

## ADULT HAMPSHIRE KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

### 1601 Description and Aims

1 These shall be called the “Hampshire Knock-Out Competitions” There may be up to five competitions known as **the Hampshire Challenge Trophy, Hampshire Bowl, Hampshire Shield, Hampshire Village Cup and the Hampshire Veterans Cup (John Sneezum cup.)**

2 The aim of the competitions is to produce winners of the various trophies.

### REGULATIONS COVERING THESE HAMPSHIRE COMPETITIONS

1. The Hampshire Cup, Bowl, Shield and Veterans Cup Knock-Out Competitions shall be open to all Clubs in the County but in order to facilitate the planning and timing of these Competitions Clubs may register to enter the appropriate Hampshire Competition or the RFU Cups Competitions.. In the event of a clash of dates – i.e. a club being drawn to play opponents in both the Hampshire and RFU Competitions on the same date – the Club may decide which competition they wish to continue in and give their opponents in the competition they are prepared to forfeit a `walk over`. The Hampshire fixture can be played on either a Friday evening, the Saturday or the Sunday. **There can be no postponement of the Hampshire fixture** except through bad weather affecting pitches or a re-arranged league match. A Club may enter one team only. **The Hampshire Village Cup** shall be open to all 1st teams competing in the lower Hampshire Leagues.

2. **With the exception of the Veterans Cup** the Knock-Out Competitions are seeded to provide appropriate matches at each level at the discretion of the Sub Committee and normally shall be decided on league positions at the end of the preceding season after promotion and relegation have been effected. Prior to the start of the season Clubs will be advised by the Competitions Committee on which trophy competition they are eligible to enter during the coming season. It will then be for the Clubs to determine whether or not they wish to enter that competition

3. If a Club declines to take its place in the level allocated in the Knock-Out Competition or has been suspended from that Competition, it will not be replaced nor will it be allowed to enter at a lower level. There shall be a bye, or byes, as necessary.

### 4. Eligibility of Players

(a) Only bona fide league registered members of a Club may represent, i.e. either play or be selected as replacements for, the Club in the Hampshire Cup, Shield and Bowl. Bona fide members of a Club aged 35 and above at the date of the match may represent the Club in Veterans Cup Competitions and bona fide members of a Club may represent the Club in the Village Cup competition.

(b) A Club may not be represented in a match by a player who has not reached the minimum age set by the RFU for registration for the English Club Championship.

(c) A Club may not be represented in the front row of the scrum by a player who has not reached the age of 18.

(d) A Club may not be represented in any of the Knock-Out Competitions by a loan player or a player who has played for another Club in the Knock-Out Competitions in the current season.

(e) Any infringement of 4(a) – (d) will result in disqualification from a Knock-Out Competition of the player and the Club involved for the season and the Club may be disqualified from the Knock-Out Competition in subsequent seasons. Infringement of RFU Age Grade restrictions will result in Disciplinary proceedings.

(f) The Sub Committee shall have the power to reinstate a Club, which has been eliminated from the Knock Out Competitions by a Club in breach of 4(a) – (e) above. This power shall cease to apply at 18.00 two days before the Scheduled date of the next Knock-Out Round.

## 5. Competition Draws

- (a) The initial draw for the Hampshire Cup, Bowl, shield and Veterans Cup Knock-Out Competitions may be announced at the Annual General Meeting or at an appropriate Clubs' Meeting or notified by e mail to all competing Clubs. Details will then be formally notified to the Clubs concerned and to the Hampshire Rugby Referees (HRR) by the Cup Competitions Secretary. The draw for subsequent rounds of the Competitions shall be made by the Competitions Committee after the completion of the previous round.
- (b) Any Channel Island Clubs shall play off to produce one Club to go through to the Quarterfinals of the Hampshire Cup, Shield and Bowl Competitions.
- (c) In the case of the Village Cup the initial draw shall be made by the Competitions Sub-Committee after the Annual General Meeting and notified to the Clubs concerned and to HRR. The draw for subsequent rounds shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Para.5 (a) above.

