

SCHOOLS AND YOUTH NATIONAL COMPETITION RULES 2019-2020

1 DEFINITIONS

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| ‘Board’ | means the Scottish Rugby Board. |
| ‘Championship Committee’ | means the Scottish Rugby Championship Committee. |
| ‘Championship Secretary’ | means the person who deals with the day-to-day running of the National Competitions. |
| ‘Competitions Committee’ | means the <i>Schools and Youth Competitions Committee</i> elected or appointed to assist in the organisation of the Schools and Youth National Competitions. |
| ‘Competition Administrator’ | means a person appointed by Scottish Rugby to administer an individual Schools or Youth National Competition (or part thereof). |
| ‘Competition Secretary’ | means the person appointed by Scottish Rugby to act as Secretary to the Competitions Committee. |
| ‘Cup’ | means such schools and youth Cup competitions (as the context may require) as have been designated as Schools and Youth National Competitions. |
| ‘Development Match’ | means a Match in which one Team borrows Players from the opposition Team as it is not able on its own to field the minimum required number of Players. |
| ‘Host Team’ | means the Team providing the venue for any given Match. |
| ‘Match’ | means a match played or to be played in a Schools or Youth National Competition. |
| ‘Minimum Operating Standards’ | means the minimum standards and requirements issued by Scottish Rugby from time to time. |
| ‘Participation Match’ | means a Match in which Competition Points are awarded solely for the playing of a Match rather than being based on the result of the Match. |
| ‘Player’ | means any person who is named by a Team to participate in a Match. |
| ‘Regulations’ | means any supplementary regulations provided or approved by the Board in respect of individual Schools and Youth National Competitions, or generally. |
| ‘Rules’ | means the <i>Schools and Youth National Competition Rules</i> approved by the Board from time to time. |
| ‘Schools and Youth National Competitions’ | means the league and knock-out competitions designated as such by the Board from time to time and listed in Appendix 2. |
| ‘Scoring Match’ | means a Match in which Competition Points are awarded based on the result of the Match. |
| ‘Scottish Rugby’ | means Scottish Rugby Union Limited. |
| ‘Team’ | means any club, school, composite team or other body (as the context may require and as permitted by the Rules) which participates in a Schools and Youth National Competition. |
| ‘World Rugby’ | means the game’s world governing body. |

2 ORGANISATION AND APPLICATION

The National Competition Rules

- 2.1 The National Competitions shall be governed by the Rules.
- 2.2 The Rules and changes to them shall be subject to approval by the Board. The Board may provide supplementary Regulations in respect of individual Schools and Youth National Competitions (see

Appendix 1). The Board reserves the right to amend the Rules and Regulations from time to time.

- 2.3 The Board shall have the power to rectify any error or omission in the Rules and the Regulations in such manner as it deems fit.
- 2.4 In the Rules and Regulations, unless specified or the context otherwise requires, words importing any gender shall include all other genders, and importing singular shall, where appropriate, include plural.
- 2.5 Should any provision of the Rules or Regulations be held by any court or other competent authority to be illegal, void or unenforceable (in whole or in part) the remainder of the Rules and/or Regulations shall continue to be enforceable.

Organisation and Administration

- 2.6 The Board shall be assisted in the organisation of the Schools and Youth National Competitions by a Championship Committee. The Championship Committee shall have the authority to delegate any of its powers, duties or obligations under these Rules to any person, Competitions Committee, sub-committee or other body provided that it retains the ability to resume the exercise of those powers at any point.
- 2.7 The Schools and Youth National Competitions shall be administered by the *Schools and Youth Competitions Committee* ("**Competitions Committee**") under the delegated authority of the Championship Committee.
- 2.8 The membership of the Competitions Committee shall comprise:
 - 2.8.1 a Convenor, who shall be the Schools and Youth Representative serving on the Championship Committee;
 - 2.8.2 *Schools*: up to three elected or appointed schools representatives;
 - 2.8.3 *Youth*: up to three elected or appointed youth rugby representatives;
 - 2.8.4 the Chair of the National Youth Forum and the Chair of the National Schools Forum (in a non-voting capacity); and
 - 2.8.5 such others as may be co-opted to the Competitions Committee (in a non-voting capacity).
- 2.9 Where by reason of the routine nature of the matter, or such urgency that a meeting of the Competitions Committee cannot reasonably be arranged, the Convenor may exercise any of the powers, discretions and/or authorities under the Rules and Regulations.
- 2.10 The Competitions Committee and the Convenor shall be assisted by a Competition Secretary appointed by Scottish Rugby.

Compliance

- 2.11 By agreeing to participate in a Schools and Youth National Competition the participating Team agrees to be bound by both the letter and the spirit of the Rules and Regulations, and such other Scottish Rugby Rules, Regulations, Age Banding Rules, Policies, Procedures and Participation Agreement Terms as may affect its participation in the competitions.
- 2.12 Participating Teams shall comply with any Minimum Operating Standards ("**Standards**") issued from time to time by Scottish Rugby, unless a dispensation has been given by Scottish Rugby. Scottish Rugby shall have the power to suspend the participation rights of any Team which fails to meet or to maintain these Standards.
- 2.13 Except where a Scottish Rugby Bye-Law, Policy, Rule or Regulation provides to the contrary, World Rugby's *Laws of the Game* (including the Under 19 Law Variations) and the World Rugby *Regulations Relating to the Game* shall apply.
- 2.14 The participating Teams shall ensure compliance by all of their Players and officials with applicable Rules and Regulations.

3 FIXTURES

Date and Kick-Off Time

- 3.1 The date, time and the identity of the home and away Teams in any Match shall be as determined and notified by the Competition Secretary.
- 3.2 Matches shall be played on the date and at the time notified. By exception, and where both Teams agree, the home Team may make written application to the Competition Administrator or Competition Secretary for a Match to be played on an alternative date or at an alternative time. Evidence as to the consent of both Teams shall be required. The Competition Committee's decision in respect of such requests shall be final.
- 3.3 The Competitions Committee reserves the absolute right to reschedule any Match, including at short notice. In the event of a postponed or abandoned Match requiring to be rescheduled, other Matches may require to be rescheduled or further rescheduled in order to accommodate that Match.
- 3.4 Matches shall normally be played at the home Team's regular venue. The home Team must advise the Competition Administrator/Competition Secretary, the visiting Team and the referee promptly if a Match is to be played at a different venue. The home Team must confirm the Match arrangements with the referee and the away Team no later than 72 hours before kick-off.
- 3.5 Copyright, database and all other rights in the fixtures shall be the property of Scottish Rugby.

