

Regulation 23

HAMPSHIRE YOUTH LEAGUES IF AND WHEN INTRODUCED

Sponsor Community Rugby Committee

1 Description and Aims

1.1 The Competition shall be called “The Hampshire Youth League” (with sponsors' name if applicable) or such other name as the Youth Competitions Management Group may decide, subject to ratification by the Management Committee.

1.2 The aims are to

1.2.1 promote participation in competition rugby at the Under 14 to 16 age groups.

1.2.2 improve player development, enjoyment, retention and commitment to the Game.

1.2.3 Produce a winner of each age group League Cup.

1.2.4 Produce a winner of each age group Plate

1.3 All matches in the Competition shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game Under-15 or Under-19 Variations as appropriate.

1.4 The Union shall provide a Trophy for the Clubs winning each age group League and Plate. The winning Clubs shall be responsible for the insurance, safekeeping and engraving, where appropriate, of the Trophies.

2 Definitions

In this Regulation:

County means Hampshire and the Isle of Wight only

Club means a mainland Member or Associate Club of the Union

Committee means the Union's Youth Competitions Management Group (YCMG)

Competition means the Hampshire Youth Leagues

Mainland means Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

MLO means the person appointed to be the Union's Media Liaison Officer

Officers means the Officers of the Union

Organiser means the person appointed by the Committee to manage a League

Society means the Hampshire Rugby Union Referees' Society

Team Manager means the person appointed by the Club to be responsible for the team on the day of a match in the Competition

Under-X whenever the term “Under-X” appears this shall be taken to mean “Under” that age at midnight on 31 August/1 September that season.

Union means the Hampshire Rugby Football Union Limited

YRO means the Union's Youth Player Registration Officer

3 Organising Committee

3.1 The Competition shall be organised by the Youth Competitions Management Group which may issue additional instructions in amplification of this Regulation.

3.2 All communications from Clubs relating to the Competition are to be addressed to the Chair YCMG whose details shall be promulgated in the Union Handbook.

3.3 All communications to Clubs will be made only to Clubs' nominated representatives to the Youth Forum. It is the responsibility of Clubs to ensure these are properly actioned. Communication will only be made with Team Managers in respect of issues pertaining to that Team and not regarding the Competition in general.

3.4 Except where otherwise stated, the decision of the YCMG shall be binding and final on any matter not provided for in and on the interpretation of this Regulation.

4 Eligibility of Clubs

4.1 The Competition shall be open to all mainland Member and "in-County" Associate Clubs. Each Club may enter only one team at each age group.

4.2 In any age group where there is more than one league, at the end of the season the two teams gaining most points in the lower league shall be promoted to the next higher league and the two teams in a higher league gaining least points shall be relegated to the next lowest league. In the event of two teams having gained the same number of points the decision as to which team shall be promoted or relegated shall be as per rule 6.6.

5 Eligibility of players

5.1 Players who are registered with the County and are with the same club as the previous season are eligible to participate in the competition.

5.2 Those players registered with the County for the first time, or who have changed clubs in the closed season are only eligible to participate after they have been registered with the (new) club, at Under 14 to 16, for at least 3 WEEKS before the first 2 rounds and at least ONE MONTH before subsequent rounds.

Where a player changes clubs mid-season they must re-register with the new club, submitting the re-registration to Hampshire and observe the appropriate eligibility period as set out above, namely that if they change clubs they may not partake in any league game for at least 3 WEEKS from the date of re-registration before the first 3 rounds and at least ONE MONTH from the date of registration before subsequent rounds.

5.2 Clubs may play players up one age group only (e.g. an Under 14 may play for the Under 15 team). For players Under 12 see paragraph 5.3. Once a player has played at the older age group, he may not play in the Competition again that season at the lower age group. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure that any under age players in their front five are physically capable of coping with the extra demands of these positions at the higher age group.

