

National Competition Rules 2020-21 (Draft 1)

*Note : Please note that this, Draft 1, consists of **technical changes only**. It does not include any changes arising from the recent “Male Adult Season and Competitions Consultation”. Should any proposals arise from this consultation they will be included in a subsequent Draft. The proposals in Draft 1 are as follows:*

Ref.	Change Proposed in the Draft	Explanation
	<p>NATIONAL COMPETITION RULES (NCRs)</p> <p>Definitions</p> <p>The definition of “Board” has been broadened to include sub-committees of the Board.</p> <p>Definitions of “Emergency Loan Player” and “Playing Enclosure” have been included.</p> <p>The phrase “Scottish Rugby” has been added where appropriate.</p> <p>NCR 3 : Fixtures</p> <p>3.6 Rights in respect of “fixtures” have been broadened to include “fixtures, fixture lists and result lists”.</p> <p>NCR 4 : The Players</p> <p>4.3 Currently U18 players seeking to “play up” must receive prior written dispensation to do so. Consideration is being given as to whether the approval process should be extended to U19s seeking to play in the Front Row.</p> <p>4.4.3 Additional clarification is provided re the new restrictions on a club’s ability to reward players for playing / Scottish Rugby’s player payment regulations.</p> <p>4.8 Greater clarity provided around registration of Incoming Players.</p>	<p>Where it considers it to be appropriate, the Board <u>may</u> choose to appoint a sub-committee of its membership to act on its behalf in relation to the NCRs.</p> <p>For clarification purposes only.</p> <p>For clarification purposes only.</p> <p>Consistency with other competitions.</p> <p>This is a player welfare / safety matter. This rule is already in place in the Super 6. Club responses on this proposal are sought.</p> <p>Scottish Rugby’s Player Payment rules are changing (see separate Consultation) – outwith the Premiership there will be a prohibition on player payments / benefits.</p> <p>The Rule should read that a player is not able to play until they are fully Cleared in – this should not stop them being registered, just from playing. Clarification only.</p>

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<p>4.15/ 4.19 The current drafting around Dual Registered players and their ability to play is thought to be confusing.</p> <p>4.23 Clarified that Academy Stage 3 players can also play in National Cup matches, but only in games featuring two Premiership sides.</p> <p>4.24 / 4.26 Super 6 Players : Club views sought.</p> <p>NCR 6 : The Ground</p> <p>6.1 / 6.4-6 The current NCR says that “<i>Technical areas must be marked out for both teams</i>”. It is proposed to add more detail to explain what is required in relation to Technical Zones. This will also be supplemented by a <i>Technical Zone Protocol</i> governing conduct in the Technical Zone.</p> <p>6.7 It is proposed to provide more detail around the provision of Sin Bins.</p> <p>NCR 7 : The Match</p> <p>8.5.2 The home Club’s obligations with respect to Match organisation have been clarified.</p>	<p>Comments are sought as to (i) whether the current intent of the Rule is appropriate and (ii) how the current drafting could be improved.</p> <p>This would be consistent with the ability of such players to participate in the Premiership itself.</p> <p>Last season – with the advent of Super 6 – Rules were introduced limiting the ability of Super 6 Squad Players to play in National Competitions. Feedback on the wording used last season, and content of Rules 4.24-26, is now sought.</p> <p>The current rule provides that Technical Areas are required, but is short on detail. Comments are sought on the proposed additional detail re Technical Zones.</p> <p>Not currently covered in Rules. Comments are sought on the proposed additional detail re Sin Bins.</p> <p>At present there is an unspoken assumption that the home side will make appropriate arrangements to host the Match. An outline of basic obligations / requirements has now been included. Comments are sought on the proposed additional detail.</p>
<p>PREMIERSHIP AND NATIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS</p> <p>Champions, Promotion and Relegation</p> <p>3. Promotion / relegation at the end of 2020/21 will require to reflect the outcomes of the Rugby Development Department’s recent “<i>Male Adult Season and Competitions Consultation</i>” (once duly approved).</p>	<p>Note : Details of any changes proposed will appear in later drafts.</p>
<p>REGIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS</p> <p>Composition of Regional Leagues</p>	