Cancelled and Postponed Matches

- 3.6 If a Match is likely to be postponed the Teams should seek to play at an alternative venue, including reversing the fixture where necessary.
- 3.7 If a Match has been cancelled due to ground conditions:
 - 3.7.1 *League based Matches*: Matches shall not be re-arranged unless the two Teams mutually agree. Any re-arranged Match must be played prior to the scheduled final round of Conference fixtures. The re-arranged date must be notified to the Competition Administrator within five days of the date of the original fixture. Should the re-arranged Match subsequently not be played it shall be recorded as a draw.
 - 3.7.2 *Knock-out Matches*: Where a knock-out match is postponed or abandoned before 75% of the normal playing time has elapsed, it must be re-arranged for a date as early as possible. Where the Teams are unable to agree a mutually acceptable date the home Team must refer the matter to the Competition Administrator. Where necessary the Competition Administrator may ask the Competitions Committee to fix the place, date and time of kick-off, which ruling shall be final and binding on all parties. Where the requirements of the competition necessitate the Competitions Committee may resolve that the winner of any Match shall be determined by the toss of a coin.

Abandoned Matches

- 3.8 Where a Scoring or knock-out Match is abandoned:
 - 3.8.1 If less than 75% of normal playing time has expired it shall be treated as a Cancelled Match.
 - 3.8.2 If at least 75% of normal playing time has expired the Match shall be deemed to have been completed and the score at the time of the abandonment shall stand as the Match result.
- 3.9 Where a Participation or Development Match is abandoned it shall be deemed to have been completed irrespective of the time of abandonment and the result at the time of the abandonment shall stand.
- 3.10 The right is reserved for the Competitions Committee to investigate the causes of any abandonment and to take such disciplinary or other action as it deems appropriate.
- 3.11 For the avoidance of doubt the procedures regarding any red or yellow cards, citing or misconduct complaints during an abandoned Match shall be the same as if the Match had been completed.

Non-Fulfilment of Fixtures

- 3.12 No Team may, without just cause, fail to fulfil its fixture obligations. The Competitions Committee shall be the sole judge as to whether just cause exists.
- 3.13 If a Team fails to fulfil a fixture on the date notified, the Competitions Secretary may raise a Complaint

against that Team.

4 THE PLAYERS

Eligibility

- 4.1 Players participating in National Competitions (other than where specifically permitted otherwise within the Regulations of an individual competition) must be properly registered as an active Player with the Team that they are representing. Players participating for a composite Team must be registered with one of the clubs/schools forming the composite.
- 4.2 For the avoidance of doubt a Player participating in a Development Match shall not require to be registered for the Team he is participating with. Within Development Matches Teams are encouraged to share Players to ensure that all available Players are able to participate in the game.
- 4.3 Other than with the written permission of the Competition Committee, a Player may not play in a Schools or Youth National Competition for more than one club, one school or one composite Team in any season.
- 4.4 A Player who participates in a U18 or U16 National Competition fixture shall not be eligible for selection for any other National Competition fixture on that weekend.
- 4.5 In school competitions a school may seek the Competitions Committee's permission to field a Player who is not enrolled with that school i.e. is enrolled at another school or has left school but still complies with the age grade criteria. Such permission shall ordinarily only be granted where participation for the school concerned provides the only realistic competitive playing option for the Player. Schools must not attempt to utilise this rule in an effort to gain competitive advantage. Applications shall be in the prescribed form and the Player must not participate for the school until permission has been granted and the Player has been properly registered.

Age Restrictions for Team Selection

- 4.6 All Teams and Team officials must comply with Scottish Rugby's *Are You Ready To Play Rugby?* ("AYRTPR") policies.
- 4.7 All participating Players must be eligible to play for the Team they are representing in accordance with Scottish Rugby's *Age Grade Eligibility* and *AYRTPR* policies.
- 4.8 The age grade cut-off date shall be 1 September 2019. In order to be eligible to participate:
 - 4.8.1 Under 18 Players must be born on 1 September 2001 or later;
 - 4.8.2 Under 16 Players must be born on 1 September 2003 or later;
 - 4.8.3 Under 15 Players must be born on 1 September 2004 or later;
 - 4.8.4 Under 14 Players must be born on 1 September 2005 or later;
 - 4.8.5 Under 13 All Players must be born on 1 September 2006 or later.
- 4.9 A Player may not play or be selected to play outwith his age band unless he has received written exemption from Scottish Rugby to do so, granted in accordance with Scottish Rugby's *AYRTPR* policies.

Registration and De-Registration

- 4.10 All Players participating in National Competitions must be registered on the Scottish Rugby player registration system.
- 4.11 A Player is registered when, subject to these Rules, the Player has been allocated a unique reference number and the Player appears on the system under the club's/school's list of active registered Players. Scottish Rugby reserves the right to refuse, suspend or request further information in respect of any application.
- 4.12 Incoming Players requiring International Clearance shall not be eligible for registration (and hence not eligible to participate) until Scottish Rugby has provided written confirmation of the completion of the Clearance process.

- 4.13 A Player wishing to transfer Team must notify his current Team of his desire to transfer. The Player's new Team shall apply in the prescribed manner to transfer the Player's registration. The Player shall not be eligible to play for his new Team until his name appears on that body's list of active registered Players.
- 4.14 Teams shall ensure that their list of registered Players is at all times accurate and up to date, including in relation to whether each Player remains active. Teams shall deactivate a Player's registration on receipt of a request from the Player. Teams wishing to deactivate a Player's registration shall inform the Player in writing.
- 4.15 A Player's registration may be suspended or cancelled (including with retrospective effect), where the Player or his Team has breached the *Regulations Relating to the Game* or any of Scottish Rugby's Bye-Laws, Policies, Rules or Regulations.
- 4.16 Subject to the foregoing, a Player's registration status on any particular date shall be determined by the listing of active registered Players on that date.