5.3 An Under 12 (but NOT an Under 11) may play in an Under 13 team if written parental or guardian consent is obtained and in strict compliance to the RFU continuum as amended

from time to time.. (Section 5.17(b) of 2005/6 Continuum) . The decision to allow an Under 12 to play must only be taken in conjunction with the child's parent or guardian. The Team Manager must be satisfied that the child can cope with play at the higher level observing that there is a huge difference between the 12-a-side game at Under 12 on a small pitch and a 15-a-side game on a full size pitch. An Under 12 who has played for an Under 13 team in the Competition cannot subsequently play in an Under 12 team in any Hampshire Under 12 Tournament or Festival.

5.4 Any player who plays up an age group on more than one occasion may take no further part in his or her original age group competitions or festivals, subject to the RFU Continuum as amended from time to time.

5.5 Prior to the commencement of the match the team manager of each side shall supply to the opposition manager two copies of a list of players including replacements representing the club for that match. This shall be on the form designated by YCMG. These forms shall be signed by both managers and each Team Manager holds one copy of the Team sheet for the rest of season and the other is submitted by post* to Chair YCMG or their nominated representative at the same time as the result.

Registration cards for all players, or alternative proof of player registration, (a copy of registration form and photograph), are to be provided to the opposition team manager by all team managers on the day of a fixture and to the County Registration Secretary or appointed Deputy on demand.

5.6

It is preferred to submit the forms electronically, by email, indicating who is holding the originals and how they may be contacted. In the event of an objection or query the original forms must be produced for examination within 7 calendar days. Failure to comply with any of these requirements may result in one or both teams forfeiting league points at the discretion of the Chair YCMG.

5.7 In the event that at the scheduled kick off time one team is unable to field a team complying with the requirements of these regulations or the Laws of the Game as amended, they shall forfeit the match and points be awarded as if they had lost the match by one converted try to nil.

Any deliberate infringement of paragraphs 5.1 to 5.4 will result in deduction of three competition points per offence unless the club can cite justified extenuating circumstances to the Chair YCMG and may result in disqualification of the Team from the Competition for the rest of the season.

6 The Competition Format and Seeding

6.1 The format of the league structure in each age group will depend on the number of teams entered and the number of Sundays available, see paragraph 7.1. If possible, matches will be played on a home and away basis

6.2 When a club enters the League competition for the first time, and there are two or more leagues in an age-group, the Clubs shall be placed into a league based on an assessment of their relative performance as evidenced generally and in the previous season's festivals and knock out competitions. As stated in 1.2 above the aim of this competition is to promote competitive rugby, player retention and enjoyment. To that end, the allocation of teams in leagues will be aimed at avoiding "mismatches" wherever possible. It is hoped that all clubs will participate constructively in the initial league allocation, but, as ever, where spaces are limited or no agreement can be reached, the decision of YCMG will be final.

6.3 The position of a Club in a League will be decided on a points basis. Three Competition points will be awarded for a win, two for a draw and one for a loss.

6.4 If a club should drop out of the competition at any stage then all points and scores awarded to clubs having played them will be removed.

Clubs must play matches on the scheduled date, which may not be postponed or delayed except under 7 below. If pitches are unplayable an alternative ground, including if available the away ground, should be utilised,

6.4 The winners of the highest League shall be declared "Hampshire UXX Champions", the second team as "Runners Up". The winners of the second highest League shall be declared "Hampshire UXX Plate winners", the second team as "Plate Runners Up".

6.5 If one or more Clubs in a League have the same points then the ratio of match points for and against will be used. If this fails to produce a League winner then the results of the games between the Clubs concerned shall decide; then it will be the Club scoring most match points in those games, then it shall be the number of tries scored. This method shall also be used where appropriate to decide which clubs are eligible for promotion or relegation.

6.6 The following shall apply

6.6.1 Under 14 play 25 minutes each way and use a Size 4 ball.

6.6.2 Under 15 play 30 minutes each way and use a Size 5 ball.

6.6.3 under 16 play 35 minutes each way and use a Size 5 ball.

6.6.4 No extra time is permitted under any circumstances.

7 Fixture Dates

7.1 Matches normally shall be played on the Sundays of the weekends designated a 'CB Club League Competition' in the RFU Youth Structured Season as decided by the Committee and notified to the Clubs by 31 March each year.

