



NATIONAL U18 CUP REGULATIONS 2017-2018

1. DESCRIPTION

- 1.1 The competition shall be called the 'National U18 Cup' (the 'Competition').
- 1.2 All matches must be played in accordance with these Regulations, World Rugby Laws (including any variations and trials that may be adopted by the RFU), World Rugby Regulations and RFU Rules and Regulations, with particular reference to RFU Regulation 15 and the Under 19 Laws variations set out in Appendix 9 of RFU Regulation 15. In the event of any conflict between a provision of these Regulations and the RFU or World Rugby Rules and Regulations, these Regulations will prevail in respect of that provision.
- 1.3 Unless otherwise specifically defined in these Regulations, any definitions will have the meanings set out in the RFU Regulation 1 (Definitions) which is available on the RFU website.

2. COMPETITION ORGANISATION

- 2.1 The Competition will be organised by the RFU.
- 2.2 Each season an Organising Committee of three will be established to manage the successful delivery of the Competition.
- 2.3 The Organising Committee shall have discretion to decide on matters not provided for in (and in the interpretations of) these Regulations in the context of the Competition. This discretion shall include the interpretation of these Regulations in accordance with the underlying principles and intent (insofar as it can be ascertained) of the relevant regulation and the interests of rugby union football. Any person affected by the decision of the Organising Committee on matters not provided for in the Regulations shall have the right of appeal against such decision in accordance with paragraph 9 below.
- 2.4 In the discharge of its responsibilities the Organising Committee may further delegate some or all of the powers contained within the relevant Regulations to any individual member(s) of the Organising Committee or staff member(s) of the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department.
- 2.5 If any interested party requires clarification of any of these Regulations, such queries must be submitted to the Organising Committee by email to benjicrossley@rfu.com.

3. COMPETITION FORMAT

- 3.1 The precise format and structure of the Competition, which will conform to the agreed objectives of the Competition, will be determined by the RFU and communicated to participating teams and other stakeholders as soon as practicable.

- 3.2 The Competition will be based on a straight knockout format to include four rounds of matches, quarter-finals, semi-finals and a final.
- 3.3 The Organising Committee will carry out the draws to determine which teams play each other in round 1. When conducting the draws, every reasonable endeavour will be made to minimise travel. In all rounds of the Competition the first-named club in the draw is the home club and the second-named club is the away club, irrespective of where the game is actually played.
- 3.4 The Competition matches will be played in accordance with the dates set out below:
- Round 1 – Play by midnight on 14th January 2018 (20 weeks available)
 - Round 2 – 9/10/11 February 2018
 - Round 3 – 2/3/4 March 2018
 - Round 4 – 23/24/25 March 2018
 - Quarter Finals – 20/21/22 April 2018
 - Semi Finals – 4/5/6 May 2018
 - Final – 20th May 2018
- 3.5 All matches must be played in accordance with dates set out above unless otherwise agreed by the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department.

4. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 All clubs in all matches must complete a Match Card, listing the first names, surnames and the RFU registration numbers of the team and all replacements in block letters. The card must be presented to the referee for checking before the match. The card must be signed by the referee and officials from both clubs at the end of the match and final score, including number of tries, conversions, penalties and drop goals, added. The match card must be emailed to the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department Email: benjicrossley@rfu.com) by the winning club no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of a match.
- 4.2 Each match will be 15 a-side and be 70 minutes playing time in length (35 minutes each way). Half time will be 10 minutes.
- 4.3 A squad of up to 22 players (15 starting players and 7 substitutes) can be registered for each match.

Fixture dates and kick off times

- 4.4 Apart from the Final, all match dates and kick off times are to be determined by the home club and agreed by the away club. In the event of a dispute or failure to agree, the match date and kick off time shall be determined by the RFU.
- 4.5 Apart from the Final, the home club is responsible for arranging the fixture at a suitable venue (defined as the usual home pitch, or alternative school/club/artificial pitch).

- 4.6 The RFU will determine the date, kick off time and venue of the final. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Regulations, the RFU shall have the absolute right to select or alter the proposed date or kick-off time.