Specific Offences

- 4.17 It shall be a specific offence:
- 4.17.1 to register or attempt to register a Player without his consent;
 - 4.17.2 to play a Player in a Match who is not eligible to participate due to the age banding rules or otherwise;
 - 4.17.3 for a Player to participate in a Match for a Team to which he is not registered or not otherwise eligible to participate for; or
 - 4.17.4 to mislead the Championship Committee, Competitions Committee or Scottish Rugby in any matter relating to registration or eligibility.
- 4.18 In the event of an ineligible Player participating in a Match, the Competitions Committee shall have the right to impose a penalty on the Player's Team or, as appropriate, on the Team for which he participated. The Player shall also be liable to such additional penalty or suspension as the committee considers appropriate.

5 THE TEAMS

Composite Teams

- 5.1 Entry to Schools and Youth National Competitions may be accepted from two or more clubs or two or more schools which have combined to form either a composite school or a composite club Team provided that the Competitions Committee is satisfied that:
- 5.1.1 the composite Team has been created solely for participation purposes and not to gain a competitive advantage; and
 - 5.1.2 the clubs / schools involved can demonstrate the need for a composite Team based on their number of registered Players.

Team Colours

- 5.2 The Host Team shall be responsible for ensuring that there will be no clash of Team colours (jersey and/or socks). The Match referee shall be the sole judge as to whether colours clash. Where necessary it shall be the responsibility of the Host Team to change.
- 5.3 Teams proposing to play other than in their normal colours must advise the opposition and the Match referee not less than 72 hours before kick-off.

Team Sheets

- 5.4 For all Schools and Youth National Competition Matches:
- 5.4.1 Teams must deliver a fully completed team sheet to the referee and to the opposition manager/coach not later than 30 minutes before kick-off. Changes to the team sheet may be made up to kick-off.

- 5.4.2 The team sheet must specify the jersey number, full name, date of birth and registration number of each Player. Players capable of playing at prop or hooker must be highlighted as such.
- 5.4.3 A copy of the team sheet shall be submitted to the Conference Administrator within 48 hours of the Kick-off.
- 5.5 Team sheets shall be submitted in respect of other age groups where required by the competition Regulations or where requested by the Competition Administrator.

Number of Starting Players

- 5.6 A Team may start a Match with less than 15 Players (or less than 13 in U13 Matches) but not less than 12 Players (not less than 10 Players in U13), subject to it fielding at least five Players in the scrum at all times. In the event that a Team starts with less than 15 Players (U13 13 Players) both Teams must start with an equal number of Players ("**Player Matching**"). Player Matching must be maintained throughout the Match other than where a Player has been permanently or temporarily dismissed from the field. In the event that the number of Players in either Team be reduced to fewer than 12 (U13 10) in a Scoring Match (for whatever reason), the Match shall proceed as a Development Match.
- 5.7 In U18/1st XV and U16 'A' Matches if either Team does not have a suitably experienced front row the referee shall order uncontested scrums and the Match shall proceed as a Development Match.
- 5.8 In U18 2nd XV, U16 'B', U15, U14 and U13 Matches a Match may start with uncontested scrums, subject to there being at least five Players in the scrum at all times. A Team requiring to start a Match with uncontested scrums must advise the opposition and the referee as soon as possible and, other than in exceptional circumstances, no later than 30 minutes before kick-off.
- 5.9 In Development Matches a Team may start the Match with as few as ten Players and Player Matching shall apply. The Laws applicable to the number of Players available (XVs or Tens) shall apply. Matches may start with uncontested scrums.

Replacements / Substitutes

- 5.10 Subject to 5.11 below, the maximum number of replacements shall be:
- 5.10.1 *Scoring Matches and Cup Matches*: Seven (unless stated otherwise in the Regulations);
- 5.10.2 *Participation Matches*: Five.
- 5.11 Where in consequence of Player Matching (see 5.6 above), a Team is required to reduce the number of its starting Players to meet that of its opponent, the Players not able to start the Match may be used as additional replacements.
- 5.12 The requirements of Law 3.8 in respect of the number of front row Players within any Match squad must be observed in U18/1st XV, U16 'A', U15 'A' (Boys) and U14 'A' Matches. Unless stated within the competition Regulations there is no requirement for there to be parity as to the number of replacements available to each Team.
- 5.13 The maximum number of rolling substitutions a Team may use in any Match shall be 12.

Late Arrival

- 5.14 Where some or all of its Players have been unavoidably delayed, a Team may request the referee to delay the kick-off to enable it to achieve a full side. No Match may be delayed such that the Match would not be completed in good time. The referee shall be the sole judge in this regard.

6 THE GROUND

The Pitch

- 6.1 The Host Team shall provide a suitable pitch complying with Law 1. The dimensions of the pitch shall be as near as is practicable to the maximum permitted size. Technical areas should be marked out for both Teams.
- 6.2 Padding around the goalposts, conforming to Law 1.7, must be provided.

- 6.3 If the Host Team fails to meet the requirements of Rule 6.1 or 6.2 the referee may order that the Match be postponed.

Fitness of Ground or Conditions for Play

- 6.4 If, prior to the day of the Match, there is doubt as to the potential fitness of the ground the following arrangements must be made:
- 6.4.1 Advance warning, being at least 24 hours where reasonably practicable, must be provided to the visiting Team and the referee. The visiting Team and referee must be advised as to any potential contingency arrangements.
 - 6.4.2 The visiting Team shall provide details of a point of contact in relation to the potential postponement and shall also advise as to their intended time of departure.
 - 6.4.3 The Host Team shall arrange for an assessment of the pitch. Where practical this should be undertaken by an independent person (such as a local referee, referee coach/assessor or Scottish Rugby official).
 - 6.4.4 The assessment shall be undertaken not less than 30 minutes prior to the visiting Team's intended departure time. The result of the inspection shall be communicated to the visiting Team and the referee.
- 6.5 Where prior to kick-off there is doubt as to the fitness of the ground or the conditions for play, the referee and the respective Head Coaches shall inspect the pitch. If any one of these three persons deems the pitch or conditions to be unplayable then the Match shall be postponed. This decision shall lie solely with the Head Coaches and the referee.
- 6.6 Within 48 hours of the decision not to play a Match the home Team shall advise the Competition Secretary as to the reason why that Match was not fulfilled. The Competition Secretary may seek further information in order to decide whether a Complaint should be raised against either or both Teams.
- 6.7 Where a Team does not own or have rights over its ground, and the ground is declared unplayable by the holder of said rights, written evidence of such decision must be obtained and be made available to the Competition Secretary on request.

