

NORTH DIVISION ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS 2019 - 2020

1. Nominated League Contact

1.1 All clubs shall appoint an official to be known as the Nominated League Contact. Such person will receive all information in connection with the administration of the leagues. A club is deemed to have agreed that it has received information sent to the Nominated League Contact, who shall be responsible for disseminating the same to the relevant members of the club.

2. EMC

2.1 The Match Card must make it clear who are the designated Front Row (FR) Players, including Replacement FR Players. Failure to do so may incur a Fine.

2.2 The EMC shall be completed by the nominated EMC administrator.

2.3 It is recommended that both Home and Away officials liaise before the card is submitted.

2.4 The deadline for submitting the EMC is 17.30 hours on the day of the match.

2.5 The number of tries must be entered in the relevant box

2.6 All Front Row players in squad must be ticked

2.7 Uncontested scrums contained box must be ticked if appropriate.

3. Reporting Match Results

3.1 Both clubs shall telephone the match results to their League Secretary, no later than thirty minutes after completion of the game. Both clubs must also inform the League Secretary of the number of tries scored by each side.

3.2 At level 9 and below, any Unregistered Player must have their date of birth written against their name on the Match Result Card.

4. Fines

4.1 Offending clubs will be notified by the League Secretary of any fines imposed.

4.2 Failure to pay fines within the 28 days allowed will result in the fine being increased, and may result in the offending club having 5 Championship Points being deducted.

5. Un played or Abandoned Matches

5.1 In the case of an Abandoned Match, the Home Club must provide the League Secretary with a certificate signed by the referee, indicating the time and score when the match was abandoned and giving reason for the abandonment. The League Secretary shall then notify the Organising Committee without delay. The certificate to be sent along with the Match Result Card to the League Secretary.

5.2 In the event of a game not being played, both clubs must contact the League Secretary, giving reasons for the non playing of the game.

5.3 Any club in default of these requirements will have sanctions applied in accordance with the schedule of fines and penalties currently approved by the Organising Committee.

6. Postponed Matches

Where a home club wishes (or considers it may be appropriate) to postpone a match because of Pitch, Weather Conditions.

6.1 The home club must contact a RFU Referee as early as possible and in any event before 1700 on the day preceding the match to request a pitch inspection.

6.2 The Home club must also inform the Away club and the League Secretary that the match is in doubt due to the match being unplayable as a result of poor weather conditions (or the forecast of poor Weather Conditions) as soon as it is reasonably practicable.

6.3 A suitable accredited RFU Referee (not a person, whether a referee or not, who regularly acts as a club's Fourth Official or who is a member of the home club) must confirm the postponement after an inspection of the match pitch. Such a pitch inspection by an independent Referee must take place before the away club intend to travel to the fixture.

6.4 If the inspecting Referee decides the pitch is unplayable and/or likely to be unplayable before 1700 on the day preceding the match, the home club must immediately inform the RFU, the Organising Committee (or it's delegate) and the Match Officials as well as the Away club. If the Referee decides the pitch is unplayable after 1700 on the day preceding the match the Home club must immediately notify the away club, the Committee and the Match Officials. Alternatively if the inspecting Referee deems the pitch playable and/or likely to be playable the Home club must act on that judgement and notify the Away club accordingly.

6.5 When a late decision (i.e. within 3 hours of kick off) as to the fitness of the pitch for playing a match is necessary, the decision shall be made by the captains of the teams involved. If the captains agree for the match to proceed, the referee is still entitled to decline to referee any match on safety grounds or any other substantial reason. If one or both of the captains do not agree for the match to proceed, the match will not be played and the matter will be referred to the organising committee to decide upon what action shall be taken in accordance with RFU regulation 13.6.11 Any match that is not played on the grounds that the pitch was unfit and for any other substantial reason, shall be notified by the home club to the league secretary (or relevant organising Committee in the case of cup competitions) within 48 hours of the decision not to play the match together with the view of the referee of the fitness of the pitch and the provisions of RFU Regulation 13.6.11 shall apply

6.6 Where the above procedure is not followed the Home club shall be deducted 5 league points and the match will be rearranged.

6.7 Where a ground is pronounced unfit or is unavailable for play and the scheduled match is the first of the two games in the season between the clubs, the venue shall (where time allows) be reversed if the oppositions pitch is fit and available for play. The Home club shall be the Club upon whose pitch the game is played. In certain circumstances, where it is deemed necessary, the organising committee may rule that a game takes place at a 'neutral venue' in order to ensure that a fixture takes place on a specified date.

7. Games to be Played or Replayed

7.1 Any match ordered to be played or replayed for whatsoever reason shall be played on the next available Saturday unless the Organising Committee directs otherwise. The League Secretary shall determine the date and notify the clubs as soon as the requirement is known. Any appeal concerning this must be lodged within forty-eight hours of being notified of the date.