Drawn matches

- 4.7 In the event that the scores are level at the end of a match, the winner of the match will be the club that has scored most tries. If this does not produce a winner, the club that has scored the most goals from tries will proceed to the next round. If this still does not produce a winner the away club shall proceed to the next round.
- 4.8 In the Final if scores are level at the end of the match, the following order of events shall be applied in order to determine the winner of a drawn match: number of tries, number of conversions from tries, first try, first points. If this does not produce a winner, the title will be shared.

Failure to fulfil a fixture

- 4.9 If ground or weather conditions prevent a match being played at the ground designated by the home club, every effort must be made to play the match either, (a) at the grounds of the designated away club, should that club have a suitable pitch available or, (b) at a neutral venue (in which case the first named club will be deemed the home club).
- 4.10 If ground or weather conditions prevent a match being played at the grounds of either club, (or neutral venue) it may be re-scheduled by agreement between the two clubs and the RFU rugby Events & Competitions Department. In the event of the clubs being unable to agree to a revised date, the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department may specify the date on which the match is to be played or award the match to one side or the other, dependent on the circumstances of the postponement. A re-scheduled match must be played before the due date of the next round of the Competition.
- 4.11 If a match is abandoned because of weather conditions (including bad light) when fifty or more minutes have been played, then the score at the moment of abandonment shall stand and be deemed the final score in the match. The Referee's decision as to the necessity for abandonment and the number of minutes played at the moment of abandonment shall be final.
- 4.12 If the Referee finds it necessary to abandon a match for any reason other than weather conditions (including bad light), irrespective of the number of minutes played, the result of that match shall be reviewed by the Organising Committee. The Organising Committee may order the match to be replayed and/or impose such other sanction as it deems appropriate. The Referee's report must be submitted on why play was curtailed.
- 4.13 If a club is unable to field a full side on the stipulated date of play, the club will be considered to have conceded the match.

5. ELIGIBILITY

Club eligibility

- 5.1 The Competition is open to all clubs in England, the Channel Island and the Isle of Man and no more than one team from a club may enter.

- 5.2 To enter the Competition, the club must complete and submit the entry by the due date stipulated by the RFU.

Player eligibility

- 5.3 In order to be eligible to play in the Competition, all players must be under the age 18 at midnight (24:00 hours) on 31 August at the start of the season in which the Competition is to take place.
- 5.4 All clubs and players must comply with RFU Regulation 15, including the eligibility requirements for playing up, and the restrictions on playing in the front row. U16s and U17s can only play in an U18 match if the conditions of RFU Regulation 15 are satisfied. U16s cannot in any circumstances play in the front row of the scrum in any U18 match and older age grades cannot play down into the U18 age grade in this Competition. Players who are playing down into the U18 age grade pursuant to RFU Regulations 15.4.3 or 15.4.4 are not eligible to participate in this Competition.
- 5.5 All players must be bona fide members of the club and be registered for that club on the RFU GMS database at the time of the Round 1 fixture. For all other fixtures from Round 2 onwards, all players must be bona fide members of the club and be registered for that club on the RFU GMS database on or before 10 February of the current season.
- 5.6 Players/Team Managers must hold valid RFU registration cards (with photographs) or an alternative form of photographic identification (passport/provisional driving licence) for each player in a match day squad and have them available for inspection at every match if requested
- 5.7 No player may play for more than one club in the Competition during any one season.
- 5.8 The following players are ineligible to compete in the Competition: (a) players who are classified as RFU England Academy Players (as defined in RFU Regulation 1); or (b) players who have been selected for any England Age Grade national representative match squad (excluding England County representative squads) or comparable team from another World Rugby Tier One Nation during the current season and/or the prior season.

6. REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES & TOUCH JUDGES

- 6.1 The home club will provide a Referee Society appointed Referee (and a team of three where possible) for all fixtures up to and including the quarter-finals.
- 6.2 Where a Referee Society cannot provide a team of three, competent touch judges (who shall not be substitutes or team officials) will be provided by the participating clubs. Further, it is the home club's responsibility to liaise with the appointed official(s) directly to ensure that such official(s) is aware of the arrangements e.g. kick off time, regulations and has the appropriate directions to the venue for the match (or any change of venue).
- 6.3 For the Semi Finals and Final, Referees and Assistant Referees will be provided by the RFU.