## 6. Match Dates

- (a) Matches in the Competitions are normally to be played on Saturdays, although Clubs may play on the Friday or Sunday if both are in agreement and have informed both the Organiser and HRR. If it is necessary for two Finals to be played on the same weekend, then the more junior Final shall take place on the Saturday, and the more senior Final on the Sunday. The Sub Committee will try to avoid such clashes.
- (b) While dates for Rounds are chosen to avoid League weekends there may still be a conflict of dates. An RFU Competition (League or Cup) will always take precedence over matches in the Hampshire Competitions. However if both Clubs and the Organiser agree then a double-header (i.e. league and Cup) is permissible provided that it takes place during the scheduled window for that Round in this competition. **In this case the match must be played under the RFU regulations for league replacements and registration.**
- (c) Once the Draw has been made for any Round of the Hampshire Cup, Bowl or Shield Competition no amendment to the prescribed Match date will be accepted except for reasons of bad weather and unfit pitches or through rearranged league matches. In that event **and subject to the agreement of both sides** the match concerned will be played either as a double header if league fixtures allow or on the next Saturday free from league fixtures. In the event of the two Clubs failing to agree on the way forward the decision will be taken by the Competitions Committee.
- (d) Clubs are advised that the Saturday of one of the scheduled Competition weekends (except for the weekend of the Cup Final only) may be a "next available Saturday" under the RFU League Regulations. Clubs may be required therefore to play a rescheduled League game on the same weekend Saturday listed as a match in this Competition. While this may not be accepted by the clubs concerned as a reason to change the weekend, i.e. by their agreement to also play the Cup match on the Sunday **or under floodlights**, where there is no such agreement and **in the interests of player safety every effort will be made by the Cups Secretary to achieve an acceptable solution.**
- (e) If a Club wishes to change the Cup or League match date from a Saturday to a Sunday, or vice versa then it must discuss this with its opponents and the Cups Secretary who shall discuss with the HRR Appointments Secretary. This is particularly important, and any procedural errors could be very costly when a Channel Island club or an Isle of Wight club is involved. The lack of availability of an appropriately qualified referee may cause the Cups Secretary to refuse such a change.
- (f) If the agreement of all parties to a revised date is obtained the home Club must inform the HRR Secretary, the County Office and the Media Liaison Officer as soon as the change is agreed and not later than five days before the original or revised date whichever is the earlier. **Without agreement being reached the match shall take place on the day nominated.**
- (g) If there is any requirement to change the date of a Final, the Cups Secretary will make necessary arrangements and will inform the Hampshire Rugby Referees (HRR) and the **County Office.**

## **7. Colours**

In the event of a clash of colours the home team shall change subject to the satisfaction of the referee. The jerseys of teams should be numbered to ensure correct identification of players and replacements during a match; however no team shall be penalized for not wearing numbered shirts.

## **8. Replacements/Substitutes**

(a) Substitutions are allowed in all Hampshire Cup etc. Competitions up to three substitutes, eight interchanges, 1 front row change in all rounds, except in the final where seven substitutes, twelve interchanges - two front row.

This shall not apply in the case of the Veterans Cup where there can be up to five substitutes rolling on and off.

(b) In the interest of safety every team in the Competition in all rounds shall have available not less than two replacements or other players on the field capable of playing in the front row of the scrum should replacements be required whether due to injury or consequent upon a player being ordered off or temporarily suspended.

(c) If on the first or second occasion a front row player requires to be replaced and his team cannot provide a replacement or other player aged 18 or over capable of playing in the front row of the scrum, the Referee, having confirmed this fact with the Team Captain, will order uncontested scrums and the team shall be deemed to have lost the match.

(d) Subject to the exception in 1609.6 if on the third or subsequent occasion a front row player requires to be replaced and his team cannot provide a replacement or other player aged 18 or over capable of playing in the front row of the scrum, the Referee having made enquiry of the Team Captain, the match shall continue with uncontested scrums and the match score shall stand.

(e) Where a player is temporarily suspended or has to leave the field for a concussion assessment which creates a third or subsequent occasion that a front row forward needs to be replaced and his team cannot provide a replacement or other player aged 18 or over capable of playing in the front row of the scrum, the Referee having made enquiry of the Team Captain, shall order uncontested scrums but such uncontested scrums shall only continue for the duration of the temporary suspension or the result of the medical assessment. The match result will not be deemed to be invalidated by reason of part of it being played with uncontested scrums.

## **9. Kick-off Time**

(a) The Kick-off Time shall be the "Recommended Kick-off Time" as printed on the inside cover of the Handbook. These will also be shown on the Draw Sheet for each Knock-Out Cup Round. The Kick-off Time of any match involving a Channel Islands Club or an Isle of Wight Club must be adjusted if necessary to accommodate travel arrangements.

(b) Any change to the Kick-off time must be notified by the home Club to the Cups Secretary, the referee and any appointed touch judges(s) as soon as the change is agreed by both Clubs, and not later than five days before the original or revised time whichever is the earlier.

(c) The Cup Secretary will notify the Hampshire Rugby Referees (HRR) Appointments Secretary, and the County Office of any change to the kick-off time for the Finals.

