

SUMMARY OF THE GAME REGULATIONS FOR RFU LEAGUE & CUP COMPETITIONS.

This document summarises the main provisions of these Regulations for the guidance of Clubs, together with a cross-reference to the full Regulation in the RFU Handbook

Clubs should not rely on the summarised Regulation, but must refer to the RFU Handbook. Ignorance of the Regulations is not an excuse for a breach.

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NOTE: "The Committee" refers to the RFU or to the North Competitions Committee as appropriate.

SUMMARY OF REGULATIONS RFU Reg'

ELIGIBILITY OF CLUBS

Leagues (Refer to Appendix 2)

- | | |
|---|----------|
| a) Open to all Clubs | 12.1.1.a |
| b) Open to non-member Clubs, subject to satisfying requirements | 12.1.1.b |
| c) Joining Clubs placed in lowest League | 12.1.2.a |
| d) Application to be made before 1 st April | 12.1.3 |

Cups

- | | |
|---|--------|
| a) Clubs to be allocated to relevant competition in accordance with League status | 12.1.4 |
|---|--------|

Conditions on participation

- | | |
|---|----------|
| a) Committee may impose conditions | 12.2.1 |
| b) Committee may exercise discretion regarding sanctions on Clubs | 12.2.2.a |
| c) Committee may disqualify Club for non-participation | 12.2.2.b |
| d) Club may not play against suspended/expelled Club | 12.3 |

CONDITIONS ON PARTICIPATION

- | | |
|--|------------|
| a) Club shall comply with these Regulations | 15.1.(i) |
| b) Club shall allow access by authorised persons to its premises | 15.1.(ii) |
| c) Club shall maintain sufficient Registered Players to fulfil matches | 15.1.(iii) |
| d) Club shall ensure that members and players are aware and agree to be bound by RFU Discipline Policies | 15.1.(v) |

FIXTURES & MATCH MANAGEMENT

Teams

- a) Club must play its strongest 1st XV in any League Competition, except for 2nd/3rd XVs at Level 8 & below 16.3

Drawn Cup Competition Matches

- a) For all knock-out matches, refer to RFU Regulation 16.4

GROUNDS.

Pitch

- a) Club shall have properly marked-out pitch available 17.1.1
b) A Club may play its matches on an artificial pitch provided that proper permission has been obtained from RFU 17.1.1

Ground

- a) Club at Level 2 – 4 shall provide barriers to ensure that all, except Permitted Personnel, are reasonable distance from Playing Area 17.2.1. (i)
- b) Club at Level 2 – 4 shall provide two Technical Areas
- c) Club at Level 5 & below may, if satisfied that a barrier is impractical or unnecessary, ensure that: 17.2.2
- (i) All persons, except Permitted Personnel, are at a reasonable distance from playing area
- (ii) Permitted Personnel remain in designated area
- d) Where a permanent shelter exists, replacements and coaches must remain in it, except when necessary 17.2.3
If there is no shelter, replacements must be outside the barrier or the playing enclosure

ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

Registration

- a) Club may only play Registered Players 13.1.1
b) In Cumbria League only, two unregistered Players may play on one occasion only 13.1.2
In such case, Club should comply fully with Regulation 13.1.2. Committee may consider if that was done 13.1.3

Suspended Players

- a) Club shall not play a suspended or expelled player 13.2

Cup-tied Players

- a) Club may not play a person who has played for another Club in the same Competition in that season 13.7.1
b) Club may not play a person who has played for another Club in a higher Competition in that season 13.7.2

Young Players

- b) Club playing player below the age of 18 must adhere to RFU's Policy for Welfare and S & Y Regulations 2.2 & 2.3 13.8

REPLACEMENTS & SUBSTITUTES

General

- a) Permitted in all matches 7.1.1
b) To be named 15 minutes before kick-off 7.1.2
c) May come from another match 7.1.3
d) May have played in an earlier match 7.1.4
e) Not compulsory 7.1.5

