

Nottinghamshire Rugby Football Union

Security Plus Knockout Competition Rules

2017 – 2018

The rules of the competitions are as follows and **shall be made available by the Home Club** at every game.

1. **The names and ranking of the competitions are:**

- 1) Nottinghamshire RFU Senior Knockout Cup
- 2) Nottinghamshire RFU Intermediate Knockout Cup
- 3) Nottinghamshire RFU Junior Knockout Cup
- 4) Nottinghamshire RFU Junior Knockout Vase
- 5) Nottinghamshire RFU Ron Rossin Knockout Shield
- 6) Nottinghamshire RFU Senior Knockout Shield
- 7) Nottinghamshire RFU Intermediate Knockout Shield
- 8) Nottinghamshire RFU Junior Knockout Shield

2. **The Structure:**

The Structure and format of each competition shall be circulated to all Clubs with an invitation to participate.

3. **Player Eligibility:**

- 3.1 Players in all the competitions must be bona fide members of the club for which they appear.
- 3.2 No player may play for more than one club in the competitions in any one season.
- 3.3 Any player having played in any higher ranked Nottinghamshire RFU knockout competition match shall not subsequently play for a team in any lower ranked Nottinghamshire RFU competition in the same season.

4. **Competition Participation Fee**

- 4.1 A participation fee (if any) will be determined annually by the Nottinghamshire RFU Committee and should be paid to the Committee prior to first round matches being played by each club wishing to enter.
- 4.2 For season 2017-18 there will be no participation fee.

5. **The Draws**

- 5.1 The draws will be made each year in accordance with the directions of the Committee.
- 5.2 All rounds will be the subject of a separate draw
- 5.3 Fixture Secretaries will be informed by e-mail at the last provided e-mail address.
- 5.4 Draws will be publicised on the NLD and Notts RFU websites

6. **Gate Entry Fees**

A gate may be taken at any round, the proceeds shall be divided equally between the two clubs after deducting Referee's expenses and any reasonable match expenses, except for the Final where the gate receipts shall be for the benefit of Nottinghamshire RFU only, or as otherwise directed by them.

7. **Conditions of Play:**

- 7.1 Each game is to be played under the Laws of the Game current at the time of playing.
- 7.2 Clubs may, if they mutually agree, play the fixture under floodlights.

- 7.3 All games should start at an agreed time and any delay may be reported by the non-offending club to the Committee and may lead to the disqualification of the offending club.
- 7.4 The matches must be played on or before the specified dates, unless the Nottinghamshire RFU Competitions Committee agrees an alternative date.
- 7.5 If a fixture is not fulfilled by the designated/agreed date the non-offending club will go forward to the next round.
- 7.6 The Nottinghamshire RFU Competitions Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on both clubs, will resolve any dispute.
- 7.7 Game precedence:
- 1st XV's:- (1) RFU Cup, (2) RFU League, (3) NLD Cup, (4) Notts RFU Knockout Competitions, (5) Notts RFU Pennant, (6) friendlies.
 - 2nd XV and lower XV's:- (1) Notts RFU Knockout Competitions, (2) Notts RFU Pennant, (3) friendlies.

8. Ground Availability

- 8.1 In the event of the home team pitch being unplayable it shall be the Home Team's responsibility to find alternative playing facilities, and if ultimately necessary by the use of the away team's facilities. The following order of ground priorities shall apply:
- Home Ground
 - Alternative home ground
 - Away ground
 - Alternative Away ground
- 8.2 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 Assistant Referees) are kept at a reasonable distance from the field of play.

9. Result

- 9.1 If a match is a draw at the completion of the game, then the team with fewer yellow cards issued to players during the match shall be the winner. For the avoidance of doubt any red card shall count as two yellow cards.
- 9.2 If this does not produce a result then the team that has scored most tries will be the winner.
- 9.3 If this does not produce a result then the team that has scored the most goals from tries is the winner.
- 9.4 If this does not produce a result then extra time of 10 minutes each way shall be played with a 1-minute interval
- 9.5 If this does not produce a result then the team that scored first in "extra time" shall be the winner.
- 9.6 If that does not produce a winner then, in all but the final, the AWAY side shall be the winner. In the final the trophy shall be shared.

10. Replacements:

- 10.1 In all rounds of the competitions teams may name and use up to 5 replacements as rolling replacements or substitutes as follows:-
- up to 3 named replacements – a maximum of 8 player interchanges
 - 4 named replacements – a maximum of 9 player interchanges
 - 5 named replacements – a maximum 10 player interchanges
- 10.2 In the event of extra time having to be played each team shall be permitted a maximum of 2 further player interchanges during the extra time period of play.

- 10.3 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 of age, who are suitably trained and experienced to be capable of playing in the front row to ensure that 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.
- 10.4 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 of least eighteen years of age 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 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 the final result will stand, subject to final confirmation by the Notts RFU Competitions Committee .
- 10.5 In any match in a competition on the third or subsequent occasion that any front row player requires to be replaced and his team cannot provide a suitably trained and experienced replacement player of at least eighteen years of age to enable the teams to continue to safely play with contested scrums the referee having made enquiry of and confirmed this fact with 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 the final score will stand, subject to final confirmation by the Notts RFU Competitions Committee .
- 10.6 Where a player is or players 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 suitably trained and experienced replacement of at least eighteen years of age to enable the team to safely play with contested scrums the referee having made enquiry of and confirmed 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.
- 10.7 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 Notts RFU 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 Notts RFU Competitions Committee in such a situation advising :
- a) When during game uncontested scrums were called
 - b) The reasons for uncontested scrums being called
 - c) The score at that time
 - d) The referee's name and phone number
 - e) 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 receiving information.

11. Shirts and Clash of Colours:

All players within a team shall wear a different numbered shirt enabling the player's individual identification. In the event of teams being requested by the match officials to change colours, the home team will be responsible for changing colours.

In all finals clubs will be named in alphabetical order and the first named club shall be responsible for changing its colours, if so required.

12. General

- 12.1 The Nottinghamshire RFU Competitions Committee consists of the President, Secretary and the Nottinghamshire RFU Competitions Committee Secretary.
- 12.2 The Nottinghamshire RFU Competitions Committee has power to deal with any matters not covered by these rules or their interpretation. Their decision is final and all entries are accepted subject to this and upon the distinct understanding that there shall be no right of appeal whatsoever.

- 12.3 The County Committee, on the recommendation of the Notts RFU Competitions Committee, shall have the power to disqualify any Club wilfully playing an ineligible player in any competition or otherwise contravening the spirit of these rules.
- 12.4 With the exception of the Finals, the Home Club is responsible for ensuring the appointment of a qualified referee and informing the appropriate Referees Society of the date, venue and kick off time of matches.
- 12.5 Each Club Secretary will be provided with copies of the rules before the end of September. The Competitions Committee Secretary has copies of the Rules available on request at any reasonable time.
- 12.6 Finals shall be played on the date and at the venues decided by the Competitions Committee and the gate receipts shall be for the benefit of the Nottinghamshire RFU unless otherwise directed by them.
- 12.7 Clubs failing to fulfil fixtures may at the discretion of the Competitions Committee be barred from entering competitions in the following season.

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