## **10. Venues and Grounds**

(a) The cost of travel to the Channel Islands **and the Isle of Wight** is recognised as being far in excess of what equivalent Clubs and their age grade teams might expect to meet in any other County. It is intended

therefore that, until such time that regular Rugby Football Union funding is forthcoming, the following restrictions are applied.

**(b)** In competitions involving mainland Clubs if the first-named Club to be drawn in a knock-out match, or if the first-named Club in a scheduled Hampshire League fixture plays its home fixtures on the Channel Islands, the match shall nevertheless be played on the mainland of Hampshire or the Isle of Wight either on the ground of the second-named Club or if the Channel Island Club shall so wish, on the ground of any other Club on the mainland of Hampshire (but not the Isle of Wight). In the latter event all arrangements which are to be agreed with the host Club shall be made by the Channel Island Club which shall be responsible for any ground expenses incurred and shall be at no cost to the host Club involved. The Channel Island Club shall be responsible for all its own travel costs.

**(c)** However if the second-named Club agrees then the Channel Island Club may play at home in which case it shall offer to refund the cost of travel to the Island for the mainland Club. Such costs are to be met for a party not exceeding eighteen plus three other Club officials. Costs to and from the point of embarkation or dis-embarkation are to be met by the mainland Club.

**(d)** No Final, nor any Play-Off, shall be played in the Channel Islands – unless both Finalists or both Clubs in a Play-Off are Channel Island Clubs. A Channel Island Club reaching a Final or a Play-Off shall play on the ground of its mainland opponents even though its semi final match may be drawn as the venue for the Final; and shall be considered to be the visiting team unless a neutral venue is used for a Final.

**(e)** No Club shall suffer any competition penalty if it is unable to fulfill its commitment to any Hampshire Competition because of financial implications.

**(f)** Subject to 10 (b) – (d) above each match is to be played on the ground of the Club drawn first in each tie.

**(g)** On completion of the draw for the Semifinals, one match shall then be drawn from the two; the winners of that match shall be at home for the appropriate Final.

#### **11. Referees and Assistant Referees (Touch Judges)**

**(a)** The Committee shall notify all dates of Knock-Out rounds to the Hampshire Rugby Referees (HRR) Secretary before 30 June each year.

**(b)** HRR shall endeavour to appoint a referee to all matches.

**(c)** Where possible and subject to availability HRR shall appoint one touch judge to Knock Out matches up to and including Knock-Out Quarterfinals. Thereafter HRR shall appoint both touch judges.

**(d)** Each Club shall provide a competent touch-judge for each Competition match unless touch judges are appointed by HRR.

**(e)** The home Club shall supply a competent touch judge for matches where HRR has appointed only one touch judge. The home Club shall supply a competent reserve touch judge for matches where HRR has appointed two touch judges.

**(f)** The away Club shall supply a competent reserve touch judge for all Knock-Out rounds.

**(g)** A Club's touch judge in a Knock-Out match must not be a replacement player;

**(h)** The normal charge for referees and appointed touch judges shall be levied on the home Club.

**(i)** Having confirmed the match arrangements with the visiting Club, the home Club shall confirm venue, date and kick-off time with the referee appointed by HRR directly by telephone (not by leaving a message on an answer-machine, and not by e-mail as there is no guarantee that the referee will receive either message) by 2100 on the Thursday before the scheduled fixture. The home Club shall also confirm venue, date and kick-off time, when appropriate, with any touch judges appointed by HRR. **Clubs are advised that match officials are unlikely to attend if they have not had verbal confirmation.**

**(j)** If the appointed referee has not arrived by the agreed kick-off time, or if the referee is unable to

officiate for the whole of the match, and a replacement referee is available, the Team Managers or Captains of the two teams concerned may agree that a replacement referee may officiate. Such agreement shall be binding on the Clubs and the match result shall stand. In the Knock-Out Competition if the captains are unable to agree the match must be rescheduled or replayed.

## **12. Drawn Matches**

If, at no-side, the scores are level, there shall be an immediate period of extra time of ten minutes each way with a one minute interval. If the scores are still level then the team that has scored the most tries shall go forward into the next round. If this does not produce a result then the team that has scored the most goals from tries shall go forward into the next round. If a result is still not forthcoming then the visiting team shall go forward into the next round.

## **13 Postponed and Abandoned Matches**

### **(a) Sixty Minute Rule**

If a match is abandoned when sixty or more minutes have been played then the score at the moment of abandonment shall stand. The referee's decision as to the necessity for abandonment and the number of minutes played at the time of abandonment shall be final.

The only acceptable reason for not playing a Knock-Out match on the stated or agreed weekend shall be unacceptable adverse weather or pitch conditions.