Number

- a) In League matches ~ 7.2.1

- at levels 3 & 4 =5
- at levels 5 – 9 = 3
- in Play-off matches = 4 7.2.2
- b) In RFU Cup matches ~ 7.2.3
 - in National Trophy = as Law 3
 - in Intermediate Cup and Senior & Junior Vase = 4
 - in early rounds, 7 in semi-final & final

Front Row

- a) No player under the age of 18 may play in the front row 7.3.1.a
- b) Each team must have suitable players capable of playing in the front row (5 at levels 2 – 4, 4 at levels 5 – 9) so that, on 1st or 2nd occasions required, the match can continue with contested scrums 7.3.1.b
- c) If a team cannot provide a replacement to allow the match to continue with contested scrums, then ~ 7.3.1.c
 - at levels 2 – 4 = continue match, result stands
 - at levels 5 – 9 = on 1st occasion, play uncontested scrums (defaulting team loses)
 - on 2nd occasion, play uncontested scrums, match deemed abandoned (see 18.2.2)
 - in Play-off matches = continue match, League Committee to determine result
 - in Cup Competitions = continue match, result stands
- d) If a player is sin-binned or goes off for blood injury and no suitable replacement is available = play uncontested scrums during absence, result stands 7.3.2

MEDICAL SAFETY

- a) Club shall have a medically qualified person in attendance 9.1
- b) Club must have telephone at pitch and access for ambulance 9.2
- c) Club must report all injuries that may result in insurance claim (to CRFU Serious Injury Reports Liaison Officer) 9.4
- d) Club must report any injury which results in admission to hospital, except to an A & E Department and allowed home from there, and any death during or within 6 hours of the game finishing. 9.5

KITS

Clash of colours

- a) Away Club at League Level 2 - 4 shall change colours 19.1.1
- b) Home Club at League Level 5 - 9 shall change colours 19.1.1
- c) Home Club in RFU Cup Competitions shall change colours 19.1.1

Numbering

- a) Club shall number jerseys in accordance with iRB requirements 19.2

UNPLAYED MATCHES

National Trophy & League Levels 2 – 4

- a) Home Club wishing to cancel or postpone match because of weather conditions must:
 - (i) contact RFU Referee Department before 1700hrs on day before match 18.1.1.a
 - (ii) inform Away Club and Committee a.s.a.p. that match is in doubt 18.1.1.b
 - (iii) accredited RFU Referee must confirm postponement – pitch inspection before Away Club is due to travel 18.1.1.c
 - (iv) If inspecting Referee deems pitch is, or is likely to be, unplayable, Club must inform all interested parties 18.1.1.d

- (v) If a late decision is necessary, the team captains shall decide. If captains disagree the Referee shall decide. If Referee does not make a decision and captains disagree, match shall be postponed.
Home Club shall inform Committee of any Postponement 18.1.1.e

Other RFU Cup Competitions and League Levels 5 - 9

- a) Home Club wishing to cancel or postpone match because of weather conditions must:
 - (i) advise Away Club and League Secretary (RFU for Cup Competitions) 18.1.2.a
 - (ii) Club should seek opinion of member of local Referee Society, or should seek approval of League Secretary 18.1.2.b (RFU for Cup Competitions)
 - (iii) Club should seek alternative venue. If Clubs disagree on its suitability, Committee shall rule 18.1.2.c

Abandoned matches

- a) If weather conditions prevent a match being played or abandoned with less than 60 minutes play, it will be replayed 18.2.1.a
- b) If a match is abandoned due to weather conditions with more than 60 minutes play, the score shall stand 18.2.1.b
- c) If the Referee abandons the match other than for weather conditions, the Committee shall determine the result. The Committee may order the match to be replayed and/or may impose a sanction 18.2.2

Notification

- a) The Home Club must notify the Committee of the circumstances within 24 hours 18.3.1
- b) Match Result Cards, duly completed, must be submitted 18.3.2

