



GRFU County Festival Supplementary Regulations 2011/2012

The GRFU County Festival will be run in accordance with the Continuum plus these supplementary regulations.

1. Administration

- a) County Festival shall be held annually for clubs that have teams within the age groups designated by the Competitions sub-committee.
- b) Each Age Group Competition and the format of the competition shall be under the control of the Competitions Sub-Committee appointed by the Gloucestershire RFU Management Board. Its decisions concerning any matter relating to the competitions shall be final and binding on the participating clubs.
- c) Subject to the discretion of the Competitions Sub-Committee, (operating procedure Appendix 8) any infringement of these rules may debar an offending club from further participation in the competition.
- d) Inclusion in to this or any other competition is not automatic and will be at the discretion of the Sub-Committee.

2. Behaviour

Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players, coaches and spectators at all times. Incidents involving bad behaviour and/or referee abuse are at variance from the core values of our game. Any breach of this may be referred to the appropriate GRFU Body.

3. Eligibility

- a) Mini & Youth sections of clubs who are fully paid up members of the Gloucestershire RFU shall be entitled to enter the competitions.
- b) All players must, at the start of any competition, be bona fide members of the clubs, which they represent. No player may represent more than one club in any competition under these rules, during the same season, and anyone belonging to more than one club must elect the one for the relevant competition prior to its commencement. The ONLY exception to this regulation is when two clubs come together to form a BARBARIAN side due to lack of numbers at each club.
- c) All players in the competitions must be under the relevant age on 1st September in the related season. All players must play in their age correct group in accordance with the Continuum. No players will be allowed to play up or down age groups. The only exception to this is with full written RFU Dispensation.
- d) If there should be any doubt as to a player's eligibility, the matter must be referred to the competition administrator, in writing, prior to the date of the related match.

4. Registrations

- a) All players must, at registration be able to produce a valid registration card (with up to date picture having been taken in the last three years) and RFU registration number.
- b) Any player who cannot produce these details will not be allowed to play. Any player wishing to take part in this competition must be properly registered with the RFU.

5. Entries and Draws

- a) Written applications to enter the competitions together with an entry fee to be decided by the Competitions Sub Committee must be received by the Competitions Secretary by mid-September. Where teams are not able to take part in the competition having paid their entry fee, the entry fee may be returnable at the discretion of the Competitions Sub Committee at the end of the competitions. Clubs will be notified of the draw by the end of December.
- b) The competitions will take place in the second half of the season on dates to be specified by the Competitions Sub Committee.
- c) All registration must be made on the official registration form, which must have reached the appointed GRFU Competition Committee person responsible for the event along with the appropriate fee within the time scales defined by the organisers.
- d) Clubs may enter more than one team per age group. Players will not be allowed to move between teams without the express permission of the organisers. (no Maximum teams per age group)
- e) Each team must be registered on a separate registration form.
- f) Each team must have its own Coach.
- g) Each team is expected to provide a referee of suitable qualification for that age group and identify him/her to the organisers

6. Format:

- a) Each Age Group event will consist of two separate phases.
 - (a) **Phase 1** Round one and Quarter Finals
 - (b) **Phase 2** Semi Finals and Finals.Each of these phases will take place on different Sundays. Dates and locations to be decided by the organisers.
- b) **Phase 1** of the event will be played in pools (of not more than 5 teams if possible, if more than 5 teams in a pool playing time will be reduced to adhere to the continuum), the make up of which will be decided by the organisers.
- c) Teams finishing in first place after the pool matches will automatically progress to the Quarter Finals of the Cup, the highest point scoring second place teams will progress through to make up a maximum of 8 sides in the quarter finals of the cup.
Teams finishing in second third and highest scoring fourth place teams after the pool matches will progress to the Quarter Finals of the Plate,
Pool matches and Quarter Finals of both Cup and Plate to be played on the same day

Phase 2 Semi Finals and Finals will be run on a separate date at a location to be advised.

7. Results:

- a) In **Phase 1, Pool Matches**, teams will be awarded 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 point for a loss
- b) The number of actual points scored by each team must also be recorded on the official score sheets.
- c) In the event of a tie in points at the completion of the Pool Matches, the first decider will be the total number of points scored followed by point's difference, then by result of the game in which the two teams played each other.
- d) In **Phase 1, Quarter Finals** in the event of a draw, no extra time will be played and the result will be decided by the team who has scored the most points in the pool matches, should this also be tied the result will be decided by the toss of a coin.
- e) In **Phase 2, Semi Finals** in the event of a score draw, no extra time will be played then the silver try rule will be used, i.e. first team to score a try will proceed to the final. In the event of a 0-0 no score draw the result will be decided by the toss of a coin.
- f) In **Phase 2, Finals** in the event of a draw, silver try rule to be invoked. **There will be no extra time**

8. Duration:

- a) In **Phase 1 & 2** the match duration at each age group, will be as that stated for festivals, in the Continuum.

