

THE SOMERSET R.F.U. KNOCK-OUT CUP COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS 2017–2018

Definitions

Club	means a club entitled under Regulation 3.1 to take part in the Competitions
Committee	means the Competitions Sub-Committee of the County Union
Competitions Administrator	means the person to whom the Committee delegate the administration of the Competitions
County Union	means the Somerset County Rugby Football Union Limited
Home Club	is defined by Regulations 4.1.2 and 4.1.3
R.F.U.	means the Rugby Football Union
Society	means the Somerset County Rugby Football Union Referees Society Limited
Weather Conditions	shall be deemed to include but not be limited to bad or inadequate light as decided by the match referee
World Rugby	means the world governing body of the game which at the date of the adoption of these Rules is the International Rugby Board of which the Union is a member.
World Rugby Regulations	means the Resolutions and Regulations relating to the game promulgated by World Rugby from time to time.

Description and Form

- 1.1 The Competitions shall be called "The Somerset R.F.U Cup, The Somerset RFU Vase, and the Somerset Women's Cup" ("the Competitions"). These rules apply to all of these Competitions.
- 1.2 All matches in the Competitions shall be played under the World Rugby Laws of the Game and the Regulations of the World Rugby and the R.F.U current at the commencement of the Competitions in so far as the same are not varied by or inconsistent with these Regulations. Where there is any conflict between the World Rugby and/or the R.F.U. Regulations and these Regulations then these Regulations shall prevail.

Organising Committee

- 2.1 The Competitions shall be organised and administered by the Committee.
- 2.2 The Committee shall have the power to delegate any of its duties, powers or obligations under these Regulations to a Competitions Administrator.
- 2.3 Subject to the provisions of Regulation 13.2 decisions of the Committee shall be final and binding on any matter not provided for in and on the interpretation of these Regulations.

Eligibility of Clubs/Players

- 3.1 The Cup Competitions is open to the top 16 member clubs of the County Union. The top 16 clubs shall be decided by the Committee taking into account their position in The English Clubs Rugby Union Championship at the end of the season immediately preceding that in which the Competitions takes place after promotions and relegations have been determined. However with regard to a University or College that does not take part in The English Clubs Rugby Union Championship then the Committee may at its absolute discretion place that team in the Competitions after giving consideration to its playing strength in the previous season. The remaining teams are eligible for the vase and all women's teams are eligible for the Women's competition.
 - 3.2.1 Any club wishing to participate must signify its wish to do so to the Competitions Administrator by the end of August.
 - 3.2.2 In making its application a club must lodge with the Competitions Administrator the sum of One Hundred Pounds (£100.00).