Suspended Clubs

- a) A Club will not be permitted to re-arrange fixtures due to be played whilst suspended. The Committee shall deal with the effect thereof on the non-offending Clubs 18.4

Re-scheduling or re-arranging matches

- a) A League Match shall be played on the next available Saturday unless otherwise directed 18.5.1
- b) A Cup Match shall be played before the next round on a specified date 18.5.2
- c) League Matches take precedence over all other matches except CB County Cup Finals & RFU Cup Competitions 18.5.3

Clubs unable to fulfil League Matches

- a) Club must fulfil its matches 18.6.1
- b) The Committee may deduct League Points if it considers that a Club has unjustifiably failed to fulfil its fixtures. It may order the match to be replayed. Lack of players or insufficient front row players for any cause is not a justifiable reason! 18.6.2
- c) If a Club advises the Committee that it is unable to fulfil a match and the Committee is satisfied that:
 - (i) the Club plays the match with unregistered or borrowed players, or is prepared to do so 18.6.3
 - (ii) its non-playing is not the fault of the Club with insufficient players
 Then ~ The Committee may order that the match need not be replayed.
The result is a 0 – 0 win to the non-offending Club
There will be no points deduction from the Club unable to fulfil the fixture
- d) The Committee may retrospectively review the application of (b) above if promotion/relegation is affected 18.6.4

- e) The Committee may consider any other matter which might affect promotion/relegation and apply a sanction 18.6.5
- f) The Committee will make adjustment for Clubs with equal League Points who are contenders for promotion/relegation if they are involved in unplayed matches 18.6.6

MATCH RESULTS

Club Responsibility

- a) Club shall correctly complete Match Result Card and pass it to the Referee 20.1.1.a
- b) At Levels 2 - 4, Club shall pass Player Registration List to Referee 20.1.1.b
- c) Match Result Card cannot be altered once passed to Referee unless he and other Club agree 20.1.1.c

Referee

- a) At Levels 2 - 4, Referee must check Match Result Card with Player Registration List 20.1.2.a
- b) Match Result Card must be signed by Referee 20.1.2.b
- c) Referee may refer to any breach of Game Regulations on Match Result Card 20.1.2.c

Accuracy

- a) Club must ensure that information on Match Result Card is accurate & legible. Incorrect information is a serious matter 20.1.3

Notification

- a) Match Results & Cards must be notified and submitted as Administration Instructions 20.2

MATCH OFFICIALS

Appointments

- a) RFU (or through Committee or Home Club's Referee Society) will appoint Match Officials 8.1.1.a
- b) Committee may request that Qualified Touch Judges be appointed 8.1.1.c
- c) At Levels 5 – 9, appointed Touch Judges may report foul play, provided that both Clubs agree 8.1.1.d
- d) If Touch Judges are not appointed in accordance with a) above, each Club shall appoint a competent Touch Judge who should not be a replacement except in emergency 8.1.1.g
- e) Where the Regulations call for a 4th Official and one has not been appointed, the Home Club shall provide one 8.1.2
- f) Home Club shall confirm, at least 48 hours before match, with appropriate authority that Referee is appointed 8.1.3.a
- g) Home Club shall liaise with appointed Match Officials 8.1.3.b

Incapacity/Non-attendance of Match Officials

- a) If Referee has not arrived at kick-off time or is unable to officiate for the whole match, the Senior Touch Judge will referee the match 8.2.1
- b) If such Senior Touch Judge is unable to officiate for the whole match, then an agreed suitably qualified referee shall officiate. Such agreement shall be binding on the Clubs 8.2.2
- c) If the above provisions fail, the match shall be abandoned and Regulation 18 shall apply 8.2.3
- d) At Levels 5 – 9, the Captains of the two Clubs may agree that a replacement Referee can officiate, the result shall stand 8.2.4

Decisions of Match Officials

- a) The decisions of Match Officials shall be final as far as the Laws of the Game are concerned 8.3