7.2 The Organising Committee may declare a specific weekend 'unavailable' where it falls close to a public holiday or where it is considered inappropriate to play for other particular reasons. Prior to the start of the season details will be published on the rfunorth.com website of those dates, which not, under any circumstances will League games be allowed to take place. One exception to this shall be if a specific unavailable weekend (eg Easter Weekend) can be used to prevent the delay of the play off matches.

7.3 League matches may be played over the Christmas and New Year period and on Easter Saturday by agreement between the clubs. Any such agreement must be advised to the League Secretary. In certain extreme circumstances, these dates may also be designated by the Organising Committee as available dates for the playing of previously Unplayed or Abandoned matches.

7.4 Clubs playing in 12 home and away leagues or less may request that a specific non league Saturday be not designated a next available Saturday by written request to the Organising Committee and no later than 30 September 2019. League Secretaries are not empowered to grant requests of this nature. Clubs playing in 14 home and away leagues may not request that a specific non league Saturday be designated for not playing league games. Clubs should also note that the season ends on 30th May 2020 and as such, if found necessary, Clubs will be expected to fulfil league matches during the month of May 2020

8. Appeals and Complaints

8.1 Primary decisions are made by the League Secretary. If the club does not agree with the decision of the League Secretary or wishes to present mitigating circumstances, it may appeal to the Organising Committee. All appeals must be in writing and should be addressed to the Secretary of the RFU North Competitions Committee and must be lodged within seven days (48 hours in the case of decision involving the next available weekend) of receiving notice of a decision. A fee of £75 is required (£100 Oral Hearing if allowed by the RFUNCC), and no appeal or complaint will be heard if the cheque does not accompany the application Cheques should be made payable to the RFU North Competitions Committee. The club concerned must also notify the League Secretary of their appeal. The appeal fee may be returned if the appeal is upheld

9. Clubs wishing to join Leagues

9.1 All clubs wishing to join the English Clubs Championship must apply in writing to the Secretary of the RFU North Competitions Committee no later than 1st April to qualify for the next season. By this date, the club must have met all the entry criteria laid down in the English Clubs Championship Regulations and those applied from time to time by the Organising Committee. A list of fixtures played in the foregoing season, together with the results, and Constituent Body Approval, must accompany the application.

(Application Forms may be obtained from the Secretary of the RFU North Competitions

Committee, or the Secretary of the Constituent Body of which the Applicant Club is a member).

9.2 No application for entry to the Leagues will be accepted from a University Club (or any other Educational Establishment) unless the Club is able to demonstrate to the Organising Committee that it has

- a) Completed a regular fixture list on Saturdays for over two seasons; and,
- b) It has a sufficient number of Players in residence locally to the Club and is able to fulfil matches during vacation periods; and
- c) It has a separate Constitution to the University's (or other such Establishment's) Athletic Union.

9.3 All Clubs wishing to join the Leagues shall lodge a bond of £200.00. £100.00 of which will be returned after reasonable fulfilment of the first season and the remainder after reasonable fulfilment of the second season as determined by the Committee.

10. Honouring Fixtures

10.1 Where a club cannot fulfil a fixture in strict compliance with the Regulations, for instance, those governing front row players, the provisions set out in Regulations of appendix 2 inclusive shall apply provided that the offending club advises the League Secretary before the scheduled start of the game and a game is played. The Organising Committee may at its absolute discretion order the game to be replayed if it deems it to be appropriate for any reason.

10.2 For the avoidance of doubt, lack of Players or insufficient Front Row Players with Effective Registration whether through injury, illness or because of work or other commitments shall not be deemed to be a justifiable reason for not playing or seeking a postponement of a League Match.

11. Unregistered Players

11.1 Three Unregistered Players may be selected as players or replacements without penalty at level 9 and below provided that they are eligible for registration. They must not be played again before effective registration is obtained

11.2 Minimum numbers of players

At Level 9 and below a team may start a match with a minimum of 12 players. The opposition are encouraged to even the numbers up, should they have a full side, but there is no obligation to do so. However, teams may not start a match with more than a one player advantage on the pitch. This regulation will not apply in the event of a yellow or red card.

If a team has reduced numbers, but twelve or more players (which includes three players capable of playing in the front row) it is entitled to insist that the game is played and the opposition team must play the fixture with a team of not more than one player more than that with reduced numbers.

Irrespective of numbers, the match must start with contested scrums.

12. Grounds, Match Management and Permitted Personnel

12.1 Colour of strip – NB The North Organising Committee has ruled that in the event of a colour clash, it is the Home side who must change strip to avoid a colour clash.

12.2 Permitted Personnel – Regulations 13.7.6 and 13.7.7. All Clubs must take reasonable steps to prevent spectators from being in the playing enclosure. The only persons allowed in the playing enclosure between the touch line and the barrier are the touch judges, one Medical/Physio person per team, the Coach/Manager, the Replacements any two of whom may be water carriers and two ball boys. Coaches must not go onto the pitch during play without the permission of the Referee.