- 3.2.3 The Competitions will proceed with the number of clubs that have signified a wish to enter.
- 3.2.4 If a club fulfils its fixture(s) in the Competitions then upon the conclusion thereof such sum will be returned to the club.
- 3.2.5 If a club unjustifiably fails to fulfil a fixture then such sum either in whole or in part may (at the discretion of the Committee) be used to defray any proven reasonable expense(s)/loss(es) incurred by an opponent or other club.
- 3.2.6 If a club breaches any other Regulation the same forfeit provisions shall apply but only when the proposal to do so has completed the appropriate disciplinary process and during the course thereof consent has been given to that course of action.
- 3.2.7 In the event of a club unjustifiably failing to fulfil a fixture the Committee may expel it from the Competitions.
- 3.3.1 A club shall only play or select as replacements players who on the date of the match hold Effective Registration with that club in accordance with the current RFU Registration of Player Regulations. In the case of a club that is a University or College they shall only play Eligible Participants as defined by The British Universities & Colleges Sport Regulations.
- 3.3.2 A club shall not be represented in the front row of a scrummage by any player under 18 years of age whether the scrummage is contested or uncontested.
- 3.3.3 A club shall not be represented by a player who has either played or been selected as a replacement for another club in the Competitions or played or been selected as a replacement in the County Union's Vase Competitions.
- 3.3.4 **A club may select/play up to seven replacements/substitutes. If selecting a match** squad of twenty two players then it must contain six players capable of playing in the front row. (Rolling substitutions are allowable to a maximum of 12 interchanges).
- 3.3.5 In the interest of safety each team playing in each match in the Competitions must have at least five 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 that on the first or second occasions (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.
- 3.3.6 If in any match on the first or second 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 position in the front row of the scrum to enable the teams to continue to safely play with contested scrums (the referee having made enquiry of and confirmed this fact with the captain of the team or such other person nominated by the Club as the manager or other person responsible for the team) the match will continue with uncontested scrums and the offending team will be prevented from replacing the injured player(s). Subject to Regulation 3.3.9 below the final result will stand.
- 3.3.7 Subject only to the proviso contained in Regulation 3.3.8 below if in any match in the Competitions on the third 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 continue to safely play with contested scrums (the referee having made enquiry of and confirmed this fact with the team captain or other person nominated by the Club as manager or other person responsible for the team) the match will continue with uncontested scrums and subject to Regulation 3.3.9 below the final score will stand.
- 3.3.8 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 player aged eighteen years of age or older suitably trained and experienced to enable the team to safely play with contested scrums the referee having made enquiry of the team captain (or other person nominated by the Club as manager or 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.
- 3.3.9 The Committee will review the circumstances in every case where a match in the Competitions is completed with uncontested scrums. The Committee will be entitled to take any such action as it deems

appropriate (such action may include reversal of the match result, a fine and/or payment of compensation, and/or disqualification from the Competitions in the Season and/or the following season, the inclusion of the non-offending team in the next round of the Competitions and/or requiring that the match be replayed) where the Committee finds that there has been a breach of any Regulation governing the Competitions or that a Club in a match in the Competitions acting other than in good faith has taken advantage of the provisions of this Regulation 3.3 and in particular 3.3.6 and 3.3.7.

Note: The intention of Regulations 3.3.5 to 3.3.9. (Inclusive) is to penalise Clubs who try improperly to take advantage of a situation to ensure a match is played (or finished) with uncontested scrums. For the avoidance of doubt any aggrieved Club has a right of appeal under Regulation 13.2 against any decision taken under the said Regulations.

The Competitions Format and Draws

- 4.1.1 The Competitions shall comprise the number of rounds appropriate to the number of clubs participating including semi-finals and a final.
- 4.1.2 The first named club to be drawn in a match prior to the semi- finals shall be the home club, and unless otherwise agreed, the venue for that match shall be the ground of the home club.
- 4.1.3 The home club in the semi- finals and final shall be determined by the Competitions Committee.
- 4.1.4 The semi- finals and final shall be played at neutral venues unless otherwise agreed by the clubs and the organising committee as and when appropriate
- 4.1.5 Draws shall be arranged by the Competitions committee as and when appropriate.
- 4.1.6 All matches shall be played on fixed dates determined by the Competitions Committee unless some other date is specified by the Competitions Committee or the clubs concerned mutually agree to re-arrange the date and such re-arrangement has been approved by the Competitions Committee. Matches in the Competitions take precedence over all other fixtures save for those in the English Clubs Rugby Union Championship and R.F.U Cup Competitions.
- 4.1.7 A match may be played on a date in advance of the fixed date or at a different venue if both clubs agree in writing to that effect at least 48 hours before the match is due to take place and such rearrangement(s) has/have been approved by the Competitions Committee. Note: Clubs must bear in mind the effect of any re-arrangement(s) on (i) the following rounds of the Competitions to ensure that they are not unnecessarily delayed and (ii) the availability of Match Officials

Drawn Matches

- 5.1 In all matches if after 40 minutes of play each way the scores are level, there shall be a five-minute break. After this break, the teams will change ends and there shall be a period of extra time between the teams of 10 minutes each way, with a one-minute interval. If the scores are then still equal, the team that has scored the most tries shall go forward into the next round. If this does not produce a result, the team that has scored the most goals from tries shall go forward into the next round. If the scores, numbers of tries and goals from tries are still equal the visiting team shall go forward into the next round.
- 5.2 In the semi finals and final if after 40 minutes of play each way the scores are level, there shall be a five-minute break. After this break, the teams will change ends and there shall be a period of extra time between the teams of 10 minutes each way, with a one-minute interval. If the scores are then still equal, the team that has scored the most tries shall be the winner. If this does not produce a result, the team that has scored most goals from tries shall be the winner. If no result is then achieved, the result shall be decided in the following manner.

