

## ATHE SOMERSET R.F.U. JUNIOR CUP COMPETITION – REGULATIONS

### DEFINITIONS:

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| Committee                  | means the Constituent Body's Competitions Sub-Committee  |
| Competitions Administrator | means the person to whom the Committee delegate the administration of a Competition                        |
| Constituent Body           | means the Somerset County Rugby Football Union Limited   |
| Home Club                  | means the first named club to be drawn in respect of a fixture or as otherwise determined by the Committee |
| RFU                        | means the Rugby Football Union   |
| Society                    | means the Somerset County Rugby Football Union Referees Society Limited                                    |
| World Rugby                | means the world governing body of the game 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 & FORM:

- 1.1 All matches shall be played under the World Rugby Laws and Regulations (including any variations, trials and other formats that may be adopted by the RFU), World Rugby Regulations and RFU Rules and Regulations, specifically Regulation 15, in so far as the same are not varied by or inconsistent with these Regulations. Where there is any such variation or inconsistency then these Regulations shall prevail.
- 1.2 All matches in each Competition shall be played on Sundays determined by the Committee, unless either team is a participant in the Somerset U18 league.
- 1.3 If either team is a participant in the Somerset U18 league then regardless of being either the home team or the away team, they will decide on which day of the week the match is played (apart from the final which will be a Sunday).
- 1.4 Clubs may mutually agree to play a match (other than the final) prior to any fixed date and on any other day of the week if it conforms with the RFU Age Grade Calendar and is confirmed as acceptable by the Competitions Administrator.
- 1.5 Any club refusing to play a match on the date determined by the Committee shall not be eligible to enter a Competition or to continue participation.
- 1.6 The draw will be made by the Committee and for the first-round matches shall be played on the ground of the club drawn first.
- 1.7 In each subsequent round (except for the final) the home team will be the team that had the greatest points difference from the previous round.
  - 1.7.1 The points difference cannot exceed 50 points.
  - 1.7.2 If the points difference is equal the home team for the subsequent round will be drawn by the committee.
  - 1.7.3 If a team progresses for any reason other than winning the previous round, then the home team for the subsequent round will be drawn by the committee.
- 1.8 The final shall be played on neutral grounds to be determined by the Committee.

- 1.9 A Home club is responsible for the correct and clear marking of its pitch and must make proper provision to ensure (that except for touch judges, fourth official, Affiliated Medical Practitioner or other suitably medically qualified person and one water carrier from each team) all spectators, coaches' replacements and others are kept a proper distance from the field of play.
- 1.10 The club must ensure full compliance with RFU Regulation 9 - Player Safety.

In particular each club entered must have completed the following:

- \* Howden online risk assessment <https://www.howdengroup.com/uk-en/england-rugby-insurance/risk-assessment-tool>
- \* Risk Assessment and GMS Player Welfare page completion report on GMS

The required medical provision for each match must be at least 1 x Emergency First Aider per team.

Further details can be found on the England Rugby website at [www.englandrugby.com](http://www.englandrugby.com) under the Participation heading - Player Welfare - Rugby Safe links. [www.keepyourbootson.co.uk](http://www.keepyourbootson.co.uk) has more in depth detail if required.

#### **ORGANISING COMMITTEE:**

- 2.1 The Competitions shall be organised by the Committee and their appointed administrator.
- 2.2 The Committee shall have the power to delegate any of its duties, powers, or obligations under these Regulations to a Competition Administrator.
- 2.3 Decisions of the Committee or the Competitions Administrator shall be final and binding.

#### **ELIGIBILITY OF CLUBS & PLAYERS:**

- 3.1 All clubs in membership of the Constituent Body shall be eligible to enter a team in any Competition but must signify to the Competition Administrator their wish to do so no later than "The date specified on the entry form". The Club or amalgamated clubs should signify their team's name at registration, and this will remain for the season.
- 3.2 The Committee shall have the power to exclude any team from any Competition at any time.
- 3.3 Players shall be eligible to play in any Competition if they are under the relevant age at midnight on 31st August. Any dispensation given by Somerset RFU for Playing out of Age Grade must also be declared to the Committee. For anyone who is playing out of Age to be eligible for this competition they must have dispensation from Somerset RFU before the match.
- 3.4 Players must be properly affiliated to their Club on the RFU Game Management System (GMS)
- 3.5 Only players fully affiliated with the RFU Game Management System (GMS) prior to the closing date for entry in the year of the competition will be eligible, any team fielding a player with a GMS effective date after this date will be removed from the competition.
- 3.6 No later than 48 hours prior to the match being played each team shall issue a team sheet to the competition administrator for validation. The competition administrator shall issue a validated result sheet to both teams as soon as is practicable to the relevant teams. Once issued no changes can be made.

