

CHESHIRE R.F.U. COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS SEASON 2023/2024

The following Competitions shall be held annually, with entries for each being subject to criteria as set out by Cheshire Competitions Committee. These might vary from season to season.

- a) The Cheshire Cup
- b) The Cheshire Vase
- c) The Cheshire Bowl
- d) The Cheshire Plate

1 All matches to be played under the current laws of the game as set by the R.F.U. and shall fully comply with the Rules and Regulations as laid down by the Cheshire Competitions Committee.

2. All these competitions will be organised by the Cheshire RFU Competitions Committee. This Committee shall determine the qualification of clubs, by seeding, for the appropriate Competitions and of players and the interpretation of these Regulations.

3. All matches, in each Competition, will be run as Conferences with two pools and the top club of each pool will contest final.

4. The written decision of this Committee shall be binding and final, subject to appeal provisions as laid down.

APPEALS

No protest or appeal will be permitted unless the club or person making any such protest or appeal does so by telephone or electronically within 24 hours of the end of a match or within 48 hours of receiving a decision by the Committee on any matter. The substance of the Appeal/Protest should be made thereafter in writing to the County Secretary within 72 hours.

Upon receipt of the written/electronic Protest/Appeal the County Secretary shall convene a hearing to consider this. The Panel shall consist of at least three members of the County General Committee (none of whom shall be members of the Competitions Committee)

The hearing shall take place as expediently as possible and certainly within 21 days of the receipt of the written notice of Protest/Appeal.

All interested clubs or individuals shall be notified in writing by the County Secretary advising the time, date and venue of such a hearing.

The club or individual shall be entitled to attend and/or be represented, submitting such representations (written or oral), in support of the Protest/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/individual within 7 days of the hearing.

Any further appeal against that Panel's decision shall be made to the Disciplinary Manager of the R.F.U. in accordance with the Laws and Regulations of the R.F.U.

5. CLUB ELIGIBILITY

All applications/entries and communications relating to participation in any of the Competitions, including full Entry.

Details for the Club involved, must be sent by the time specified, and only to the person specified to receive such information as identified within that invitation/entry form. Entries/communications etc., must not be sent to the County Administration Secretary, and must in each case, fully identify the name of the Club concerned together with the name and position of the Club Officer sending this, together with clear identity of the Club involved.

- a) The Level of the Entry Fee shall be decided and advised by the Competitions Committee to all Clubs, with payment being made by the date specified, to the County Treasurer as identified in the Invitation/Entry Form and County Handbook. Failure to conform strictly to these Entry conditions, may be considered as being a breach of Regulations, invalidating the Entry and/or subjecting the club concerned to appropriate sanctions imposed by the Competitions Committee.
- b) By entering these Competitions, all clubs agree to abide completely by the Regulations of the Competition and therefore accept (subject to the making of an Appeal as per the Regulations), the directions/decisions of the Competitions Committee as made in relation to their entry and the playing of matches within the Competition.
- c) The Competitions Committee shall, in considering applications to enter the various Competitions, be entitled to apply Regulation 15.b. in declining any application to enter if the club concerned has failed to honour its commitment to play a tie in the preceding season.
- d) Payment having been made of any entrance fee/bond related to the Competition.
- e) The current season subscription to the County having been paid
- f) Any current loan interest and repayments having been paid.
- g) A club balance sheet and statement of the club's accounts as required by the Rugby Football Union having been submitted.
- h) All due disciplinary payments having been made.

6. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

a. A club may only select as a player or replacement, a bone fide member of a club and who is not registered on a R.F.U. Computerised List for any other club or who satisfies RFU Regulations relating to Dual Registration.

b. A player may only represent one club during the period of the Competitions.

Any infringement of this Regulation will result in the disqualification from the Competitions for that season, of the player and club involved.

7. DRAW

The Draw for each round for each Competition shall be made by the Competitions Committee.

The first drawn club in each tie of all Competitions (other than the Finals), shall have choice of ground/venue.

The Final Ties shall be played at a time and date at a venue to be decided by the Competitions Committee.

(N.B. special provisions shall apply to Manx Clubs – see separate advice provision for this)

8. COMPETITION VARIATION

If a club is unable to fulfil a tie in the Competition due to non-availability of Front Row Forwards, they will be allowed to play the ties 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 opponents. If both teams satisfy this situation, then the score shall commence at 14 –14. Once the game has commenced, failure to provide Front Row replacements, then the RFU Regulations will apply, i.e. (Uncontested Scrums) etc.

9. REFEREES

The home designated club shall liaise with its usual Referee Society to arrange that the tie shall be refereed, wherever possible, by a member of an R.F.U. Recognised Referee Society. If that Society is unable to appoint a referee, then the home club shall liaise with the Competitions Secretary to ensure that a suitable referee officiates.

For the Finals of all Competitions the referee/assistant referees MUST be members of an R.F.U. Society. Where both assistant referees are members of the Referee Society, they shall report to the referee, incidents of foul play and misconduct under Law 6(a).

