

**RULES OF THE CHESHIRE CUP, VASE, BOWL AND PLATE
COMPETITIONS**

"Subject to possible amendment prior to the commencement of the competition"

The Competition shall be called "The Cheshire Cup", "The Cheshire Vase", "The Cheshire Bowl" and "The Cheshire Plate". All matches played in the competition shall be played under the Laws of Rugby Union Football and comply with the Rules and Regulations of the RFU Intermediate Clubs Knockout Competition Regulations as published in the Regulations and Competitions Handbook dated 2008/2009 together with the following relating specifically to "The Cheshire Cup", "The Cheshire Vase", "The Cheshire Bowl" and "The Cheshire Plate" Competitions.

1. Organising Committee: The Competitions will be organised by the Competitions Sub-Committee of the Cheshire Rugby Football Union Ltd. All questions affecting the qualifications of players and the interpretation of these Rules shall be referred to the Sub-Committee. The written decision of the Sub-Committee shall be binding and final subject to the appeal provisions.

2. Appeals Procedure: No protest or appeal will be permitted unless the club or person making the protest or appeal does so by telephone within 24 hours of the end of the match and confirms the protest or appeal in writing to the Secretary of the Sub-Committee within 72 hours of the end of the match or within 48 hours of receiving the decision of the Sub-Committee. Upon receipt of the written notice of the protest or appeal the Secretary of the Sub-Committee shall convene a hearing. The panel shall consist of at least three members of the County General Committee (none of whom shall be members of the Sub-Committee). The hearing shall take place within 21 days of the receipt of the written notice of protest or appeal and all interested clubs or individuals shall be notified in writing by the County Secretary of the time date and place of the hearing. The club or individual shall be entitled to attend and/or be represented and submit such presentations (whether written or oral) in support of the protest or appeal. The decision of the Panel will be given on the date of the hearing and shall be confirmed in writing with reasons to the Club or individual within 7 days of the hearing. Any appeal against the Panel's decision shall be to the Disciplinary Manager of the Rugby Football Union in accordance with the provisions of the Laws and Regulations of the Rugby Football Union.

3. Club Eligibility. All clubs who are full members of the Cheshire Rugby Football Union Ltd shall be eligible to enter the Competitions providing the following have been completed.

The entrance fee and fidelity bond (when applicable) as decided by the Sub-Committee have been paid.

The current season subscription to the County has been paid.

Any current loan, interest and repayments have been made.

A balance sheet and statement of the Club's accounts as required by the Rugby Football Union has been submitted.

All due disciplinary payments have been made.

Manx Clubs: In the case of clubs in the Isle of Man the Manx Rugby Football Union shall nominate one club only to qualify for financial assistance from the County. The extent of the financial assistance shall be determined solely by the Sub-Committee with the agreement of the County Executive Committee. Any other Manx club drawn to play at home must be prepared to cover the travelling cost of the visiting club from Liverpool Airport to their ground and return for a squad of 22; otherwise they must play the tie on the mainland at a ground chosen by the Manx club.

Participation: All clubs will be entered into the Competitions on the payment of the appropriate fee. The Sub Committee shall decide which of the four competitions clubs shall be eligible to enter taking into account their league status.

4. Player Eligibility. Clubs shall only be entitled to field players or replacement players who are registered with their clubs and are shown on the RFU Computerised List. For non-league clubs "effective registration" does not apply but they are not allowed to introduce players who are registered for other clubs. Players can only play for one club in the season in the Competitions.

5. The Draw: The draw for the Competitions shall be made by the Sub Committee. The first drawn club in each tie of all four Competitions (other than the Finals) shall have the choice of ground. The Finals will be played on grounds decided by the Sub Committee.

Note: Special provision applies to Manx Clubs- see Rule 3 above.

6. Dates for playing the games: Even if clubs find that due to continuing participation in other RFU competitions they have difficulty in meeting the deadline for playing any round of the competition in which they are involved they must agree to play the fixture mid week (at a neutral venue if necessary) or two games over the same weekend.

7. Special rules applying to the Plate competition: If a club is unable to enter the Competition due to the non-availability of front row forwards they will be entitled to enter on the understanding that due to the need to play uncontested scrums they will start the game with a score of 0-14 in favour of their opposition or if both teams are without a front row forwards the score will be 14-14.

8. Referees: All ties will be refereed by a member of an RFU recognised Referees Society. The touch-judges for the Finals and the Semi-finals of all four Competitions should be members of the said Referees Society. Where both touch-judges are Society Referees they shall report incidents of foul play and misconduct under Law 6.A 7 to the referee.

9. Drawn Games. Drawn matches are dealt with as in the Rules and Regulations of the RFU Intermediate Clubs Knockout Competition 2008/2009 except in the Finals if, after 40 minutes play each way, the scores are level there shall be an immediate period of extra time of 10 minutes each way, with an interval of one minute. If the scores are then still level the team, which has scored the most tries, shall be the winner. If no result is achieved the game shall continue with further periods of 10 minutes each way with one minute intervals. The team which scores first, be it a try, penalty or drop goal, shall be the winner.

10. Substitutes. Clubs must not field more than four substitutes other than in the semi-finals and finals when not more than seven substitutes will be allowed. Each team must have five players in the squad capable of playing in the front row.

11. Finances: All entry proceeds from the four competitions excluding the Finals that being gate, stand, programmes and car park shall be paid to the host/home clubs after the deduction of expenses incurred on behalf of the organising committee. The entry proceeds from the Finals of the four competitions, that being gate, stand, programme and car park after expenses have been paid, shall go to the benefit of County funds. The members of the host and home clubs must pay admission to the grounds, stand etc. The maximum admittance charge that may be made by home/host clubs for any game shall be £3 per person other than the finals when a charge of £5 per person may be made. Should a higher charge wish to be made the consent of the organising committee shall be obtained.

12. Terms and conditions of participating: Any club selected to and agreeing to play in any of the competitions agrees that if it fails to honour a fixture or withdraws having previously agreed to take part therein it shall not be eligible to participate in any cup competition organised by Cheshire RFU or the RFU in the season following such failure.

13. Results: The results of the matches shall be notified to the Cup, Vase Bowl and Plate Secretaries by 10am on the Monday following the match.