Comments of Match Officials

- a) Any comment on Game Regulations is not final

or binding on the RFU, the Committee or an Appeal Panel	8.4
Approach to Match Officials	
a) No person shall approach Match Officials at half-time to discuss any issue occurring in the first half, unless invited	8.5
DISCIPLINARY POWERS AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION	
Disciplinary powers	
a) The Committee has the power to discipline any Club in breach of the Game Regulations, subject to right of appeal	10.1.1
Ignorance of the Game Regulations is not an excuse for a breach!	
b) The Committee may delegate disciplinary powers	10.1.2
Breach of Regulations, Complaint or Dispute	
a) The Committee may vary the procedure in this Regulation if in the interest of the Game	10.2.1
b) Matters concerning Promotion, Relegation or Level Transfer must be handled expeditiously. Except for Level Transfer no complaint regarding breach of Game Regulation may be made more than 14 days after end of season	10.2.2
Breach of Game Regulations notified by Committee or League Secretary	
a) Any alleged breach shall be notified within 48 hours of awareness. The Club, or Player, shall respond within 48 hours of receipt of notification. The Committee or League Secretary shall give a ruling within 7 days.	10.2.3
Breach of Game Regulations notified by Third Party.	
a) Any alleged breach, complaint or dispute shall be referred to the relevant Official by telephone within 48 hours of awareness and submitted in writing within a further 48 hours. The complainant shall notify the other party in writing within 5 working days of awareness. The relevant Official shall require the other party to answer the complaint within 7 days and shall give a ruling within a further 7 days	10.2.4
Revue by Committee	
a) If a Club, Player or party to a complaint or dispute is dissatisfied with a ruling there is a right to request a review	10.2.5
b) A right to review shall only apply provided that notice in writing, specifying the grounds is given to the Committee within 7 days (48 hours for Cup Competitions) accompanied by any specified payment	10.2.6
c) If the complaining party requires an oral hearing, it must be requested in writing at the time that the review is requested. The other party must make such request within 5 days of awareness. The Committee shall notify arrangements in 5 days	10.2.7
d) At the hearing, the complainant is obliged to demonstrate an interest and justify the complaint. The Committee may, if it considers that the complaint is unjustified, dismiss it without hearing the other party. The Committee cannot find a complaint proved without considering the evidence of the other party	10.2.8
e) The outcome of a complaint must be given in writing to the complainant within 35 days of receipt of the complaint	10.2.9
RFU Appeals	
a) Any party aggrieved at a decision of the Committee may, within 14 days, appeal to the RFU Disciplinary Manager. The appeal must restate the grounds of the original appeal and be accompanied by the relevant payment	10.2.10
Sanctions	
a) Where the Committee finds that there has been a breach on the	

- Game Regulations, it may apply such sanction as deemed appropriate in accordance with the Sanctions Guidelines 10.3.1
- b) Where the Committee imposes a financial sanction, it must be paid within 14 days (subject to appeal). 10.3.2
If payment is not made within 14 days, the Committee may impose further sanction (subject to appeal)

If payment remains unpaid at the end of the season, suspension from the Competition the next season may apply and/or deduction of points

- c) Where there is a second or subsequent breach, the Committee may impose an additional sanction 10.3.3

Dispute Resolution

- a) In a dispute between Clubs, the Committee may direct both to submit to arbitration 10.4.1
- b) If Clubs are directed to arbitrate, they shall comply with directions given by the arbitrator selected by the Committee. 10.4.2
The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding

APPENDIX 2

LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

(A) Structure of League Competitions

- a) The structure at & below Level 5 shall be determined by the Divisional Committee (A)2(c)
- b) Leagues at & below Level 8 shall comprise such numbers as approved by the Committee (A)2(d)
- c) Not more than two lower Leagues may support a higher League (A)3(a)
- d) Only Club 1st XV's may take part in the Competition, except as e) below (A)3(b)
- e) At Level 8 & below 1st, 2nd & 3rd XV teams may, except as f) below, play in the Leagues with the consent of the Clubs, CBs & Committee involved (A)3(c)
- f) Teams from the same Club may not play in the same League (A)3(d)
- g) A Club may only play at Level 4 according to its CB allocation, unless agreed by the Committee or Level Transfer applies (A)3(e)
- h) If it becomes apparent, on or after 15th June, that a Club is withdrawing or is unable to participate, the League will comprise the remaining Clubs (A)3(f)

