

DURHAM COUNTY RFU CUP COMPETITIONS
FOR U14- U18 AGE GROUPS
RULES & CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO THE COMPETITIONS
2021 – 2022

1. All teams MUST be entered via email in writing to the County Cup Administrator by the 11th August 2021. An email by return from the Cup Admin is your acceptance into the draw. No late entries will be accepted.

Please be aware that from this season - If a club cannot field a team in the first round of the Cup – they WILL NOT be entered into the Plate Competition.

2. The draw will be made by the Cup Admin and other officials within a week of the entries closing. The draw will be emailed to all coaches at the email address supplied and posted on the Cup Facebook page. No re-draw will be made unless it can be evidenced that a written application was made to the County Cup Admin and there is space within the draw.

3. County Cups Reps: The Age Grade Committee will appoint a Cup Committee of 4 members to be responsible for the competition at a designated age grade, and their duties will include:

a) First point of contact for any disputes or queries on these rules in relation to the age group. They will make any necessary decisions unless it is deemed necessary to refer to the Cup Admin and/or Committee.

b) Organising the venue for the age group's finals. This may be the representatives own club provided that the club is not involved in the cup final.

c) Organising the final, i.e. providing the cup/plate, appointment of referees, checking registration cards and presentation duties.

4. Eligibility for the competition will comprise of players who are under the relevant age at midnight on 31st August at the beginning of the season and that age grade applies for the whole season. Players cannot play down an age group. Very talented or physically developed players may play up providing the appropriate written consent has been granted from the County Safeguarding Manager. Please note that to comply with the continuum:

- U13's only may play up for the U14's
- U14's only may play up for the U15's
- U15's only may play up for the U16's
- U16's may play up for the Colt's with written permission.

5. Each participating player must be a member of the club for whom he has been selected to represent, he therefore:

a) Must not have played for two separate clubs in the same competition in any given season.

b) Must have been registered with that club for a period of one week prior to the game requiring registration.

6. The competition is for clubs within the Durham County boundaries. Teams wishing to enter from outside the County must make a request to the County Cup Committee and will only be considered on the basis that they are not entering the Cup Competition of their home county.

7. The laws and conditions relating to these games will be set out in the RFU Handbook.

The game shall be played XV-a-side:

- Under 14's – 25 mins each way
- Under 15's – 30 mins each way
- Under 16's – 35 mins each way
- Colt's – 35 mins each way

This season the HALF GAME rule applies to all RFU run competitions!

8. The Durham County Referees' Appointments Secretary will be notified of the draw and will, by arrangement with the **HOME** club, endeavour to appoint an official to take charge of each game. In the event of the unavailability of officials, both teams shall agree the appointment of a qualified referee, where a choice of referees is applicable, the **AWAY** team shall have the preference. In the case of disagreement please refer to the County Cup Rep or Admin.

9. If a clash of colours between the sides, it will be the **HOME** side to change.

10. The arrangements for the game are to be made by the **HOME** club contacting the **AWAY** club. Confirmation should be made on or before the **MONDAY** prior to the tie is to be played.

11. All cup and plate games will be played on the date appointed by the Age Grade Committee (These games must be played within the RFU scheduled clubs timetable). If games are cancelled because of the weather the game will be played on the next available date, as agreed by the County Cup Rep/Admin.

12. Other than due to the weather, clubs may only request postponement of the set cup dates in the case of:

- Players involved in representative rugby games/trials for the County, North of England, England, Premiership Clubs, North of England or England College/Schoolboy teams.
- Eligible players are playing in a National Club Cup Competition.
- Pre-booked tour games involving an overnight stay by the Durham team involved.

If a club cannot field a team due to unavailability of players due to school rugby commitments, or injury, or loss of front row players, they shall forfeit the tie if they cannot field a team capable of safely competing in the game. Where clubs cannot agree an appropriate date to play in these circumstances the County Cup Rep shall decide on the date the game will be played.

13. Except the final, the **HOME** club shall have first choice of venue. In the event of the home club being unable to accommodate the game due to the pitch being unplayable or unavailable (this does not include the liability to field a side), the choice of the venue shall revert to the **AWAY** club. In the event of clubs not being able to agree, then they must contact the Cup Rep as soon as possible by phone, text or email.