7.2 Where the number of teams wishing to participate in the competition demands it, additional Sundays will be set aside to permit the competition to continue. See Appendix B attached,

7.3 The regularly permitted exception to this shall be where for reason of travel i.e. matches involving an Isle Of Wight or Channel Islands team it is more expedient for the match to be played on a Saturday or at a different kick off time. In such circumstances the YCMG and, if appropriate, Hampshire Referees Society shall be informed as far in advance as is practicable

7.4 Fixture lists will be produced by the Committee and issued to Clubs and the Society as early as possible normally not later than 15th June each year.

8 Colours

8.1 In the event of a clash of colours the home Club shall change subject to the satisfaction of the referee.

8.2 The jerseys of teams should be numbered to ensure correct identification of players and replacements during a match. A Team shall not be penalised if unnumbered shirts are worn.

9 Replacements

9.1 Up to seven replacements are allowed. If a team nominates 22 players it must have at least six players who can play in the front row.

Any club unable to field a team of 15 players, or not having an experienced "front 5", before kick-off on the nominated day forfeit's the match. The opposing team gains 3 points for win and the nominal score will be one converted try to nil. The forfeiting team have 1 point and suffer the loss as one converted try to nil.

9.2 A player who has been substituted may replace an injured player.

9.3 If, during the course of the match, a team cannot field players who are suitably trained for the three front-row and the two lock positions whether it be because of injury or sending-off then the referee, after informing the Team Managers, shall order uncontested scrums. No penalty shall be imposed nor forfeiture of the game shall result from this action.

10 Kick-off Time

10.1 Kick-off Time normally shall be at 1100 to avoid clashes with the Colts League and adult fixtures. This time, but not the date of the fixture, can be changed, if necessary, with the prior agreement of both Team Managers of both Clubs and the appointed referee. See also Rule 7.1 regarding variations to permitted dates and times

11 Venues and Grounds

11.1 Clubs may agree to change the venue of a Competition match. The original home Club shall inform the Chair YCMG and the referee of such a change.

11.2 The home Club is responsible for correctly and clearly marking its pitch and it must make proper provision for the safety of all involved.

11.3 If a late decision (i.e. a decision made or to be made within three hours of the scheduled kickoff time) as to the fitness of the pitch is necessary, it shall be made by the Team Managers. If they are unable to agree, the decision shall be made by the referee.

11.4 At all times there should be easy accessible entry for an ambulance to the pitch and ready access to a telephone (ideally a mobile telephone at pitch side).

12 Referees and Touch Judges

12.1 The Organiser shall notify the Society Secretary before 31 July each year of the nominated league dates in the following season and of the number of matches expected on each date.

12.2 The Society will endeavour to appoint a referee to all Competition matches as specified in the "Priorities for Sunday Match Referees" listing as approved by the Management Committee.

12.3 Each Club entering the Competition must nominate a referee qualified to National 15-a-side standard or above, who may be called upon to referee matches at any age-group in the Competition. Attached to these rules is an appendix showing the reserve commitment of the referees nominated by clubs. The nominated Club contact shall ensure that a referee is available to officiate if required. Whilst YCMG will make every effort to ensure notification of the Club referee not being required is given as far in advance as possible, notification may not be given until the morning of the match. A table detailing the commitments of referees from the participating clubs to matches is shown as Appendix A. Any club failing to provide a referee for a designated match shall be deemed to have failed to field a qualified team and penalized accordingly. I.e. they shall have three league points deducted.

12.4 Each Club shall provide a competent touch-judge for each Competition match in which it is involved.

12.5 The normal charge for referees appointed by the Society shall be levied on the home Club.

12.6 The home Club shall confirm venue, date and kick-off time with the referee.

12.7 If the appointed referee has not arrived by the agreed kick-off time, or if the referee is unable to officiate for the whole of the match, and a replacement referee is available, the Team Managers, or captains in their absence, may agree that a replacement referee may officiate. Such agreement shall be binding on the Clubs and the match result shall stand. If there is no agreement and the match cannot be rescheduled or replayed then the match shall be declared void.

13 Postponed and Abandoned Matches

13.1 In the event of the unavoidable postponement of a match because of weather conditions, and the inability of clubs to arrange a revised fixture before the next round of the competition, the match shall be abandoned or if a match is abandoned because of such conditions the match shall be void and one point allocated to each team, the score being attributed as 0-0.