(B) Club Positions

- a) At Level 5 & below, League position shall be established by awarding 2 League Points for a win and 1 League Point for a draw. If equality, then Match Points scored will determine position. Further provisions may then apply. (B)1
- b) At Levels 2 - 4, League position shall be established by awarding 4 League Points for a win, 2 League Points for a draw and 1 Bonus Point for scoring 4 or more tries or losing by 7 points or fewer. If equality, then the number of matches won and then Match Points scored will determine position. Further provisions may then apply (B)2

(C) Promotion & Relegation

Unless agreed in writing by two-thirds (75% for Levels 3 & 4) of the Clubs in the League affected and such agreement is agreed by the RFU Council, promotion and relegation shall be:

- (a) Subject to (d) below, where one League supports one League, the top two Clubs from the lower League shall be promoted (C) (i)
- (b) Where one League supports one League at Levels 4 – 7, two Clubs shall be relegated and Level Transfer shall apply (C) (ii)
- (c) Subject to (d) below, where two Leagues support one League, the top Club in each lower League shall be promoted. (C) (iv)

The second placed Clubs in each lower League shall play-off to decide which Club is promoted

- (d) Only 1st XV's may be promoted from Level 8 (C) (v)
- (e) Where two Leagues support one League at Levels 4 – 7, three Clubs shall be relegated from the higher League and Level Transfer shall apply (C) (vi)
- (f) In Leagues below Level 7, after promotion has taken place the requisite number of Clubs shall be relegated from each League so that in the next season there shall be the same number of Clubs, or such number as the Committee decides so as to rectify any League sizes for that season only (C) (vii)
- (g) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Committee may: (C) (viii)
 - (i) Vary the foregoing as to relegation and/or the number of Clubs in a League
 - (ii) Except for the top-placed Club, transfer any Club to another League

Play-offs

- a) Play-offs shall determine which of the two Clubs in addition to the top-placed Club shall be promoted (D) (i)
- b) The two Clubs shall play once and the winner promoted (D) (ii)
- c) In the event of a draw, two periods of extra time shall be played. If the scores are equal the Club scoring the most tries shall be the winner, if tries be equal the club scoring the most conversions shall be the winner. If the foregoing does not provide a result, the Away Club is the winner (D) (iii)
- d) A Play-off match will be held at the ground of the Club with the better record (D) (iv)

Dates of Matches

- a) The date will be specified by the RFU (D) (v)

Level Transfer Regulations

- a) These Regulations apply to Levels 4 – 7 (E) (i)
- b) After promotion/relegation, Clubs shall first be placed according to Division/CB (E) (ii).1
- c) If this does not produce the correct number of Clubs in two or more Leagues, a Club or Clubs shall be selected for Level Transfer (E) (ii).2
- d) Subject to f) below, all Clubs in a League affected by Level Transfer shall be liable for transfer (E) (ii).3
- e) The procedure for transfer shall be: (E) (ii).4
 - (i) The Committee will determine the minimum number of moves to correct imbalance and which causes the least inconvenience. It will notify all Clubs concerned, identify those that could reasonably transfer and invite volunteers
 - (ii) If too many or too few Clubs decline transfer, selection of Clubs for transfer will take place in order of:
 - Clubs that competed in the League to be augmented in the season and which volunteer to remain
 - Clubs that volunteer to transfer
 - Clubs, excluding those as f) below, with the lowest total mileage between them and the remaining Clubs in the League to be augmented
 - Where two Clubs have identical total mileage, then, subject to f) below, further provisions apply
- f) A Club returning to a League consistent with its Division/CB other than on promotion/relegation is entitled to remain in that League for two seasons unless promoted/relegated at the end of the first season or volunteers for Level Transfer (E) (ii).5
- g) Where the foregoing creates a significant disadvantage for a Club, the Committee may effect an alternative transfer (E) (ii).6