Each team shall nominate one player from its number **on the field of play at the final whistle** to participate on its behalf in a "sudden death" place kicking Competitions.

Each kicker in turn shall attempt a place kick from pre-determined positions until such time as after an equal number of attempts one kicker has kicked more goals than the other.

These attempts will be made towards the goal posts (determined by the Referee) and the first kick shall be taken by the team that kicked-off at the commencement of the match.

The attempts will be taken from the following positions (in turn) repeating the sequence until a decision is reached:-

- a. The centre of the 22m line.
- b. Intersection of the 22m line and 15m line to the left of the posts facing.
- c. Intersection of 22m line and 5m line to the left of the posts facing.
- d. Intersection of 22m line and 15m line to right of the posts facing.
- e. Intersection of 22m line and 5m line to the right of the posts facing.

Postponed and Abandoned Matches

- 6.1 If weather conditions prevent a match being played or a match is abandoned because of such conditions with less than 60 minutes having been played it shall be played or re-played before the date of the next round on a day and at a time agreed by the two clubs concerned and by the Committee. If there is no agreement within 4 days of the date of the match which was not played or abandoned or if the date and time agreed between the two clubs is not acceptable to the Committee, the date and kick-off time will be as directed by the Committee upon the application of either club.
- 6.2 If a match is abandoned because of weather conditions when 60 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.
- 6.3 If the Referee finds it necessary to abandon a match for any reason other than weather conditions, then, irrespective of the number of minutes played, the result of that match may be determined by the Committee. The Committee may order the match to be replayed in which event the match will take place on a date decided by the Committee.

Grounds

- 7.1 The home club (other than in the semi-finals and final) is responsible for correctly and clearly marking its pitch. In addition, it must make proper provision to ensure that (with the exception of the touch judges, fourth official, doctor or first aider/other suitably medically qualified person and one water carrier from each club) all spectators, replacements, coaches replacements and others are kept at a reasonable distance from the field of play.
- 7.2 When a late decision (i.e. a decision made or to be made within 3 hours of the scheduled kick-off time) as to the fitness of a pitch for the playing of a match is necessary, it shall be made by the respective captains (or nominated representatives) of the clubs involved, but if the captains are not able to agree, an opinion as to the fitness of the pitch shall be made by the appointed referee.
Note: The referee's responsibility is limited to deciding whether or not the pitch is in his opinion playable. Any decision reached that a game should or should not commence is the decision of the Clubs concerned.
- 7.3 Whenever possible the home club should ensure that a Registered Medical Practitioner or other suitably medically qualified person is in attendance throughout the match.

Match Officials

- 8.1 The Society shall appoint or arrange for the appointment of match officials for all matches. The home club shall be responsible for liaising with (i) the appointed match officials as to the match arrangements (ii) the Society at the earliest opportunity in relation to any proposed change in the match arrangements and (iii) with the appointed official(s) directly to ensure that such official(s) is/are aware of rearrangements and has/have the appropriate directions to the venue of the match (or any change of venue).

Clash of Colours/Identification of Players

- 9.1 In the event of clubs having similar or clashing colours, the home club shall be responsible for changing its colours subject to the satisfaction of the appointed referee.
- 9.2 The jerseys of teams competing in the Competitions shall be numbered in accordance with World Rugby requirements to ensure the correct identification of all players and replacements during a match.