If conditions prevent a Knock-Out match being played or the match is abandoned because of such conditions, with less than sixty minutes having been played, it shall be played or replayed at the first available date, at the direction of the Cups Secretary.

In the Final, or a Play-off, if the scores are level at the time of abandonment after more than sixty minutes play then all in 1613 shall apply save for the extra-time. If less than sixty minutes have been played then the match shall be rearranged or the result allowed to stand **by mutual consent of both captains/managers**

## **14. Notification of Results**

The winning Club shall inform the Cups Secretary of the result of the match **within 24 hours** of the end of the match at the place and/or telephone number specified on the draw sheet. **Failure to notify the correct result could mean disqualification of the Club concerned in which case their opponents shall proceed to the next round.**

## **15. Finance**

Each participating Club in the Knock-Out Cups etc. shall pay an entrance fee, which shall be determined annually by the Game Development Committee. This fee will be invoiced at the beginning of the season (with the annual Club subscription).

The host Club in the Cup Final is to submit a statement of income and expenditure for the Final to the Cups Secretary within one week of the Final. The statement is to show the income from entrance charges, programme advertisements, programme sales and any collection and a breakdown of the expenditure incurred in programme production, pitch hire and referees' charges. Expenditure is to be supported by receipted invoices where appropriate.

The Cups Secretary will calculate the net proceeds which shall be divided into equal parts, one share each being paid to the Clubs and the County. All catering is the responsibility of or profit to the host Club.

## **16. Eligibility of Players – Knock-Out Matches**

### **(a) Before the Game**

If a Club has a doubt about the eligibility of an opposition player, this must be raised as soon as possible with the opposition Team Manager. If necessary, the concerned Club should refer their protest immediately by whatever means to the Cups Secretary, or to any other member of the Committee who may be present at the game. His decision shall be final and is not subject to appeal. **The match result will stand.**

### **(b) During or After the Game**

If doubt arises during or after the game the concerned Club must refer their protest by whatever means to

the Cups Secretary. He shall have discretion to resolve any such protest and shall inform all interested parties of his decision as soon as possible. This decision may be subject to appeal. **The match result maybe declared void.**

#### **17. Other Matters in Dispute or Alleged Transgressions of this Regulation.**

Any other matters in dispute or any alleged transgressions of this Regulation must be referred by whatever means to the Cups Secretary **within 48 hours of the end of the match**. This must be supported by a written complaint which must reach the Cups Secretary, the Chairman of the Competitions Committee and other interested parties within a further 48 hours, setting out the grounds of the complaint in full. The Cups Secretary has the authority to resolve any such complaint and shall inform the interested parties of his decision.

#### **18. Appeals**

If a Club wishes to appeal against the decision of the Cups Secretary, the appeal must be lodged with the Competitions Committee Secretary within 48 hours of receiving the decision and confirmed in writing within a further 48 hours. The Committee has the authority to resolve any appeal and the Secretary shall inform the interested parties of the decision.

If a Club wishes to appeal against the decision of the Committee, the appeal must be lodged with the Executive Director within 48 hours of receiving the decision and confirmed in writing within a further 48 hours. This appeal will be considered by the Game Development Committee at their next scheduled meeting if time permits or by the Officers if not. Their decision shall be final.

#### **19. Terms and Conditions of Participation**

**(a)** Applications for entry to the Competitions are to be forwarded to the Competitions Committee by 30 June or by the date announced by the Committee and stated on the entry form.

**(b)** If any Club, having entered, does not take part in the Knock-Out or, having participated, fails to honour a subsequent fixture in the Competition, then such Club's opponents in the Round as drawn will receive a bye into the next Round of the Competition without prejudice to any further action that may be taken by the Committee.

**(c)** A Club withdrawing after the draw for any Knock-Out Round has been made may be fined up to £500, at the discretion of the Committee who may decide to award a proportion of the fine to the non-offending Club.

**(d)** A Club withdrawing from a Competition match after 2100 on a Thursday shall be responsible for all reasonable and irrecoverable expenses incurred and invoiced by the non-offending Club. Details of timing of cancellation and costs incurred by the non-offending Club are to be passed to the Organiser for approval and sending to the offending Club. The offending Club is expected to pay the costs within one month of receipt.

**(e)** If the reason for any withdrawal is not acceptable to the Committee the Club may be excluded from the relevant Competition in the following season or seasons and may be required to pay a bond before any subsequent entry is accepted.

#### **20. Other Issues**

Questions from Clubs on any matters not obviously covered in the Regulations above shall initially be considered by the Competitions Committee and, if necessary, then referred to the Game Development Committee for a final decision.