

**NOTTS LINCS DERBYS RFU KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS RULES 2016-17**  
**Issue 1: June 2016**

- 1.0 The NLD Knock-Out Competition (**The Competition**) shall comprise four competitions
- 1.1 **The NLD Cup**  
**The NLD Shield**  
**The NLD Plate**  
**The NLD Vase**
- 2.0 Clubs competing 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 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 Shield is being played [excluding those qualifying for the NLD Cup competition or 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 Plate is being played [excluding those qualifying for the NLD Cup competition or 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 or Shield 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.
- 4.5 The ranking of clubs will be determined initially by the level at which they are playing for that season, followed by their finishing position in the previous season. Promoted clubs will be placed at the bottom of their new level and relegated clubs at the top. In case of doubt, points ratio will be used as the final decider.
- 4.6 The draws will be issued to all participating clubs and published on the NLD website within two weeks of the previous rounds play by date. It is the responsibility of all clubs to check these draws.

- 4.7 Any club that plays in an RFU league structure that is not aligned to the Midlands model will automatically be given an away draw, even if drawn out of the hat as the home team.
- 5.0 Club Eligibility
- 5.1 Only those Clubs that have paid the NLD Annual Subscription and any appropriate Domestic Union annual subscription shall be permitted to play in any competition.
- 5.2 Any club that has been suspended from its Domestic Union knockout competitions may not be eligible for inclusion in that season's NLD knockout competition.
- 6.0 There will be no entry fee. All clubs entering the competition must be members of the Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire RFU and the relevant domestic union.
- 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 the first Friday of June for the following seasons competition.  
Cup draws will be e mailed to clubs fixture secretary and uploaded onto the NLD website by the NLD office.
- Clubs are to make contact to arrange fixtures by the play by dates stated by the committee. It is both clubs responsibility to make contact and to arrange fixtures, difficulty in contacting a club should be identified to the NLD Competitions Secretary immediately to ensure play by dates are adhered to. Once the clubs have arranged a date they should inform the Competitions Committee Secretary.
- 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 shall forward a list of their playing squad for each match within 72 hours of completion of the fixture to the Competitions Secretary, either by e-mail to [milleradmiller@aol.com](mailto:milleradmiller@aol.com) or by post to Dave Miller, NLD Competitions Secretary, 37 Rosemary Drive, Alvaston, Derby, DE24 0TA. Match cards are available on the NLD website for this purpose.
- The NLD 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.
- 8.3 Clubs failing to fulfil fixtures may at the discretion of the Competitions Committee be barred from entering competitions in the following season.
- 8.4 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 All competition matches shall all be played before or on the designated dates. In the event of a failure to agree a mutually acceptable date between the two clubs the match will be played on the designated date. All matches will kick off between 2:00 and 3:00 pm unless mutually agreed by the two clubs. The nature of the RFU structured season may mean that league games (scheduled or rearranged) or RFU Midlands knockout games prevent this. The club who 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.
- 10.1 For the sake of clarification, even if a club has requested an RFU “non-playing” league weekend they may still be required to fulfil an NLD knockout match on this weekend.
- 11.0 All Finals will be played on the date agreed by the NLD Competitions Committee.
- 11.1 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 Weds 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.
- 12.0 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.
- 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 produces a winner, a coin will be tossed to decide which side 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 Any appeal pertaining to the result of an NLD knockout match must be lodged with the Competitions Secretary within 5 days of the match being played. Such an appeal must be in writing and must detail the reasons for the appeal. Any appeal outside this time frame will be deemed to be “timed out”.
- Any appeal pertaining to the mandating of a date or venue for a particular match must be lodged with the Competitions Secretary within the timescales stated in the decision document. Any appeal outside this time frame will be deemed to be “timed out”.
- Any appeal pertaining to the result of a match shall be accompanied by a cheque for £50 made payable to “NLD Rugby Football Union”. This shall be returned uncashed in the event of the appeal being successful.
- On receipt of any valid appeal the Competitions Committee Chairman and two other Committee members shall form an Appeals Committee to adjudicate. 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 decision of the Appeals Committee is binding and there is **no further right of appeal**.
- 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 Society 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. Clubs should not appoint referees to matches without written agreement of the Competitions Secretary.
- 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 In all rounds of the competitions other than the finals not more than three replacements or substitutes (eight interchanges) are permitted for the Cup and Shield and not more than five replacements or substitutes (ten interchanges) for the Plate and Vase. In the finals seven replacements or substitutes are permitted (twelve interchanges). If it is a double header with a league fixture the league regulations will apply to the entire match, including extra time if played.
- 17.1 In the interests of safety each team playing in each match in the competitions other than the finals must have at least four 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 occasion (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. For the finals each team must have five such players.
- 17.2 If in a match on the first 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 manger or person responsible for the team), the match shall continue with uncontested scrums and will be subject to Regulation 17.6 below. For the finals this will apply to the first and second occasion.
- 17.3 Subject only to the proviso contained in Regulation 17.4 below if in any match in a competition on the second 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 manger or person responsible for the team), the match shall continue with uncontested scrums, and subject to Regulation 17.6 below, the result will stand. For the finals this will apply to the third occasion.

- 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 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.
- 17.5 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. ***It is the responsibility of the team causing uncontested scrums to ensure that the player is not replaced. Failure to comply may result in sanctions up to and including disqualification from the competition.***
- 17.6 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 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 Competitions Secretary 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 further 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  
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, a coin will be tossed to decide which club shall go forward to the next round.

- 19.0 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.
- 20.0 Match Result
- 20.1 It will be the winning team's responsibility to communicate the match outcome and the fully completed match card 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 [milleradmiller@aol.com](mailto:milleradmiller@aol.com)
  - b) By telephone to 07733 116513
- 21.0 In the event of a coin toss being required to determine the outcome of a match, this will be carried out by a quorum of the Competitions Committee within three days of the match date.
- 22.0 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.