- 3.7 Prior to any match the result sheet supplied by the competitions administrator shall be mutually validated by the coach(es)/team manager(s) of each team against the teams RFU photo registration cards or RFU photo registration lists. Any picture must be no more than 1 season old and unjustifiable failure to produce such cards or list for inspection will lead to expulsion from the Competition.

Note: the home club should, when confirming kick-off times and other arrangements, remind the away team of the need to produce their players' registration lists on the day of the match.

- 3.8 Clubs shall not be represented by a player who has played for another club in this Competition.

- 3.9 The maximum match day squad size is twenty-three players.

- 3.10 For all contested Scrums only suitably trained and experienced front row Players can be used.

- 3.11 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 Entrant 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 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

#### **MATCH OFFICIALS:**

- 4.1 The home team is responsible for obtaining a society referee, should a suitable neutral referee not be available, then the home team with the agreement of the opposition may use a suitable alternative (who shall hold an RFU refereeing qualification). Each team will supply one touch judge.

- 4.2 The Committee shall appoint a referee plus two touch judges for the finals.

#### **DETERMINATION OF MATCH RESULTS:**

- 5.1 For matches other than the final, the tiebreakers in the instance of a draw will be: number of tries, number of conversions, first try scored and then first points scored. If the match finishes 0-0 then a coin toss will take place to determine who progresses to the next round.

- 5.2 Should a fifty-point differential occur at any time during a match, then the score must be recorded as the result and the referee may end the match.

- 5.3 If the scores in a final are level at the end of normal playing time and 5.1 above fails to produce a result then the Competition trophy shall be shared. Which club shall hold the trophy for the first six months and which the second six months shall be decided by the toss of a coin. The winner of the "coin toss" shall have the option to decide for which six-month period the trophy will be held.

#### **NOTIFICATION OF MATCH RESULTS:**

- 6.1 An electronic copy (email, photo, etc) of the validated result sheet, signed by both teams and the match official must be sent to the Competitions Administrator within 48 hours of the end of the match.

#### **CLASH OF COLOURS:**

- 7.1 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 match referee.
- 7.2 The shirts of teams 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:**

- 8.1 Matches (except the finals) shall start at a time notified by the home club to their opponents (not less than 3 days prior to the date prescribed for the playing of the match) but it shall not be later than 2.30pm unless the opponents agree otherwise. A kick-off time may be determined by the Committee if, upon appeal by an opponent club, the Committee deem the time specified by the home club to be unreasonable. Any delay in kicking-off from the agreed or pre-determined time may be reported by the non-offending club and the Committee may impose any sanction it sees fit, which may, for the avoidance of doubt, mean the expulsion from the Competition of the offending club.

#### **DISPUTES:**

- 9.1 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 9.2 the decision of the Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.
- 9.2 Where any party having an interest in the matter is aggrieved by any decision of the Committee taken pursuant to Regulation 9.1 above or otherwise in relation to the Competitions it shall have the right to appeal that decision to the Management Committee of the Constituent Body by so notifying the competition administrator 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.
- 9.3 The Management Committee in dealing with any appeal may use such procedures as in its absolute discretion it may decide.

#### **POSTPONED AND ABANDONED MATCHES:**

- 10.1 If weather conditions (which includes bad light) prevent a match from being played or a match is abandoned because of such conditions with less than two thirds of the proper playing time 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 between the clubs or failing agreement as determined by the Committee. If there is no agreement within 48 hours of the match which was not played or was abandoned or if the date and time agreed is not acceptable to the Committee, then the date and time of kick-off shall be determined by the Committee.
- 10.2 If ground or weather conditions prevent a match being played at the grounds of either Club, (or neutral venue) then the Committee will select the team to progress at random. In the event of this occurring the home or away team in the subsequent round will also be selected at random.

10.3 If a match is abandoned for any reason other than weather conditions then, irrespective of the number of minutes played the result of that match shall be determined by the Committee who may order the match to be replayed in which case the match will take place at a venue and a time determined by it.

**REMINDERS:**

11.1 Coaches and officials must comply to the RFU and SRFU Safeguarding Policies. Furthermore, any player regardless of their age at the time of the match must not consume alcohol and if this is found to have occurred then the team may forfeit their place in the competition.