7 THE MATCH

Match Ball

- 7.1 The Host Team shall provide at least three appropriately sized match balls compliant with the Laws.

Match Officials

- 7.2 The Host Team shall be responsible for organising an accredited referee (other than where a Match Referee has been appointed by Scottish Rugby or by the local Referee Society).
- 7.3 Each Team shall supply one suitably trained touch judge. It is expected that each touch judge shall be an adult in respect of U18/1st XV Matches.

Match Duration

- 7.4 The duration of each Match shall be in accordance with Scottish Rugby's *AYRTPR Age Grade Law Variations*. For the avoidance of doubt, in the event of disagreement over the duration of U13 or U14 Matches the default position shall be two halves of 20 and 25 minutes respectively.

Half-Time Interval

- 7.5 The half-time interval shall normally be five minutes. The length of the interval may be altered by agreement between the Teams provided that this is notified to the referee prior to kick-off, but shall not be more than 15 minutes.
- 7.6 The Teams may retire to covered accommodation at half-time.

Competition Points

- 7.7 In league based Conference competitions, Competition Points shall be awarded as follows:
- 7.7.1 *Scoring Matches:* In U18 1XV, U16 'A', U15 'A', U15 (Girls) and U14 'A' Scoring Matches:
- 7.7.1.1 3 points for a win;
- 7.7.1.2 2 points for a draw;
- 7.7.1.3 1 point for a loss;
- 7.7.1.4 0 points for forfeiting a Match due to being unable to field a Team (with the other Team receiving 3 points).
- 7.7.2 *Participation Matches:* In U18 2XV, U16 'B', U15 'B', U14 'B' and U13 Participation Matches:
- 7.7.2.1 2 points for Participating with a Team with the minimum required number of players;
- 7.7.2.2 0 points for forfeiting a Match due to being unable to field a Team (with the other Team receiving 2 points).
- 7.7.3 *Development Matches:* The following Competition Points shall be awarded for participation in a Development Match:
- 7.7.3.1 The Team lending Players to the opposition shall be awarded 3 points if the original Match should have been a Scoring Match or 2 points if a Participation Match;
- 7.7.3.2 The Team borrowing Players shall be awarded 1 point.
- 7.7.4 *Cancelled Matches :* Where a Match is cancelled because the ground is unplayable, or is abandoned before 75% of normal playing time has expired, each Team shall receive:
- 7.7.4.1 Scoring Match - 2 points;
- 7.7.4.2 Participation Match – 1 point.
- 7.8 Additional criteria may be applied within the individual competition Regulations.

Cup Matches : Uncontested Scrums

- 7.9 If the referee is required to declare uncontested scrums due to a shortage of suitably qualified front-row Players the result shall stand providing that the Match started with contested scrums.

Maximum Score

- 7.10 If during an U18, U16 or U15 Match a Team attains a 50 point lead the Match will be deemed to have been completed and the referee shall blow for time.
- 7.11 If during a U14 or U13 Match a Team attains a 30 point lead the Match will be deemed to have been completed and the referee shall blow for time.
- 7.12 Teams are encouraged to play a friendly match for the remainder of the playing time.

Notification of Results

- 7.13 The home Team shall be responsible for notifying the Match result to the Competition Secretary in accordance with the procedures set out by Scottish Rugby.

8 METHOD FOR DECIDING ON LEAGUE PLACINGS AND IN TIED KNOCK-OUT MATCHES

Conference Tables

- 8.1 League tables shall be produced in respect of each Conference. Teams shall be awarded a placing in the table based on the number of Competition Points received. The aggregate match points and tries scored (for and against) shall not be disclosed in the Conference table.

Tied League Placings

- 8.2 *Conference Tables:* The aggregate of all Competition Points awarded to each club/school, across all Conference Matches, shall be used to rank the participating Teams. In the event of two or more Teams

being equal on Competition Points placings shall be determined in accordance with the following criteria (in the order given):

- 8.2.1 Competition Points awarded in the Matches between those Teams;
- 8.2.2 the Team receiving fewer Red Cards in the Conference; and
- 8.2.3 If none of the above is able to separate the Teams the placing shall be shared.

8.3 *Single Age Group Tables*: In the event of two or more Teams being equal on Competition Points placings shall be determined in accordance with the following criteria (in the order given):

- 8.3.1 the points difference in the Match(es) between the Teams;
- 8.3.2 the Team receiving the fewer Red Cards in all Matches contributing to that table;
- 8.3.3 the Team placed the higher in the all age grade Conference table shall be placed higher; and
- 8.3.4 If none of the above is able to separate the Teams the position shall be shared (unless progression to the Youth Cup is at stake, where a coin shall be tossed to determine positions).

Play-Off and Knock-Out Matches

8.4 If the scores at full-time are equal in any play-off or knock-out Match:

- 8.4.1 *Competition Finals*: The trophy shall be shared.
- 8.4.2 *Earlier Rounds*: The following criteria (in the order given) shall be used to decide the winner:
 - 8.4.2.1 the team scoring more tries;
 - 8.4.2.2 the team scoring more conversions;
 - 8.4.2.3 the team scoring more drop goals;
 - 8.4.2.4 the team receiving fewer red cards;
 - 8.4.2.5 the team receiving fewer yellow cards;
 - 8.4.2.6 in the event that none of the above is able to separate the Teams, the away Team shall be declared the winner or, where the Match is played at a neutral venue, a coin shall be tossed.

8.5 No Extra Time shall be played at any stage of the competition.

9 TEAMS DISQUALIFIED, SUSPENDED OR WITHDRAWING

9.1 If a Team is disqualified, suspended or voluntarily withdraws from a Conference after the start of the season, the results of all Matches played by that Team shall be deleted and the positions in the division shall be established from the Matches played between the remaining Teams.

10 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

- 10.1 The composition of each league Conference shall be determined each season by Scottish Rugby. There shall be no automatic promotion or relegation between Conferences.
- 10.2 The final placings in each Conference and the composition of each Conference for the succeeding season shall be in accordance with the lists issued by the Competition Secretary.