14. Matches will kick off at 11.00am unless otherwise agreed by both clubs.

15. The **HALF GAME** Rule applies to all rounds of the cup/plate.

16. **In all matches squad numbers will be up to 22 players**

17. The game will be decided as per the Laws of the Game. For all rounds, except the final, in the event of a draw, the side scoring the **GREATEST NUMBER OF TRIES** will be declared the winner. In the event of both sides scoring the same number of tries or the being **NO TRIES SCORED**, the **AWAY SIDE will be declared the winner**.

18. Any team by a margin of 50 points or more at any stage during the game will be declared the winner.

19. **It will be the responsibility of the BOTH clubs to notify the County Cup Admin of the result of the game by 5.00pm on the day of the match. By text or email.**

20. It will be the responsibility of all clubs to ensure that all players are fully insured.

21. When arranging fixtures, no club should invite any player to forgo school loyalties and no player should play more than one game of rugby in one day.

22. For every match each Team Manager must have available for inspection **A FULLY COMPLETED AND UP-TO-DATE REGISTRATION CARD COMPLETE WITH AN UP-TO-DATE PHOTOGRAPH and A COMPLETED MATCH CARD** for all their side to be presented to the opposing Team Manager before the game commences. Failure to produce a registration card for a player will result in the player not playing in the game. If a team cannot field a side because of this or failure to produce a completed match card, then the game will be declared null and void and the NON-OFFENDING side being declared winners by default. **If there are any discrepancies in these instructions the County Cup Official or Admin must be contacted IMMEDIATELY, by phone, text, or email.**

23. **It is the responsibility of both team managers to:**

a) To text or email the result of the match to the Cup Administrator by 5.00pm on the day of the match.

b) Complete a Durham County Cup Match Card – filling in their squad/reg. numbers and final score. This must be signed by both team officials and the referee. These must be emailed to the Cup Admin no later than 5.00pm on the Thursday following the match.

24. For all rounds the host club is to make adequate arrangements to keep spectators at a reasonable distance from the playing area (i.e.) rope boundary approximately 5m from the touchlines.

25. Replacements are to be used as per the U19 variations of them, with no more than seven named replacements (i.e. squad of up to 22). Laws covering FRONT ROW REPLACEMENTS still apply and U15 variations according to the RFU Regulations.

26. **A match may not commence if a side does not have at least THREE RECOGNISED FRONT ROW PLAYERS**, the game will not commence with uncontested scrums and the Match will be Automatically Awarded to the Non-Offending Side. If injuries occur during the match to the available front row players only then with agreement of the REFEREE may the game proceed with uncontested scrummages in the interest of player safety.

Details for the Cup Finals

- i.** The County Cup Rep, contacting Durham Referees' Appointment Secretary with details of the game will arrange officials for the final.
- ii.** The date and the time of the cup final will be specified by the County Age Grade Cup Committee.
- iii.** The choice of venue will preferably be neutral to the clubs involved, with the County Rep making such arrangements. If it is necessary to facilitate the final, the committee may arrange the game at a participating club if agreed by both teams or selected by toss of a coin.
- iv.** The County Cup Rep will aim to play both the Cup and Plate Finals at a single venue on the set date for the final. If a neutral venue cannot be found the two, plate finalists will be offered the chance to host the finals.
- v.** If at the end of normal time the scores are equal, then the Cup will be shared between the two clubs, with no extra time played.
- vi.** FULLY COMPLETED AND UP-TO-DATE REGISTRATION CARDS COMPLETE WITH AN UP-TO-DATE PHOTOGRAPH are to be inspected by the County Cup Rep or Cup Official with both teams providing a match card.
- vii.** The County Cup Rep will declare which team is to be classified as the HOME team for the final in the event of colour clashes.

Any difficulty or dispute relating to the above should be referred firstly, to the County Cup Reps of that age grade or Cup Admin. Should any club not be satisfied with the Rep's decision then they may by applying in writing within 3 days to appeal the decision to the County Age Grade Cup Admin, who will then arrange the County Cup Committee to hear the appeal