



September 2010

DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Rules of the County Cup Competitions

COUNTY COMPETITIONS

The following Competitions are under the management of the Durham County Rugby Football Union. The Committee shall have the power to decide which Competition a team shall enter.

- (a) **County Challenge Cup** will be played for by 8 clubs, these to be nominated & agreed by the County Committee
- (b) **County Intermediate Challenge Cup** will be played for by 8, these to be nominated & agreed by the County Committee
- (c) **County Junior Challenge Cup** will be played for by 8 clubs, these to be nominated & agreed by the County Committee.
- (d) **County Challenge Plate** will be played for by the remaining clubs in the County,
- (e) **Second Teams Cup** will be played for by second teams whose first teams compete in (a), (b) or (c),
- (f) **Third Teams Cup** will be played for by:
 - (i) third teams whose first teams compete in (a), (b) or (c) and
 - (ii) second teams whose first team compete in (c) or (d) but who the sub-committee making the draw consider unsuitable to enter (e),
- (g) **Fourth Teams Shield** will be played for by the fourth teams whose first teams compete in (a), (b) or (c) and teams of similar status to be decided by the subcommittee making the cup draw,
- (h) **Age Group Challenge Competitions at 18 years of age and under**, which shall be administered by the Constituent Body Partnership Group.

No club shall enter more than one team in any Competition except in Competition (g). This will enable clubs with more than 4 teams to enter more than one team in the Fourth Teams Shield.

The ensuing rules apply to Competitions (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) above, and "Committee" throughout refers to the County Cups & Bye Laws Sub-Committee.

1. ENTRIES

The Secretary of Clubs desirous of entering any Competition **MUST** apply in writing to the County Honorary Secretary on the form provided and by the time specified. Failure to do so will result in teams not being allowed to compete in the competition.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

Every competing team shall number fifteen players together with replacements in accordance with the Laws of the Game, each of whom shall be a "**Member**" of the club they represent. A "**Member**" shall be deemed to be one who has paid his annual subscription and has played for his club in one or more matches appearing in the current fixture card of his club provided that:

- (a) a member who by reason of injury has not played for his club and has not played during the current season for any other club shall be eligible to play in the Competitions,
- (b) no individual shall play for more than one club in any of the Cup Competitions, neither shall he have played during the current season in any Cup Competition organised by the Rugby Football Union or by any other County.

A player who is otherwise qualified but who has taken part in competitions promoted during the same season in H.M. services, universities and colleges shall be eligible to play for his club.

All applications to the Committee regarding the validity of a player's qualifications must be made by the relevant Club Secretary to the County Honorary Secretary at least 7 days prior to any tie in which it is decided that he shall take part.

3. TEMPORARY VACANCIES

Clubs must play their normal and proper teams in the appropriate Competitions, but vacancies due to injury or other genuine absence may be filled in the ordinary manner.

4. GROUNDS

Every ground must be approved by the Committee and must be clearly marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

(Note: Senior teams are expected to have the playing enclosure marked off).

5. DRAW

In all Competitions, matches *shall* be played on such dates as the sub-committee shall determine and a fresh draw shall be made for each round. The draw for second and subsequent rounds shall be made immediately following the completion of the earlier round. The Club Secretary of the winning team *must* inform the County Honorary Secretary of the result of each tie at the conclusion of the match.

The first drawn club in every tie in every Competition (other than the final tie) shall have choice of ground.

In the event of a tie being unable to be played on the due date for a reason acceptable to the Committee, the Committee shall determine the new date following consultation with the clubs concerned.

In the event that there is a necessity for a tie to be postponed the Secretaries of the two clubs involved *must* contact and liaise with the DCRFU Secretary as soon as possible in order that a new date be finalised. The re-arranged game *must*, except in exceptional circumstances take place during the week following the postponement

6. DURATION OF MATCH

The duration of each match shall be forty minutes each way.

7. DRAWN MATCHES

In all ties except the Finals, if at the end of 40 minutes play each way the scores are equal, 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 into the next round. If a result is still not forthcoming then the visiting team shall go forward into the next round.

In the Finals, if at the end of 40 minutes play each way the scores are equal, then continuing periods of 7 minutes shall be played, the teams changing ends after each period, and the first side to score points from any method whatsoever shall be the winner. This shall be known as sudden death.

8. OFFICIALS

The selection of Referees and Assistant Referees by the Referees' Society for the Finals of the County Cup Competitions shall be subject to the approval of the Committee.

9. ADVERSE WEATHER

In the event of a ground being rendered unfit by weather for any tie other than final ties, the Secretary of the home team shall advise the visitors of the fact and also inform the County Honorary Secretary. The Secretaries of the two clubs involved **must** liaise with the County Honorary Secretary as soon as possible in order that a new date be finalised.

Any decision on the fitness of a ground on which a final tie is to be played shall be at the discretion of the County Honorary Secretary or his nominee.

10. FINAL TIES

The Finals of all Competitions shall be played upon grounds chosen by the Committee and all gate monies including stands, enclosures and car park receipts shall be for the benefit of County funds.

11. PROTESTS

All questions regarding the eligibility of players and the interpretation of the Rules shall be referred to the Committee. No protests or appeals of any kind shall be valid unless made in writing by the Club Secretary to the County Honorary Secretary within 48 hours of the termination of the match. Copies of the complaint must at the same time be sent to the Referee and to the Secretary of the opposing club. All decisions made by the Committee shall be final and binding.

12. OWNERSHIP OF TROPHIES

The legal ownership of all County Trophies shall be vested for all purposes in the Trustees of the County Union. The winning club shall be responsible for the safe custody and return of the Trophy.

13. INFRINGEMENTS

The County Committee shall have power to disqualify any individual or club infringing any of the Rules.

14. ALTERATIONS TO THE RULES

The County Committee shall have power to amend the Rules of the County Cup Competitions. Seven days notice of any such amendments must be given to all clubs in the County.