

## **RFL CONFERENCE CHALLENGE TROPHY - COMPETITION RULES 2015**

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1. The “RFL Conference Challenge Trophy” (CCT) is a Cup Competition for all Tier Four Men’s clubs. All teams participating in the CCT are bound by the RFL Operational Rules for Tiers Four, Five and Six (Operational Rules).
2. **FORMAT**
  - 2.1 The format will be a knock out Competition with the number of rounds determined by the number of entrants.
  - 2.2 All clubs will be informed when the draw is to take place.
  - 2.3 **Semi Final Arrangements**
    - 2.3.1 Once the Competition enters the Semi Final stage then the Clubs drawn out first will stage the fixture.
  - 2.4 **Final Arrangements**
    - 2.4.1 The final will be staged on a neutral ground and the RFL will be responsible for all match day arrangements.
  - 2.5 **Golden Point/Extra Time**
    - 2.5.1 Should the scores be level at normal full time then the winners will be decided by virtue of a “Golden Point Score” i.e. the first team to score a point of any kind will determine the winner. Teams are to toss a coin at the start of the period, to determine who will kick off. Teams are to change ends after each 10 minute period of play.
3. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**
  - 3.1 All players participating in the CCT must be registered with the respective Community Club on the Community Game Database in accordance with their League Competition Rules.
  - 3.3 Any player who plays for a Club in the CCT is deemed as Cup Tied and is not eligible to play for any other club in this competition.
  - 3.4 It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that it complies with the rules regarding player eligibility. Any Club found guilty of playing an ineligible player will be found guilty of misconduct and will be subject to disciplinary action.

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### **4. MATCH DAY OPERATIONS**

- 4.1 All games shall, unless there is mutual agreement between competing clubs to the contrary, be organised and staged on Saturday afternoons with a kick off time scheduled for 2.30pm. If fixtures need to be played mid-week then the Competition Officer must be notified at least one week prior to the scheduled fixture.
- 4.2 It is the responsibility of the home Club, during the week preceding a Game, to contact both its opponents and relevant Match Official regarding team colours and ground directions.
- 4.3 **Post Match Arrangements**
- 4.3.1 The home club shall be responsible for supplying all the competing players, club officials and appointed Match Officials with a suitable post match meal. The visiting club is obligated to accept such hospitality.
- 4.3.2 In the case of away clubs failing to fulfil a fixture the home club may also claim up to a maximum of £50 towards refreshment costs. Any club which will not be requiring refreshments should notify its opponents in advance of the game, otherwise the club will be liable to pay £50 compensation to the home club.
- 4.4 **Team Sheet**
- 4.4.1 Official team sheets must be completed correctly before the commencement of matches and shall be signed by a recognised official from each club and the Match Official.
- 4.4.2 Completed team sheets should include the full forename and surname (no initials), of all participants. Details of the scorers and the man of the match from both the participating clubs must also be included. The failure of a club to complete team sheets correctly will incur a £15 fine.
- 4.4.3 It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that the completed team sheet is submitted to the Competition Officer by 5.30 p.m. for a Saturday game and two hours after completion for a midweek fixture. Failure to do will result in an £25 fine. This must also be submitted to the people detailed on the bottom of the team sheet, using the normal NCL team sheet.
- 4.5 **Reporting Results**
- 4.5.1 The home club, in consultation with the Match Official and designated officer from the opposition, must agree the result immediately on completion of the game and using the normal texting service system, to the Competition Officer within 15 minutes of the completion of the game. Failure to do so will result in a £10 administration fine.

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### **4.6 Abandonment of Games**

- 4.6.1 If a game is abandoned with more than three-quarters of the playing time elapsed, the result shall stand unless otherwise determined by the RFL. If less than three-quarters of the playing time has elapsed the RFL, at its sole discretion, may order a game to be re-played.

### **4.7 Postponements**

- 4.7.1 In the event of the home club suspecting that its ground will not be fit for play owing to adverse weather conditions or other cause, the home club must immediately call a Match Official on the approved list recognised by the RFL to carry out a ground inspection. If the Match Official states the ground is not fit for play, and in their opinion there is no chance of it being so before the scheduled kick off, then that decision must be communicated immediately to the visiting Club, appointed Match Official and the Competition Officer. Any club failing to fulfil this instruction may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 4.7.2 All postponements must be notified to the Competition Officer by 12.00 p.m. on Saturday and 5.00 p.m. midweek.