13. Kick Off Times

13.1 Kick off times will be 2.15 pm for the months of November, December, January and February and 3.00 pm for all other months. Variations in kick off times may be mutually agreed between the two clubs but the League Secretary and the Match Referee must be advised.

14. Warning of Possible Sanctions

14.1 The North Organising Committee is allowed to sanction any Club that does not comply with or adhere to the RFU Regulations and the North Division Administration Instructions/Rules. Although not an exhaustive list, the following are some of the sanctions the North Organising Committee are able to impose on defaulting Clubs: - A Fine / deduction of points in the current or following season / ordering a game to be replayed / awarding the match to the non offending side /determining the result of an abandoned match ‘removal of a result from the league table ‘awarding of points to a non offending side / incorrect Match Card details.

14.2 RFU Regulations and RFU Sanctions Guidelines give a more comprehensive list of the sanctions available to the North Organising Committee to impose.

14.3 Enforcement of regulations for two other offences now included.

(i) Front Row Requirements – See Appendix 2 Regulation 13. Page 169-172 in the Handbook

(ii) A club shall also be responsible for not exceeding the number of permitted interchanges “rolling subs “ also see Appendix 2 Regulation 13 . Page 169-172 in the Handbook

RFUNCC Competition Rules for RFU National Cup Competitions

The RFU North Competitions Committee (RFUNCC) will administer the North Division RFU KO Cup Competitions at:

1. Level 7- Intermediate Cup.
2. Level 8 -Senior Vase.
3. Levels 9 and below- Junior Vase.

Up to and including the Quarter Finals stage (Northern Finals).

The RFU will administer the Competitions from the Semi Finals through to the Finals of the National Competitions at Twickenham.

- The National Cup Competition games will take precedence over rearranged RFU League games and all Constituent Body Competition games.
- Match Result Cards will be sent to the Home and Away clubs by Snowdons News and Sports Agency. The filling in of the details on the card and handing it to the Referee before the game will be as in RFUNCC Instructions 2.
- The match result should be telephoned to the appointed RFUNCC official within 30 minutes of the game ending, and the Match Result card should be sent to the appointed RFUNCC Official in accord-

ance with RFUNCC Instruction 3 Details of where to send the match card will be provided to participants prior to commencement of competition.

- Kick off times will be 2:15 pm for the months of November, December, January and February and 3.00 pm for all other months. Variations in kick off times may be mutually agreed between Clubs but the RFUNCC appointed Official must be informed and the amended time confirmed by both clubs.
 - The Cup rounds that are the responsibility of the RFUNCC will, at each level, be played in pools of three made up of Pool 1 involving Clubs put forward by Lancashire Cheshire and Cumbria and Pool 2 comprising Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire Clubs.
 - Each County body within the North Division will appoint one Club to represent them at each level of the Competition. These appointments are made by each County using their own method of selection and the RFUNCC will assume that the clubs selected will honour all their Cup commitments. Failure to honour Cup fixtures will result in ineligibility to participate in the Cup for two seasons.
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- Each team will play the other two teams in their Pool with one Home and one Away game. The draw for pool games will be made by the RFUNCC.
 - Match points awarded will be two for a win and one point for a draw.
 - In the event of a Club not honouring a Cup fixture either on the original date or a mutually agreed later date the non-offending Club will be awarded two match points and accredited with a 0-0 win.
 - **In addition any club not fulfilling the first group fixture shall be excluded from that season's competition and may receive an extended exclusion in future seasons.**
 - In the event of teams within the same pool having an equal number of match points then the team with the better scoring points difference will progress to play the other pool winners in the RFUNCC Finals. The Home team in the RFUNCC Final will be the team with the best playing record determined by pool league points and if still equal points difference.
 - If the RFUNCC Final is a drawn game at the end of normal time then extra time is played and the result determined as in RFU Regulation 13.6.5.
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- The winners of the RFUNCC North Final will progress to play a Midlands Club with Home advantage determined by a draw made by the RFU. The winners of this game will progress to the finals played at Twickenham on a date determined by the RFU.
 - N.B. In games that are the responsibility of the RFUNCC there shall be **four** replacements allowed(two of whom must be capable of playing in the front row) and nine player interchanges available. These regulations change for the National Semi Final and Final.
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- In the event of a Club not honouring a Cup fixture either on the original date or at a mutually agreed later date, the Offending Club, will not be permitted to enter an RFU Competition the following two seasons. In addition, the RFUNCC reserve the right to review the circumstances of a Club not honouring a RFU Cup Fixture, and may either deduct League Championship Points in the season the Club offended/and or the following season/and or sanction a financial penalty **or any other sanction that the RFUNCC may decide upon.**

15. Isle Of Man Fixtures:

Due to the limited flight schedule from Flybe , it has become necessary to vary KO times. Therefore clubs must in advance of the scheduled fixtures (Suggest minimum 4 weeks) liaise with their opponents and agree a mutual KO time that will enable the visiting team sufficient time to catch the return flight home.