11 COMPLAINTS

- 11.1 A complaint into an alleged breach of the Rules or Regulations (a “**Complaint**”) may be raised by:
 - 11.1.1 the Championship Secretary (in relation to any Schools and Youth National Competition);
 - 11.1.2 the Competition Secretary (but only in relation to matters affecting Schools and Youth National Competitions); or
 - 11.1.3 a Team (but only in relation to a matter which affects it directly and which causes it to suffer

significant disadvantage in a Schools and Youth National Competition, or some other form of material prejudice).

11.2 All Complaints must:

11.2.1 state (a) the nature of the Complaint, including the Rule/Regulation alleged to have been breached and (b) the nature and the extent of the disadvantage/prejudice allegedly suffered; and

11.2.2 be signed on behalf of the complainant (in the case of a club this shall be by either the club President or Secretary).

11.3 Complaints submitted on behalf of participating Teams must be submitted to the Competitions Committee within 14 days of the alleged infringement occurring (for the avoidance of doubt the 14 day period shall run from the actual event, not from the date of the complainant becoming aware of it).

11.4 The subject of the Complaint shall be sent a copy of it as soon as practical following receipt.

Complaint Process

11.5 Complaints shall be heard by the Competitions Committee, or a sub-committee thereof comprising not less than three members (the “**Complaint Committee**”). Where the Complaint is heard by a sub-committee, the committee shall elect one of its members as Chair. Any member with an actual or potential conflict of interest shall be required to excuse themselves.

11.6 The Complaint Committee may:

11.6.1 regulate its own procedure and determine any matter arising in relation to the Complaint. Meetings of the committee may take place either in whole or in part in one place, by letter, telephone, e-mail, video-conference, webcast or by any combination of convenient means. Complaints shall normally be heard based on the papers but may be by way of hearing where the committee or one of the parties so requests;

11.6.2 determine the timescale for the proceedings. For the avoidance of doubt the committee shall be entitled to expedite the process where it considers that this is required for the benefit of the competition. The committee may also set aside the requirement for Complaints to be brought within 14 days where it believes that it is in the best interests of the game to do so;

11.6.3 call upon, receive and consider such evidence as it thinks appropriate; and

11.6.4 request the attendance at any hearing into a Complaint of any club, school, Team or person under the jurisdiction of Scottish Rugby. Where a club, Team or person requested to attend refuses or fails to do so the committee may adjourn the hearing, proceed in their absence or refuse to allow their evidence to be given in any other form. Any club, school, Team or person refusing to attend without reasonable cause, failing to co-operate with the Complaint Committee or seeking to mislead at any point in the Complaint process may be subject to Misconduct proceedings under Scottish Rugby’s *Disciplinary Rules*.

11.7 The subject of the Complaint shall have the right:

11.7.1 to be represented at any hearing by up to two people, in the case of a club one of whom must be a club member. The name and capacity of those attending shall be advised to the Complaint Committee in advance of the hearing;

11.7.2 to submit evidence, call witnesses and make representations at any hearing; and

11.7.3 to be notified in writing of the outcome of the hearing as soon as is reasonably practicable.

11.8 The onus of proof shall be on the complainant to establish the breach of the Rule or Regulation alleged. The standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities.

11.9 A written statement giving reasons for the decision of the Complaint Committee shall be provided if so requested by the parties and upon the lodging of a note of appeal.

Sanctions

11.10 Where a Complaint has been upheld, the Complaint Committee shall be entitled in its absolute discretion to impose any or all of the following sanctions or penalties (including on a suspended basis):

11.10.1 a caution, a warning as to future conduct or a reprimand;

11.10.2 a fine or award of costs;

11.10.3 require any Match complained of to be replayed on such terms as are deemed appropriate;

11.10.4 the deduction of up to three Competition Points in respect of each offence;

11.10.5 forfeiture of and/or the granting to another Team of the Competition Points for a Match or the awarding of the result in the Match complained of;

11.10.6 the suspension or expulsion of a club, Team, Player or person from participation in any Schools or Youth National Competition for such period as may be deemed appropriate; or

11.10.7 such other penalty or sanction as may be deemed appropriate.

Acts of Misconduct

11.11 For the avoidance of doubt the Competitions or Complaints Committee shall be entitled to refer any act of potential Misconduct (as defined in the Disciplinary Rules) to the Discipline Committee for further consideration.

12 APPEAL PROCEDURE

The Appeals Committee

12.1 The Board shall establish an independent *National Competition Appeals Panel* (the "**Appeals Panel**") to hear and determine appeals against decisions of the Championship Committee and Competitions Committee, including decisions delegated to the Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other bodies or individuals appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions.

12.2 The Board shall appoint the members of the Appeals Panel and, from those members, a Chairman of the Appeals Panel. The members of the Appeals Panel shall comprise legally-qualified persons together with current and former administrators/players and such others as are considered by the Board to have skills and experience relevant to the work of the Appeals Panel.

12.3 The Chairman of the Appeals Panel shall from time to time select not less than three members of the Appeals Panel to sit as an Appeals Committee and shall select one of those members (who shall ordinarily be legally qualified solicitor or advocate of at least five years' standing) to act as Chairman of the Appeals Committee. The Scottish Rugby Regulatory Department shall provide administrative support to the Appeals Committee.

12.4 All decisions of the Appeals Committee shall be made by majority. No member of the Appeals Committee may abstain. The Chairman of the Appeals Committee shall have both a deliberative and, where Appeals Committee consists of an even number of members, a casting vote.

Grounds for Appeal

12.5 The grounds for appeal shall be limited to the following:

12.5.1 the original decision was unduly harsh or oppressive;

12.5.2 the body or person making the decision misdirected itself in relation to the Laws of the Game and/or the relevant competition Rules and Regulations;

12.5.3 the body or person making the decision, in the exercise of its discretion, took account of factors it should not have or failed to take account of factors it should have;

12.5.4 there has been a breach of natural justice; or

12.5.5 no other reasonable body or person appointed to that role would have reached that decision.

12.6 For the avoidance of doubt:

12.6.1 no club, school, Team or person may appeal in respect of any sanction imposed on, or other decision made concerning, another club, school, Team or person; and

- 12.6.2 no Appeal may be brought against an operational decision made in the running of a Schools and Youth National Competition, notwithstanding that the effect of such decision could impact financially or otherwise on the club, school, body or individual.