CUP COMPETITIONS

Format of Cup Competition

- a) The Cup Competitions (other than the Senior Cup) comprise the National Trophy, the Intermediate Cup, the Senior Vase and the Junior Vase. Earlier rounds shall be played on a County, Regional, semi-Regional or Regional basis. Later rounds shall be played on an Area or National basis 4(A) 1 – 4
- b) The draw for each round shall be made by the Committee 4(A) 5(i)
- c) If, having agreed to take part, a Club fails to participate or honour a fixture, their opponents will receive a bye 4(A) 5(ii)
- d) If there is inequality in the number of Clubs in any round, there shall be a preliminary round to provide an even number 4(A) 5(iii)

Date of Rounds

- a) The dates of rounds shall be as printed in the Structured Season and in the RFU Handbook 4(B) 1

Notification of Match Results

- a) The Home Club shall report the result to the specified person by 5.30pm on match day. Match Result Cards shall reach the appointed person by 10.00pm on the Tuesday following the match 4(C) 1

NORTH DIVISION ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.

Reporting Match Results

Both Clubs shall telephone the match result to the League Secretary not later than 30 minutes after the end of the match.

Both Clubs shall fully complete the Match Result Card and send it to reach the League Secretary not later than 5 days after the match.

The date of birth must be given for unregistered players. Players capable of playing in the front-row of the Scrum must be identified.

If a match is abandoned, the Home Club must provide the League Secretary with a certificate signed by the Referee stating the time and score at abandonment and the reason for the same.

If a match is not played, both Clubs must inform the League Secretary of the reason.

Default in any of the above may have sanctions applied

Games to be played or re-played

A match to be played or re-played shall be played on the next available Saturday unless directed otherwise. The League Secretary shall notify the Clubs as soon as the need is known. Any appeal must be lodged within 48 hours.

The Committee may declare a specific weekend "unavailable".

Clubs may request that a specific non-League Saturday be not designated as a "next available Saturday", two month's written notice must be given

Appeals & Complaints

All primary decisions shall be made by the League Secretary. A Club which does not accept such decision or wishing to present mitigating circumstances may appeal in writing and within 7 days (48 hours for next-available Saturdays) to the North Competitions Committee, enclosing a cheque for £50.00 (returnable if the appeal is successful).

Clubs wishing to join Leagues

A Club wishing to join the Clubs Championship must apply in writing to the Secretary of the North Competitions Committee no later than 1st April.

The club must meet relevant entry criteria and provide a list of fixtures played, with results, in the foregoing season.

Honouring Fixtures

Where a Club cannot fulfil a fixture in accordance with the Regulations the provisions of Game Regulation 18.6.3 shall apply, provided that the offending Club advises the League Secretary before the scheduled start of the match and that the match is played. The

Committee may direct the match to be re-played if deemed necessary.

Unregistered Players

Two unregistered players may be selected as players or replacements at Level 9 (Level 8 for Cumbria League). They must not be played again until registered.

Ground & Match Management

Clubs at Levels 5 & 6 must comply with Game Regulations 17.2.1 – 5.

All other Clubs must take all reasonable steps to prevent spectators and other non-eligible persons from being in the Playing Enclosure.

Kick-off Times

2.15 for November to February and 3.00 otherwise, unless otherwise agreed and the League Secretary and Referee informed.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE CUMBRIA LEAGUE

- a) More than 3 Replacements are allowed, subject to the agreement of the opposition and the Referee
- b) If a Club is genuinely unable to raise a side they may cancel the match without penalty providing that they advise the League Secretary before the scheduled start of the match and that the match is played at a later date
- c) Aspatria, Wigton & Workington shall provide the League Secretary with a list of their 1st XV Squad.