10. DATES FOR THE PLAYING OF TIES

When the draws are made for each Competition, the Committee will set dates for the playing of each round (hereinafter called the “set date”) and advise this to the clubs involved. These dates MUST be complied with and can only be varied by a decision of the Committee for a valid reason presented for not playing. A valid reason for an appeal to be successful not to play on a set date for a drawn tie, is normally limited to continued participation by any club in another R.F.U. Competition on that date. If such a case arises, then the Competitions Secretary may direct the clubs involved, to play mid-week to enable the time table of the round in that Competition to be met.

This may involve the use of a neutral alternative venue or the playing by any one of the clubs in two games over the same week-end.

Ties may be played prior to the set date by agreement between the clubs involved subject to the approval of the Competitions Secretary.

In the event of adverse weather conditions or a ground being unfit to play, the host club should explore the possibility of playing the game at an away venue or on a neutral ground on the set date.

If this is not possible, the game MUST be played on a revised set date set by the Competitions Committee.

In the event of both Captains not agreeing as to the condition of the ground for play, the final decision shall be made by the Referee.

If the game is switched to the away venue the status of each team is reversed accordingly. In the case of a neutral venue the original away side should retain that status.

If on the revised set date due to either or both of their grounds being unfit or there is adverse weather precluding the use of a neutral ground then the tie shall be decided by the toss of a coin.

11. DRAWN GAMES

Drawn matches shall be dealt with in accordance with RFU regulation 13.6.5(a) (other than the semi-final and final) In the case of the semi-final and final the following shall apply. Drawn matches at the end of No Side, are dealt with as per the Rules of the R.F.U. (Intermediate Club Knock Out 2016/7), where, except in the Finals, if after 40 minutes play each way, the scores are level. There shall then 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, then the team which has scored the most tries shall be the winner. If no result is thus achieved, the game shall continue with further periods of 10 minutes each way with 1 minute intervals. The team which scores first be it try, penalty or drop goal shall be the winner.

12. ABANDONED GAMES

Should there be any abandonment of a tie due to inclement weather, the score at the time of the abandonment shall stand provided that 60 minutes has been played – otherwise the tie may be ordered to be replayed unless the tie is being played on the revised set date when the tie shall be determined by the toss of a coin as per paragraph 10.

If the referee finds it necessary to abandon a tie for reasons other than weather, then, irrespective of the number of minutes played, the result of that match shall be determined by the Competitions Committee, which may order the match to be replayed.

13. REPLACEMENTS

Clubs must field not more than 5 replacements other than in the Semi Finals and Finals where not more than 7 replacements will be allowed.

Each team must have 5 players in the squad capable of playing in the front row. In the case of 5 replacements up to 10 interchanges will be allowed (which includes an inter change for a blood injury) and in the case of 7 replacements up to 12 interchanges will be allowed (again including blood injuries)

14. FINANCES

All entry proceeds from each Competition tie, excluding the Final (that

being Gate, Stand, Programme and Car Parking), shall be paid to the host/home club. All such proceeds from the Finals, (that being the Gate, stand, programmes and Car Parking), shall be paid to the County, after the deduction of the catering and referee expenses.

Members of host and home Clubs must pay for admission to grounds, stands etc. The Maximum admittance charge for any game except the Finals, shall be £3.00 per person, with those under 18 and County Members, admitted Free of Charge. Admittance to the Finals shall be £5.00 per person, with those under 18 and County Members admitted free of charge. Should a higher charge wish to be made, these charges may only be made with the approval and agreement of the Competitions Committee.

15. TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

a) The result of each tie played, must be advised to the Competitions Secretary by telephone or electronic means, as soon as possible but in any event no later than 10.00 am on the following day of the playing of the tie by the winning club.

Failure to so advise the Competitions Secretary will be considered a serious offence and sanctions may be applied, including that of forfeiture of the match.

If the match is not played on a Saturday, then such advice should be made within 24 hours of the end of the match.

Where required. Completed Match Result sheets should be sent to the Competitions Secretary within 48 hours.

b) By entry to the Competitions, all clubs agree to honour the playing of every tie in which it is drawn.

By failing to do this in any of the Competitions organised by the Cheshire Competitions Committee, that club shall not be eligible.

(i) to participate in any Competition organised by Cheshire R.F.U. in the one Season following such failure to play.

(ii) to host any competition (including festivals at any age level) organised by any committee of Cheshire Rugby Football Union for the following two seasons

c) At the playing of each tie, home/host club should make arrangements for the provision of basic medical facilities to attend to the needs/ requirements of players, officials etc.

d) Where specific requirements are insisted upon or specified by the visiting club, then that club is deemed to be responsible for meeting the costs of such, doctor/ambulance etc.

16. DECLINING TO PLAY If clubs declined to be involved in the Cup Competitions, when originally agreeing to participate, then they should provide another team to substitute for them. (Failure to do so, see Reg- 15b)

NOTE ON PARTICIPATION OF MANX CLUBS

In the case of clubs in the Isle of Man. They participate in the competitions on the proviso that their fixtures are off island with their costs met by the club concerned.