Timing and Form of Appeal

- 12.7 Notes of appeal must be in writing, be signed by the appellant and must be lodged with the Appeals Committee Secretary within seven days of the decision appealed against being made. The note of appeal must contain the following:
- 12.7.1 the name of the party making the appeal and the office held /capacity of the person signing it;
 - 12.7.2 the decision appealed against, including details of the party which made the original decision, the date of the decision and any sanction imposed;
 - 12.7.3 the full grounds of appeal; and
 - 12.7.4 any documentation upon which the appellant intends to rely in relation to the appeal.
- 12.8 Other than on cause shown and with the approval of the Appeals Committee, it shall not be permissible to introduce evidence which was available, or could reasonably have been available, at the time the decision appealed against was made but which was not brought to the attention of the original Complaint Committee.

Appeal Process

- 12.9 The Appeals Committee shall, subject to the requirements of natural justice, have the power to:
- 12.9.1 Regulate its own procedure and determine any matter arising in relation to the Appeal. Meetings of the Appeals Committee may take place either in whole or in part in one place, by letter, telephone, e-mail, video-conference, webcast or by a combination of convenient means;
 - 12.9.2 Determine the timescale for the appeal. The timescale shall be advised to the appellant, who may request a postponement of any hearing on cause shown. For the avoidance of doubt the Appeals Committee shall be entitled to expedite the process where it considers that this is required for the benefit of the competition or in the best interests of the game to do so;
 - 12.9.3 Call upon, receive and consider such evidence as it thinks appropriate; and
 - 12.9.4 Request the attendance at any hearing of any club, school, Team or person under the jurisdiction of Scottish Rugby. Where a club, school, Team or person requested to attend refuses or fails to do so the Appeals Committee may adjourn the hearing, proceed in their absence or refuse to allow their evidence to be given in any other form. Any club, school, Team or person refusing to attend without reasonable cause, failing to co-operate with the committee or seeking to mislead at any point in the Complaint process, may be subject to Misconduct proceedings under Scottish Rugby's *Disciplinary Rules*.
- 12.10 The appellant shall have the right to be represented at any hearing by up to two people, in the case of a club one of whom must be a club member. The name and capacity of those attending shall be advised to the Appeals Committee in advance of the meeting.
- 12.11 Scottish Rugby's Discipline Manager or his nominee may represent the original decision making body or person at any Appeal Hearing.
- 12.12 Where evidence is given before the Appeals Committee, there shall be no cross-examination of witnesses except through the Chairman and to the extent that the Appeals Committee in its discretion permits. The deliberations of the Appeals Committee shall be in private.
- 12.13 No appeal shall be decided upon grounds not contained within the note of appeal lodged by the appellants. The Appeals Committee may, on cause shown, allow further grounds of appeal to be stated providing that the party who made the original decision or its representative is given an opportunity, within a reasonable time, to answer the same.

Appeal Decision

- 12.14 Having heard such evidence it deems appropriate and any submission made by or on behalf of the appellant, the Appeals Committee may decide to:
- 12.14.1 affirm the original decision; or
 - 12.14.2 uphold the appeal by setting aside the decision appealed against and quashing any sanction imposed under it; or
 - 12.14.3 uphold the appeal in part by setting aside part only of the decision appealed against and/or modifying any sanction imposed; or
 - 12.14.4 refuse the appeal and increase the sanction imposed on the appellant or substitute an alternative sanction; or
 - 12.14.5 take any step which in the exercise of its discretion the Appeals Committee considers it would be appropriate to take in order to deal justly with the appeal.
- 12.15 The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be advised to the appellant as soon as reasonably practicable after the conclusion of the hearing. Where it considers it appropriate, the Appeals Committee may deliver an oral decision at the conclusion of the hearing. A written statement giving reasons for a decision of the Appeals Committee shall be provided in due course if so requested by the appellant. Scottish Rugby reserves the right to make public the outcome of any appeal and the identity of any club, school, Team or individuals concerned.
- 12.16 The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be notified to all parties in writing and shall be final and binding on all concerned.

Acts of Misconduct

- 12.17 For the avoidance of doubt the Appeals Committee shall be entitled to refer any act of potential Misconduct under Scottish Rugby's Disciplinary Rules to the Discipline Committee for further consideration.

13 NOTICES

- 13.1 Any notice served pursuant to the Rules and Regulations shall be in writing and shall be delivered by email or first-class post. All notices shall be deemed, until the contrary is proved, to have been received on the date of sending if sent by email or within 48 hours if sent by first-class post.

14 OMISSIONS, INTERPRETATION AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 14.1 The Competitions Committee may, on cause shown, relieve a club, school, Team or person from the consequences of a failure to comply with the Rules and Regulations which is shown to be a mistake, oversight or other excusable cause on such conditions as the Committee so determines.
- 14.2 With the prior approval of the Board, the Championship Committee or Competition Committee shall have the discretion to:
- 14.2.1 decide on matters not provided for in the Rules and Regulations and to take appropriate action thereon;
 - 14.2.2 interpret the meaning of the Rules and Regulations in accordance with the underlying principles and intent (insofar as it can be ascertained) of the relevant Rule / Regulation and the interests of the game;
 - 14.2.3 determine any inconsistency between the Rules and Regulations and to rectify any administrative error.
- 14.3 The Championship Committee or Competitions Committee's decision(s) in respect of those matters referred to in Rule 14.2 shall be final and binding save for any right to appeal as may be allowed under these Rules.

APPENDIX 1 : SCHOOLS AND YOUTH NATIONAL COMPETITION REGULATIONS

The competitions listed in Appendix 2 shall be governed by the *Schools and Youth National Competition Rules* (the “Rules”). Matches within these competitions shall be played in accordance with the Rules other than where a specific *Schools and Youth National Competition Regulation* provides to the contrary.

The Schools and Youth National Competition Regulations applicable for season 2019/20 shall be as follows:

1. SCHOOLS CONFERENCE REGULATIONS

1 ENTRANCE CRITERIA

- 1.1 Schools seeking entry to the boys’ Schools Conference must apply in writing to the Competition Secretary. Admission shall be subject to such conditions as the Board may require. Successful applicants may be placed in an appropriate Conference at the Competitions Committee’s sole discretion.
- 1.2 A school’s continued participation shall be considered annually by the Competitions Committee.
- 1.3 Where it believes it to be in the best interests of the game the Board may approve the admission of a Tier 3 club or composite Team to a Schools Conference.