13.2 The referee's decision as to the necessity for abandonment shall be final.

13.3 If there is an exceptional reason for not playing a Competition match and that reason is acceptable to the YCMG the match shall be void

13.4 If the reason for not playing a Competition match is not acceptable to the YCMG, the non-offending Club may be awarded three Competition points and the offending side may be deducted three Competition points. No match score points will be calculated.

14 Notification of Results

14.1 Both Clubs shall inform the Chairman YCMG or their nominated representative by e-mail of the result of the match or of the fact that the match has not been played as soon as possible and certainly no later than 20:00 on the Wednesday following the match. The subject line of the email shall be in the following format and inc competition, date, sides and result. i.e. Under 16's Div 1 9 /10/05 Havant 16 V New Milton 16

14.2 A match may be declared void if the result is not reported on time.

14.3 The Organiser will provide the results of matches and the league table to the MLO for publication on the Hampshire Rugby web site.

14.4 See ALSO Regulation 5.4 above

15 Finance and Submission of Entries

15.1 Each participating Club shall pay an entrance fee per age group which shall be determined annually by the YCMG.

15.2 Every club intending to enter the competition shall submit their entry on the prescribed form to Chair YCMG or their representative by 31 July along with the prescribed entry fee. In the event that a club is unable to form a team from their squad of players they may withdraw without penalty by 1900 hours on the Monday following the third Sunday in September.

15.3 If a club withdraws from the from the competition under 15.2 above YCMG will review the allocation of clubs in the league(s) and may re-structure the league competition, either by adjusting the number of leagues or the clubs within each league. The principles of 6.2 apply.

16 Protests, Disputes and Transgressions

16.1 Any matters in dispute or any alleged transgressions of this Regulation must be referred to the Chair YCMG in person or by telephone by e-mail within 48 hours of the end of the game. If by e-mail the complaint should where possible be copied to all other interested parties. If a verbal complaint is made in person or by telephone then it must be supported by a written complaint which should reach the Chair YCMG and other interested parties within a further 48 hours. The Chair YCMG has the authority to resolve any such complaint and shall inform the interested parties of his decision.

16.2 Appeals

16.2.1 If a Club wishes to appeal against a decision of the Chair YCMG, the appeal must be lodged with the Committee Secretary in person or by telephone or by e-mail within 48 hours of receiving the decision. The Committee has the authority to resolve any such appeal and the Secretary shall inform the interested parties of the Committee decision.

16.2.2 If a Club wishes to appeal against a decision of the Committee, the appeal must be lodged with the Executive Director in person or by telephone or by e-mail within 48 hours of receiving the decision. This appeal will be considered by the Management Committee at their next scheduled meeting if time permits or by the Officers if not. Their decision shall be final.

17 Terms and Conditions of Participation

17.1 Every club intending to enter the competition shall submit their entry on the prescribed form to Chair YCMG or their representative by 31 July along with the prescribed entry fee. In the event that a club is unable to form a team from their squad of players they may withdraw without penalty by 1900 hours on the Monday following the third Sunday in September.

17.2 A Club withdrawing from a Competition match after 2000 on a Thursday prior to the scheduled date of the match shall be responsible for all reasonable and irrecoverable expenses incurred and invoiced by the opposing Club. Invoices shall be passed to the Chair YCMG for approval and sending to the offending Club.

17.3 Any Club, which withdraws from a Competition match and subsequently plays in another fixture on the scheduled date, shall be fined £25 on the first occasion and £50 on each and every subsequent occasion. These fines shall be set annually by the Governance Committee.

17.4 If the reason for any withdrawal is not acceptable to the Chair YCMG the Club may be excluded from the Competition in the following season or seasons and may be required to pay a £100 bond before any subsequent entry is accepted.

17.5 If a Club wishes to appeal against a decision of the Committee, the appeal must be lodged with the Executive Director in person or by telephone or by e-mail within 48 hours of receiving the decision. This appeal will be considered by the Management Committee at their next scheduled meeting if time permits or by the Officers if not. Their decision shall be final.

17.6 Regulation 1 is also relevant.