### **4.8 Failure to Fulfil a Fixture**

- 4.8.1 In the event of a club being unable to fulfil a fixture the club will be fined a minimum of £500.00 and will also lose the right to participate in the Cup the following year.
- 4.8.2 Any club which fails to notify their opponents of its inability to raise a team 60 minutes before the scheduled kick-off, shall also be liable to pay any expenses, up to a maximum of £40, which their opponents may incur, including kit washing, or medical costs such as strapping.
- 4.8.3 In the case of a home club failing to fulfil a fixture, a visiting club that has travelled, may claim up to a maximum of £500 towards transport costs.

## **5 DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSIONS AND FINES**

- 5.1 The RFL discipline panel is in place to deal with all discipline matters arising. The disciplinary panel shall have the full power to expel, suspend and/or fine any club, player, official or other person, subject to the Operational Rules, found guilty of misconduct and/or breach of these rules and/or breach of the Operational Rules and to order them to meet any costs incurred.
- 5.2 A written report of a Match Official on the misconduct of any club, player or official must be sent via email to the Competition Officer with a copy to the offending club for receipt inside 48 hours from the conclusion of the game.
- 5.3 Reports of brawling – defined as three or more players involved - should via email be sent by the Match Official, for receipt within 48 hours of a game's conclusion, to the Competition Officer. Separate copies of the report must be lodged by the Match Official with the clubs concerned.
- 5.4 Any club which does not receive from the Match Official within 48 hours a report outlining a dismissal or brawl having occurred should contact the Competition Officer immediately. The

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failure of a club to receive a written report will not prevent action being dealt by the relevant discipline committee.

- 5.5 A reported club, player, official or any other person may, to defend an allegation of misconduct, send a letter for receipt by the Competition Officer within ten days of the date of the match. The club or such persons may in their own defence request a personal appearance and/or bring witnesses to the hearing, provided that they notify the Competition Officer within ten days of the alleged offence and send with it a deposit of £20.00 payable to the "RFL" The deposit shall be refunded at the hearing, provided that the appellant or their designated representative attends in person.
- 5.6 Unedited DVD evidence shall be an accepted method through which to defend or confirm the alleged actions that have been reported to the committee by a Match Official.
- 5.7 Club secretaries or their deputies, pursuant to the hearing having not received a verdict after five days, should contact the Competition Officer regarding the result.
- 5.8 Should a case of alleged assault by a player, club official or spectator be lodged it will be reported to the Competition Officer by a Match Official. The Match Official will then be instructed to make himself available to the disciplinary committee, for the purposes of interview, due notice of which shall be given in writing. A Match Official shall in such circumstances be entitled to claim reasonable travel expenses.
- 5.9 A player's suspension shall commence on the Saturday following the meeting at which the suspension was imposed, with the exception of any suspension of six matches or more which shall take immediate effect.
- 5.10 All organised competition games, (including SRL fixtures, and RFL representative games) provided that they were arranged prior to the player's offence may be counted towards his list of suspended games.
- 5.11 A suspended player is not permitted to play in any other game of Rugby League until any fines are paid and his suspension is served and the completed Notification Of Games Served Form has been completed and received and approved by the Competition Officer. Any player or club violating this rule will be fined not less than £100 and the offending player shall be suspended for a further six matches, and will not be able to play until such time as the fine is paid. In the event of a game having being won by a club fielding a player under suspension then the competition points gained shall be forfeited automatically.
- 5.12 All fines, payable to the RFL must be settled within 28 days and must be forwarded to the Competition Officer. Failure to meet this obligation shall result in the fine being doubled automatically. If a further seven days elapse without receipt of payment then the club's fixtures will be suspended.

## **6 APPEALS**

- 6.1 All appeals against disciplinary sanctions imposed by the RFL are to be dealt with by an independent RFL appointed panel.
- 6.2 Clubs who have the right to appeal may do so within 14 days of a decision made. A £40.00 fee, payable to the "RFL", should be submitted together with an accompanying letter outlining the reason why the appeal is sought. This must be forwarded to the Competition Officer.

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- 6.3 An appeal by a club may be based solely on the following grounds: a) the finding of guilt or b) the severity of sentence imposed.
- 6.4 Adjudication by the Appeals Panel precludes the right of individual players or their clubs towards seeking a further representation.