2 STRUCTURE OF COMPETITIONS

- 2.1 Within each Conference schools shall compete against each other on a school versus school basis across five age groups (U18, U16, U15, U14 and U13). The Competitions Committee may determine that additional cross-Conference fixtures may form part of the competition structure where appropriate.
- 2.2 The number of Teams participating for each school at each age group shall be:
 - 2.2.1 *Tier 1*: a 1st XV / ‘A’ Team and a 2nd XV / ‘B’ Team;
 - 2.2.2 *Tier 2*: a 1st XV / ‘A’ and a 2nd XV / ‘B’ Team where numbers so permit. Tier 2 schools shall be required to declare the number of Teams they intend to field at each age group and a Participation Match fixture schedule shall be issued by the Competition Secretary; and
 - 2.2.3 *Tier 3*: a 1st XV / ‘A’ Team only.

3 FIXTURES

- 3.1 All fixtures shall be scheduled to take place during the Autumn Term (August – December).
- 3.2 Due to the school versus school nature of the competition it is understood that Matches will be played at both schools on any given Match day. The Match venue and kick-off time in respect of each individual Match shall be agreed between the schools. Matches shall normally take place on Saturday morning but schools are expected to be flexible in respect of Saturday afternoon kick-offs.
- 3.3 Where the schools cannot agree on the venue/kick-off time the following default arrangement shall apply:
 - 3.3.1 The home school shall host the 1st XV / 2nd XV, U14 (‘A’ and ‘B’) and U13 (‘A’ and ‘B’) Matches;
 - 3.3.2 The away school shall host the U16 (‘A’ and ‘B’) and U15 (‘A’ and ‘B’) Matches; and
 - 3.3.3 Matches shall kick-off before noon at the discretion of the host school.
- 3.4 In order to facilitate the appointment of referees the Home Team must notify the Competition Administrator of the venue/kick-off time for 1st XV Matches prior to the end of the preceding Summer Term (timeously updating the Competition Administrator if subsequently required).

4 THE GROUND

Fitness of Ground

- 4.1 Schools shall be obliged to prioritise the fulfilment of 1st XV and then ‘A’ Team fixtures when faced with unplayable pitches.

5 TEAM SELECTION

- 5.1 Respecting the spirit of the competition, if a 1st XV or 'A' Team fixture is cancelled, schools are expected to select for the 2nd or 'B' XV only Players who normally play at that level.

6 COMPETITION POINTS AND CONFERENCE TABLES

Competition Points : Additional Criteria

- 6.1 In Tier 1/2 Conferences U13 Matches shall be played as Scoring Matches and Competition Points shall be awarded accordingly. If a Match is not fulfilled because a school does not have a U13 year group each Team shall receive 2 points for a Scoring Match and 1 point for a Participation Match.
- 6.2 If a school concedes a Competition Match but fields a 'B' Team in a Participation Match in the same age group then it shall receive only 1 point for playing in this Match.

Additional Conference Tables

- 6.3 Within each Conference a Competition Points table shall also be generated for 1st XV rugby.
- 6.4 The schools within each Conference shall determine (by secret ballot where necessary) as to whether tables should also be produced for the U16 and U15 age groups.

2. CLUB YOUTH CONFERENCE REGULATIONS

1 ENTRANCE CRITERIA

- 1.1 Clubs seeking admission to the boys' Club Youth Conferences must apply in writing to the Competition Secretary. Admission shall be subject to such conditions as the Board may require. Successful applicants may be placed in an appropriate Conference at the Competitions Committee's sole discretion.
- 1.2 A club's continued participation shall be considered annually by the Competitions Committee.
- 1.3 Where it believes it to be in the best interests of the game the Board may approve the admission of a Tier 3 school to a Youth Conference.

2 STRUCTURE OF COMPETITIONS

- 2.1 The Conference structure shall include one national conference and a number of regional conferences (which may or may not align to Scottish Rugby's traditional Areas/Regions).
- 2.2 Within each Conference clubs shall compete against each other on a club versus club basis across five age groups (U18, U16, U15, U14 and U13).
- 2.3 Conference fixtures shall normally be for 'A' Teams at each age group. Where playing numbers permit clubs are encouraged to arrange friendly 'B' XV fixtures to align with any Conference fixtures.

3 FIXTURES

- 3.1 All fixtures shall be scheduled to take place during the Autumn phase of the season (August – December).
- 3.2 Due to the club versus club nature of the competition it is understood that Matches may require to be played at both clubs on any given Match weekend. The Match venue, date and kick-off time in respect of each individual Match shall be agreed between the clubs.
- 3.3 Where the clubs cannot agree on the venue/kick-off time the following default arrangements shall apply:
- 3.3.1 U18 Matches shall be played on Saturday. All other age group Matches shall be played on Sunday;
- 3.3.2 the home club shall host the U18, U16 and U15 Matches;
- 3.3.3 the away club shall host the U14 and U13 Matches;
- 3.3.4 all Matches shall kick-off at 2pm.
- 3.4 For the avoidance of doubt the Host Team must confirm the venue and kick-off time during the week

preceding the Match. This must be done at least 72 hours before kick-off.

4 THE GROUND

Fitness of Ground

- 4.1 Clubs shall be obliged to prioritise the fulfilment of 1st XV, then U16 and then other 'A' Team fixtures when faced with unplayable pitches.

5 TEAM SELECTION

- 5.1 In the spirit of the competition, if a 1st XV or 'A' Team fixture is cancelled clubs are expected to select for the 2nd or 'B' XV only Players who normally play at that level.

6 COMPETITION POINTS AND CONFERENCE TABLES

Additional Conference Tables

- 6.1 Within each Conference a Competition Points table shall also be generated for U18 rugby.
- 6.2 The Teams within each Conference shall determine (by secret ballot where necessary) as to whether tables should also be produced for the U16 and U15 age groups.

3. BORDERS TOWN CONFERENCE REGULATIONS

1 STRUCTURE OF COMPETITIONS

- 1.1 Scottish Borders towns/communities shall compete against each other once on a town versus town basis across five boys age groups:
- Scottish Borders Semi Junior League ("SBSJL"), being an U18 club competition;
 - Borders U16 League, being a club competition; and
 - U15, U14 and U13 schools fixtures.