Kick-offs and Delayed Arrivals

- 10.1 All scheduled matches shall start at the time notified by the home club to its opponent club not less than 3

days prior to the match, and shall be between 2pm and 3pm on weekends and public holidays and between 7pm and 8pm on weekdays. An alternative kick off time may be agreed by the Committee. A kick-off time may be specified by the Committee if upon appeal by the opponent club the Committee deems the time specified by the home club unreasonable. Any delay in kicking-off from the pre-determined time may be reported by the non-offending club to the Committee which may impose such penalty as it sees fit.

Notification of Results

- 11.1 The Secretary of the club qualifying for the next round is responsible for informing the Competitions Administrator of the result of a match within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match.
- 11.2 Each club shall if requested by the Competitions Administrator deliver to him a match result card specifying the result of the game and a list of the players and replacements. That card shall be signed by a club official and the match referee.

Finance

- 12.1 All matches in the Competitions shall be "gate taking" matches and shall be "all pay" save for those attending who are under 16 years of age. In the first round and quarter finals the gross gate takings are to be divided equally between the participating clubs but so that in any event the opponent club receives a minimum of £50. The gross receipts from the semi-finals and final shall be delivered to the Competitions Administrator who shall deduct proper expenses and the balance shall be divided as to one third to each of the participating clubs and one third to the County Union.

Protests, Disputes and Transgressions

- 13.1 Any complaint of an alleged breach of these Regulations must be made to the Competitions Administrator immediately by telephone and written confirmation thereof be sent to him within 48 hours of the cause of the complaint, setting out the grounds of such complaint in full. The Committee shall have absolute discretion (and using such procedure as it in its absolute discretion deems appropriate) to resolve any such complaint as it shall think fit and may decline to accept a complaint validly made if it considers doing so to be in the interests of the Competitions generally or the game of Rugby Football. Subject only to the provisions of Regulation 13.2 the decision of the Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.
- 13.2 Where any party having an interest in the matter is aggrieved by any decision of the Committee taken pursuant to Regulation 13.1 above or otherwise in relation to the Competitions it shall have the right to appeal that decision to the Management Committee of the County Union by so notifying the Secretary of the County Union in writing (within 48 hours of the decision of the Committee being announced) giving full details of the grounds of such appeal and supplying all evidence upon which it wishes to rely. In submitting its application the complainant Club must lodge a fee of £100; which payment will be refunded in full if the appeal is upheld.
- 13.3 The Management Committee in dealing with any appeal may use such procedures as in its absolute discretion it may decide.

Terms and Conditions of Participation

- 14.1 Each club in consideration of the monies received by it from the County Union or any funding from a sponsor(s) whether or not received direct from the sponsor(s) or any third party for participating in the Competitions agrees that by commencing its first match in the Competitions it has entered into a legally binding obligation with the County Union and separate obligations with each other club in the Competitions and with any sponsor(s) of the Competitions that it will fulfil its fixtures in the Competitions, comply with these Regulations and will indemnify any club which suffers loss due to failure to fulfil a fixture subject to the duty of the loss sustaining club to mitigate its losses so far as reasonably practicable.
- 14.2 Any club agreeing to play in the Competitions agrees that by entering or commencing its first match in the Competitions it has entered into a legally binding obligation with the County Union, any sponsor of the Competitions and as a separate covenant with each other Club in the Competitions, Referee, Touch Judge or Match Official involved in any match in the Competitions or cancellation or abandonment thereof that it will not hold liable or make any claim against such official, the Committee or the County Union:-
for any loss charge compensation or expense arising out of or in connection with any kind of injury or

illness suffered by any player, spectator or other person,
for any damage to property of any kind,
for any other loss, cost, charge, expense or damages be it financial or consequential loss of profit or
additional expense incurred or otherwise and whether directly or consequential or in relation to the
result of any match,
arising out of or due to any decision or action that may taken under the Laws of the Game these
Regulations or any other rules or regulations published by the RFU or in respect of the normal
procedures to hold, play, control, cancel or abandon a match.