



## GRFU Youth County Cup Competition Regulations

### 1. Administration

- a) County Youth Competitions shall be held annually for clubs that have teams within the age groups designated by the sub-committee.
- b) Each 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, 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 Competitions Sub-Committee.
- e) A club may enter more than one team in an age group, the club will provide a squad list of registered players for each team it is entering with the entry form before the draw is done. Failure to do so may exclude that clubs teams from that age group competition.

### 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 correct age group, with the exception of the under 19's competition where players may be a minimum of 16 years of age playing under 17's rugby.
- d) All players in the competitions must be registered under the RFU Youth Registration Scheme. Before the start of the Competitions a squad list must be supplied to the appropriate Age Group Administrator, this must include name, date of birth and RFU Registration Number. Names may be added to this list and must be submitted in writing to the Age Group Administrator for the approval of the Cup Committee before being eligible to play.
- e) 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.

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### 4. Registrations

Registration of players to be received by the appropriate Age Group Administrator no later than the first pool fixtures.

Registrations received after a pool fixture has been played may result in forfeit of match or points.

Any registrations not received by the end of pool fixtures may result in team/s being withdrawn from the competition.

### 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. Matches may be played prior to the due date by mutual agreement between both clubs. All postponed matches must be played on the next available date. The date of the Final shall be decided by the Competitions Sub-Committee.

### 6. Format

- a) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the game. Players must wear their own club Colours and, in the event of a clash, the home side shall provide and wear distinctive jerseys.
- b) Where possible the referee for all matches shall be appointed by one of the two Divisions of the Gloucestershire RFU Referees' Society, in their respective areas. Touch judges for the Semi-Finals (if available) and Finals will also be appointed by one of the Societies but, in preceding rounds, a competent person must be provided by both involved clubs. The home side is responsible for confirming the match with the appointed referee by the Thursday of the week preceding the fixture.
- c) Exchange of registrations must be on bone fide RFU registration cards. All team coaches / managers / registration officers should make sure they are available / accessible for each age group fixtures. Anything other than bone fide RFU registration cards is not acceptable. Registration card pictures should be up to date, and taken in the last three years.
- d) Not later than 30 minutes prior to each match, club officials must exchange team lists with names, dates of birth and RFU Registration numbers together with the facility to review the up to date registration cards. These shall include the currently permitted number of replacements. This must be adhered through every fixture of the county cup competition. If 30 minutes prior to a match registrations are not exchanged, or are accepted on non bone fide RFU cards and the fixture is played, then the result will stand and any dispute will not be entered into.
- e) Teams may refuse to play a fixture if non bone fide registrations are produced or none at all. The non offending team will not be penalized.
- f) Any team that does not produce bone fide registrations may result in a forfeit of points / result from the match/es.
- g) The competitions in each Age Group will be in two parts:-

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### Part One

This will be run as leagues in each Age Group. If teams pull out prior to the start of this stage the Cup Committee reserve the right to reschedule the groupings. The top two teams in each league go into Cup competition. The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> placed teams in each league go into Plate competition. 5<sup>th</sup> placed teams and below are reserves for teams that withdraw from the Plate prior to the Quarter Final stage. Selection of replacement will be done by a random draw by the Age Group Competition Administrator.

In the Leagues Format there will be 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and Nil for a loss. If teams are level after all the league games have being played, Points Difference will be used to decide who goes forward to the Knockout stage. If teams are still level the result of the league match against each other will determine who goes forward. If there is still no result a toss of a coin by the Competitions sub Committee will determine the result.

If a team does not fulfil its league fixture 2 points will be awarded to the opposition for that fixture with an effective score of 0 – 0. The results of other league matches against this team will stand with 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, nil points for a loss. Whilst the scores from such will not be counted towards the points difference.

Winning teams will be credited with no more than 50 points difference in any one game i.e. a side winning 63 – 5 will have a score 55 – 5 entered into the league tables. The game does not have to be stopped if a 50 points difference is reached before full time.

### Part Two

This is the Knockout stage for the Cup & Plate Competitions.

All games must be played on or before the date given.

All games may be played with less than 15 players (minimum 12) both teams must start with equal numbers and the game may also start with uncontested scrums. (All games must be played if both sides can field 12 players)

If a team is incomplete, the scrum formation must be as follows:

- (a) If a team is without one player, then both teams must use a 3-4 formation (i.e. no No.8).
- (b) If a team is without two players, then both teams must use a 3-2-1 formation (i.e. no flankers).
- (c) If a team is without three players, then both teams must use a 3-2 formation (i.e. only front rows and locks).

The side with a full squad will still be able to use all 22 players with rolling subs as per Paragraph K below.

In the Cup Knockout Stage Quarter Final if a team does not play the other team receives a walkover. In the Semi-Final if a team does not play the other team receives a walkover.

In the Plate Knockout Stage Quarter Final if a team does not play and a replacement team is not available then the opposition receives a walkover. In the Semi-Final if a team does not play the other team receives a walkover.

If the scores are level at the end of a match, the team that has scored the more tries shall proceed to the next round. If this does not produce a result, the team that has scored more goals from tries shall go forward. If a result has still not been achieved then, except in the Finals (where the cups shall be shared), the visiting team shall go forward.

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- h) The winning club must notify the Age Group Competition Administrator of the result, within 48 hours of a match being played. Each club must supply a team sheet after each game with name, date of birth and RFU registration number of each player and replacement.
- i) The teams in positions 1 & 2 in the group table go forward to the knock-out competition and the teams in positions 3 & 4 to the plate competition.
- j) For all age groups (U13 to U19 inclusive) a squad can consist of up to 22 players. Rolling substitutions in accordance with RFU age group law variations will apply. Players may be exchanged at any time during the match, when the ball is dead and with the knowledge of the referee. A player who has been substituted may replace any player, whether or not that player has been injured.

From Under 15's and above, if a team nominates a squad of 22 players, it must have at least six players who can play in the front row in order that there is replacement cover for the loose-head prop, hooker and tight head prop.

A player who has been substituted may replace an injured player.

### 7. 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.

### 8. 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 Age Group Administrator, who will try to resolve the issue. There is no fee for this. (On Day of Match).
- 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 drawn on a club cheque, which may be refunded if appropriate. (72 Hours from date of match).
- c. If the matter is still not resolved, the final stage is a formal Appeal to the GRFU, the supervising constituent body. It involves a fee of £100, which may be refunded if appropriate. (1 week from protest decision).

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.

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- 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:

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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.