2 FIXTURES

- 2.1 Fixtures shall be scheduled on behalf of the Competitions Committee by the Scottish Borders schools and youth competitions sub-committee. Where possible fixtures shall take place across all age groups during the same weekend.
- 2.2 The Match venue and kick-off time in respect of each individual SBSJL and Border U16 Match shall be determined in accordance with the respective rules of these competitions. The venue and kick-off time for U15, U14 and U13 Matches shall be agreed between the respective schools.
- 2.3 For the avoidance of doubt the home Team must confirm the Match arrangements with their opponent during the week preceding the Match. This must be done at least 72 hours before kick-off.

3 CONFERENCE TABLES

Additional Conference Tables

- 3.1 A Competition Points table shall also be generated in respect of the SBSJL and Borders U16 League.
- 3.2 The Teams within the Conference shall determine (by secret ballot where necessary) as to whether tables should also be produced in respect of other age groups.

4. SCHOOLS CUP REGULATIONS

1 COMPOSITION OF COMPETITIONS

- 1.1 Competitions shall be held for boys at both U18 and U16 age groups. Each age group shall have Cup, Shield, Bowl and Plate competitions.

2 ENTRANCE CRITERIA

- 2.1 Tier 1 – 3 school Teams shall be automatically accepted at each age group.
- 2.2 Tier 4 schools may apply to enter each age group. Admission shall be subject to such conditions as Scottish Rugby may require.
- 2.3 Each school may enter only one Team at each age group.

3 DATE AND FORMAT OF CUP COMPETITIONS

Entry and Fixture Dates

- 3.1 The deadline for entries and the date of each round of fixtures shall be as published by the Competitions Secretary.
- 3.2 Each fixture must be played on or before the set date for that round.
- 3.3 The home Team must offer the opposition three dates. Should the Teams be unable to agree a mutually acceptable date the home Team must refer the matter to the Competition Administrator. Where necessary the Competition Administrator shall request the Competitions Committee to fix the date and kick-off time, which ruling shall be final and binding on all parties.

Format of Competitions

- 3.4 The competitions shall be played in a format published by the Competition Secretary before the start of the competition.
- 3.5 Where appropriate, Teams shall be seeded based on their performances in the previous season's Conference competitions.

4 VENUES

- 4.1 Unless otherwise advised by the Competition Secretary, each Match, with the exception of the finals, shall be played at the home venue of the Team drawn first.
- 4.2 The finals of each competition shall be played at a neutral venue determined by Scottish Rugby.

5 PLAYERS

- 5.1 A Player may not participate in both U18 and U16 age group Cup competitions in the same season.

6 THE MATCH

Match Officials

- 6.1 Scottish Rugby shall appoint match officials for the Cup semi-finals and the finals of the Cup, Shield, Bowl and Plate. For all other Matches the home Team must appoint a suitably qualified referee and each team shall supply a suitably trained, adult touch judge.
- 6.2 The home Team shall confirm the Match arrangements with the referee no later than 72 hours before kick-off.

5. YOUTH CUP REGULATIONS

1 COMPOSITION OF COMPETITIONS

- 1.1 Cup competitions shall be held at both U18 and U16 age groups.

2 ENTRANCE CRITERIA

- 2.1 Participation in the Youth Cups shall be based on qualification from the Club Youth and Borders Town Conferences, with the following number of Teams qualifying from each Conference:

2.1.1 *Shogun* : Top three;

- 2.1.2 *Warrior* : Top three;
- 2.1.3 *Lancer (Grampian)* : Top two;
- 2.1.4 *Lancer (North/Midlands)* : Top one;
- 2.1.5 *Galant "A"*: Top two; and
- 2.1.6 *Galant "B"*: Top one.

3 DATE AND FORMAT OF CUP COMPETITIONS

Fixture Dates

- 3.1 The date of each round of fixtures shall be as published each season by the Competitions Secretary. The default kick-off time shall be at 2pm on that date.

Format of Competitions

- 3.2 The competitions shall be played on a knock-out basis:
 - 3.2.1 In Round 1 the first placed qualifier from each of the Shogun, Warrior, Lancer (Grampian) and Galant "A" Conferences shall be seeded and shall receive a bye to the quarter-finals. Teams from the same Conference shall be drawn apart.
 - 3.2.2 In the quarter-finals the winners from Round 1 shall be drawn against one of the Teams receiving a bye from Round 1.
 - 3.2.3 The semi-finals shall be as follows:
 - Winner of quarter-final 1 v Winner of quarter-final 2
 - Winner of quarter-final 3 v Winner of quarter-final 4.
 - 3.2.4 The winning semi-finalists shall contest the final.

4 VENUES

- 4.1 Unless otherwise advised by the Competition Secretary each Match, except for the finals, shall normally be played at the home venue of the Team drawn first. Where requirements of the tournament necessitate the Competitions Committee may require any Match to be played at an alternative venue (including the BT Murrayfield artificial pitch), on an alternative day or at an alternative time.
- 4.2 The Cup finals shall be played at a neutral venue determined by Scottish Rugby.

5 THE PLAYERS

- 5.1 Players participating in the Youth Cup must have participated in at least three Youth Conference Matches that season for the club's U18 or U16 Team.
- 5.2 The Competitions Committee may set Regulation 5.1 aside where a Player has offered a valid reason to be granted dispensation. The Competitions Committee shall be the sole judge as to what constitutes a valid reason.

6 THE MATCH

Match Officials

- 6.1 Scottish Rugby shall appoint match officials for the quarter-finals, semi-finals and the finals. For all other Matches the home Team must appoint a suitably qualified referee and each team shall supply a suitably trained, adult touch judge.
- 6.2 The home Team shall confirm the Match arrangements with the referee no later than 72 hours before kick-off.

APPENDIX 2 : DESIGNATED COMPETITIONS AND KEY DATES

1 Designated Competitions

The *Schools and Youth National Competition Rules* shall apply in respect of the following Schools and Youth National Competitions and such other competitions as may be designated by the Board from time to time:

Boys

Schools Conferences

Club Youth Conferences

Borders Town Conference

School Cups (including Cup, Shield, Bowl and Plate competitions)

Youth Cup

Girls

Club Conference

Club Cup (including Cup and Shield competitions)

2 Dates for 2019 and 2020

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Close Time begins | 20 May 2019 |
| Close Time ends | 2 August 2019 |
| Close Time begins | 18 May 2020 |
| Close Time ends | 1 August 2020 |