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<p>2 & 3 Should the Regulations be redrafted to enable 2nd XVs winning a Caledonia 2 League to be promoted to Caledonia 1 (but not from there to the National Leagues)?</p> <p>Promotion and Relegation</p> <p>3. See comments above re Premiership and National Leagues. This could have knock-on implications for the Regional Leagues.</p> <p>4. Number of Replacements Currently “Up to four” replacements are permitted in Regional Division 1. Should this be increased to seven?</p> <p>The Match : Law Variations</p> <p>5. As part of the “Male Adult Season and Competitions Consultation”, Scottish Rugby consulted about the possible introduction of “Game On” principles at certain levels. This would give teams a greater ability to adopt variations from the standard Laws (e.g. over contested scrumming, etc.)</p>	<p>Representations have been received that Caledonia 2 <u>may</u> not provide a sufficient level of competition for reserve teams of clubs playing National League rugby (and that the National Reserve Leagues do not provide an appropriate alternative for Caledonia clubs).</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your club support this proposal? • If not, where do you think that these teams / players should play? <p><i>Note: The proposal would not affect the promotion position from Caledonia 2 at the end of 2019/20 Season.</i></p> <p>Note : Details of any changes proposed will appear in later drafts.</p> <p>We have received representations for both up to 4 and up to 7 substitutes - Club views are sought.</p> <p>Note : Details of any changes proposed will appear in later drafts.</p>
<p>RESERVE LEAGUE REGULATIONS</p> <p>The “Game On” changes may also impact on the Reserve Leagues.</p> <p>Non-Fulfilment of Fixtures</p> <p>4.2 It is proposed to give the Reserve League Committee greater powers to deal with teams persistently calling off fixtures. The change is consistent with NCR 3.14.3.</p> <p>4.3 Clarification only.</p>	<p>Note : Details of any changes proposed will appear in later drafts.</p> <p>Consistency in powers of the Committees.</p>

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<p>WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP 2020</p> <p>Format of Competition Feedback has been sought direct from participating clubs re the format of competition, including re promotion / relegation.</p> <p>2.4 <i>Women's Premiership</i> : The format of Stage 2 has been changed to just a play-off between the first and second placed clubs.</p> <p>4.2 <i>Premiership Play-Off</i> : Reworded to reflect the fact that there will no longer be a 5th v 6th play-off in the Premiership.</p> <p>The Players The <i>Transfer Deadline</i> will now also apply in Women's National 1.</p> <p><i>Number of Starting Players</i> : Increased to a minimum of 12 in the Regional Leagues and 10 in the National Development Leagues.</p> <p>Law Variations The "<i>Game On</i>" changes may also impact the Women's Championship.</p>	<p>Further changes may arise as a result of this consultation.</p> <p>Simplification re the six team format.</p> <p>Consequential adjustment.</p> <p>Reflects increasing status of this division.</p> <p>Reflects improving maturity of these divisions.</p> <p>Note : Details of any changes proposed will appear in later drafts.</p>
<p>CUP, SHIELD and BOWL REGULATIONS</p> <p>The "<i>Game On</i>" changes may also impact on the Shield and Bowl.</p>	<p>Note : Details of any changes proposed will appear in later drafts.</p>
<p>WOMEN'S CUP 2020</p> <p>The Women's Cup Regulations 2020 were the subject of a separate consultation exercise earlier this year.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>

Note: All comments and proposals on the NCRs (*NCRS (Men & Women) 2020-21 – Draft 1*) should be submitted to Graham Ireland, Head of Regulation, Scottish Rugby (graham.ireland@sru.org.uk) by 22 March 2020.