cup fixtures the following season from the NLD Cup semi-finalists, the Competitions Committee will award the spare place(s) to the highest placed NLD Club(s) in leagues at the beginning of the season when the National Trophy is played, who have fulfilled their matches in the NLD Cup Competitions (using the above rules to determine which clubs are selected)

14.0 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 touch judges having full authority in accordance with the Laws of the Game

15.0 In the event of a clash of colours, the Home team shall be responsible for changing its colours.

16.0 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.

17.0 REPLACEMENTS

In all rounds of the competitions other than the finals not more than four replacements or substitutes are permitted and in the finals seven replacements or substitutes are permitted.

17.1 In the interest 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.

17.2 If in any 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 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, the offending team will be prevented from replacing the injured player(s) and subject to Regulation 17.5 below the final result will stand.

17.3 Subject only to the proviso contained in Regulation 17.4 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 continue to safely play with contested scrums the referee having made enquiry of and confirmed of this fact the Captain (or such other person nominated by the club as the manager or person responsible for the team), the match will continue with uncontested scrums and subject to Regulation 17.5 below the final score will stand.

17.4 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 player aged eighteen years of age or older suitably trained and experienced to enable the team to safely play with contested scrums the referee having made enquiry of and confirmed of this fact 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.

17.5 The Competitions Committee will review the circumstances in every case where a match in a competition is completed with uncontested scrums. In matches where uncontested scrums are called, the NLD 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 NLD Competitions Committee in such a situation advising of:

- ✦ 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.

- 18.0 All matches, unless agreed by the NLD 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 NLD Competitions Committee, failure to fulfil the fixture on that date will result in elimination from the competition of one or both clubs.

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 right of appeal.

- 18.1 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
- a) Home ground/Alternative Home ground/Away ground/Alternative Away ground
- 18.2 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
- 19.0 The Home team is responsible for ensuring the proper marking of its pitch, and for making proper provision for ensuring that all spectators, replacements and officials (with the exception of touch judges) are kept at a reasonable distance from the field of play

20.0 MATCH RESULT

- 20.1 It will be the winning team's responsibility to communicate the match outcome to the NLD Competitions Committee Secretary
- 20.2 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 NLD Competitions Committee Secretary within 24 hours of the fixture, and can be communicated as such:
- a) By email to wardencheck@aol.com
 - b) By telephone to (01623) 882330 or
 - c) By Fax to (01623) 882506
- 21.0 All other matters, not specifically referred to herein, shall be the subject of decision by the Competitions Committee, and all such decisions shall be binding on all participants