7. REPLACEMENTS

- 7.2 The number of replacements and substitutes in attendance at all matches shall be no more than seven.
- 7.3 Rolling Substitutions are permitted in the Competition.
- 7.4 In the interests of safety, each team must have nominated in advance at least six suitably trained and experienced front row Players in their nominated match squad, to ensure that there is replacement cover for the loose head prop, hooker and tight head prop.
- 7.4 If on any occasion a front-row player requires to be replaced and his team cannot (for any reason, including injury, temporary blood injury, temporary exclusion following a yellow card, or permanent exclusion following a red card) provide a replacement, or another suitably trained and experienced player from the nominated squad, to enable the match to continue safely with contested scrums, the Referee, having made enquiry of and having confirmed this fact with the manager of the team (or such other person nominated by the club as the person responsible for the team), the match will continue with uncontested scrums. The team concerned shall not be entitled to replace the player whose departure caused the uncontested scrums and (subject to Regulation 7.6 below) the final result will stand. On return to the field of play of the front-row player who had been temporarily excluded or injured, the Match shall continue with contested scrums.
- 7.5 In the unusual event that a Referee decides to continue the game with uncontested scrums on the grounds of safety, because he cannot safely manage the scrums otherwise, the final result will stand, subject to Regulation 7.6.
- 7.6 The Organising Committee may review the circumstances where a match is completed with or contains uncontested scrums and in its sole discretion may impose penalties in accordance with Regulation 17, subject to the right of appeal set out in Regulation 18.

8. KIT

- 8.1 Each club is responsible for ensuring that there is no clash of colours and that all its kit complies with World Rugby Regulations.
- 8.2 The first-named club will change shirts in the event of a clash of colour.
- 8.3 All teams in the quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals must wear numbered shirts.

9. DISCIPLINE AND BREACHES OF REGULATIONS

- 9.1 The RFU has the power to investigate all allegations of foul play or misconduct on or off the field of play and shall be dealt with in accordance with in accordance with Appendix 6 of RFU Regulation 19.
- 9.2 Any matters alleged to be in breach of these Regulations and/or RFU Regulations shall be referred immediately to the Organising Committee; c/o the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department in writing or by telephone if necessary, within 24 hours following the conclusion of a match. In any event written confirmation must be sent to the RFU Events & Competitions Department within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match setting out the grounds of the complaint/breach in full.

- 9.3 Subject to a right of appeal in accordance with RFU Regulation 19, the Organising Committee shall have the power to discipline any club, player or other individual for breach of any of these Regulations and/or any RFU Regulations. Ignorance of these Regulations will not be deemed an excuse in the event of breach.
- 9.4 The Organising Committee shall have jurisdiction to impose such penalty as it thinks fit including, but not limited to, financial sanctions, disqualification and suspension. For the avoidance of doubt, this power shall include a power to impose any sanction for breaching these or any other RFU Regulation, in line with tariffs and guidelines where these exist.

10. BROADCASTING, MEDIA AND IMAGE RIGHTS

- 10.1 All broadcasting, media and image rights relating to the Competition belong solely and exclusively to the RFU only and all participating clubs agree not, by any act or omission, to do anything to prejudice, or that is in conflict with, these rights.
- 10.2 In all Competition matches, apart from the semi-finals and final, participating clubs may record matches for the purpose of analysis and non-commercial purposes only. Any club wishing to record a match using television or any audio-visual or electronic media must obtain the permission of both participating clubs prior to the match. For the avoidance of doubt, no team is permitted to record the semi-final or the final matches.
- 10.3 Anyone wishing to broadcast any match by means of radio, television or any other audio-visual or electronic media must obtain permission from the RFU by contacting the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department.
- 10.4 No club shall take any part (either as organiser or participant or in any other way) in any match that is in whole or in part broadcast by means of radio, television or any other audio-visual or electronic media, where doing so shall be a breach of any broadcasting, or other, contract entered into by the RFU or any other person acting for or on behalf of itself or any group or association of clubs, Schools, Constituent Bodies or Unions.