9. Trophies and Finance

A trophy for permanent retention by the Cup & Plate Finalists club shall be provided by the Gloucestershire RFU.

The expenses of all officials appointed by the Referees' Society to the Finals shall be paid by the Gloucestershire RFU.

10. Disputes

There is a three stage process for resolving disputes (timescales for club action in brackets):

- a. Formal statement of the details emailed to the Festival Chairperson, who will try to resolve the issue. There is no fee for this. (Day of Festival).
- b. If that is not possible or not acceptable a club may send a formal Protest to the Competitions Secretary. It involves a fee of £50, which may be refunded if appropriate. (72 Hours of Festival Date).
- c. If the matter is still not resolved, the final stage is a formal Appeal to the GRFU, the supervising constituent body. This will be handled in accordance with Appendix 8 of the GRFU Operating Procedures, copied below. It involves a fee of £100, which may be refunded if appropriate. (1 Week from protest decision).
- d. All disputes and appeals must be dealt with in accordance with Appendix 8 and 9 of the GRFU Operating Procedures.

Operating procedure Appendix 8

Competitions Rules Breaches

The procedure for dealing with breaches of competitions rules shall be dealt with following the principles of natural justice. (see Appendix 9). To that end all procedural and technical considerations must take second place to the paramount object of being as just and fair to all parties as is consistent with a duty to the Game. The Competitions Committee is delegated the authority by the GRFU Management Board to deal with such matters

If a club has been deemed to have breached the Competitions Rules the following procedures should be adopted:

- The Competitions Secretary shall inform the club of the breach and that a hearing will take place.
- The club shall be informed of the arrangements for the hearing, shall be provided with all the relevant information and be invited to attend.
- The Panel shall consist of the Chairman and two other members of the Competitions Committee, who, through their own club affiliation, do not have an interest in the outcome of the case other than to see that the decision is fair and just.
- The Competitions Committee shall state the case to be answered.
- The Club shall state their position.
- The Panel shall retire to consider their decision.
- The decision and the rationale behind it shall be conveyed to the Club and subsequently put in writing to them normally within 7 days of the hearing.

The written judgment should include:

- Details of the Panel.
- Details of those Attending.
- Details of the Case to be Answered.
- A List of any Documentary Evidence Received.
- A Summary of the Evidence Presented at the Hearing.
- An Analysis of that Evidence that leads to the Findings of the Panel.
- A Statement of the Findings.
- Details of the Right of Appeal.

- In the event that the Club is not satisfied with the decision taken by the Panel they have the right to appeal to the GRFU See Appendix 9.

Operating procedure Appendix 9

Appeals Process and Procedures

Appeals against the GRFU or its Committees & sub Committees

Appeals against the GRFU or its Committee or sub Committee shall be dealt with by the Appeals, Awards and Advisory Panel which is appointed as stated in A5.1. In the case of a decision by a Committee or sub Committee, the Appeal must be lodged by the Club Secretary within 72 hours of being informed of the decision the Committee or sub Committee. The Panel will comprise members who have no declared involvement in the case or the appellant parties. The Panel will be chaired by the President, an Officer or a senior member of the GRFU. An administration fee for the Appeal of £100 is to be paid by the appellant at the time of lodging the Appeal. Failure to meet the requirements for submitting an Appeal will render the Appeal void. The principles of natural justice will be followed. The appellant shall be notified of the arrangements for the Appeal meeting and invited to attend, with a representative if required, and provide, in advance of the meeting, such submissions in support of the Appeal as may be considered relevant. The GRFU, the Committee or sub Committee shall provide all relevant documentation and be invited to attend to present their case. The Panel will inform the appellant of the result of the Appeal and also in writing through the County Administrator and the rationale behind the decision. The written judgment is normally to be sent to the appellant within 7 days of the hearing. If the Appeal is upheld then the administration fee will be refunded. In the event that the appellant is not satisfied with the decision taken by the GRFU Appeals, Awards and Advisory Panel, the appellant has the right to make a final Appeal to the RFU as set out in the RFU Handbook. (Currently as of August 2011 stated in Regulation 13.10.10).

Natural Justice and Fairness

The overriding consideration in the conduct of appeals and hearings is that they should be just and fair. The panel must at all times observe the rules of natural justice relating the conduct of the hearing process

The panel must be:

1. Impartial, that is free of prejudice or bias and not have an interest in the outcome other than to see that the decision is fair.
2. Careful and thorough in their consideration of the procedures and evidence.

All decisions together with the reasons for those decisions should be recorded in writing.