

KENT RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

COLTS KO TROPHY

COMPETITION RULES 2018-2019



General

This competition will be played **and must be completed in the period January to March 2019**. The competition is designed specifically for clubs who are seeking to retain and challenge U17 & U18 year old players. The intention is to give players who are committed to rugby union and to their clubs the opportunity to enjoy competitive rugby against teams of similar standing within the Youth Rugby framework before they progress to the adult game and support this period of transition. Under 18s must be Under 18 at the beginning of the season i.e. September 1st 2018. In the event a club requires an U16 to play up they must comply with the specific provisions of RFU Regulation 15.3.2 (See Player eligibility 4.5 below).

1. Eligibility

1. The Competition is open to all clubs that are in full membership of the Kent County RFU and shall be played under the Rules of the Rugby Football Union.

2. Competition Management

2.1 The management of this competition shall be vested in the County Youth sub-committee which shall appoint the Competition Manager who shall be responsible for organising the competition and shall have full powers to deal with all disputes and transgressions.

2.2 In the event of an appeal against a decision of the Competition Manager the appeal shall be referred to the Game Development committee. The GDC will have access to all relevant correspondence and any further information which the clubs concerned and the Competition Manager may wish to submit.

2.3 The decision of the Game Development committee shall be final.

2.4 The power to disqualify a Club from the competition remains with the County Youth sub-committee but may be subject to appeal to the Game Development committee as set out in 2.2 and 2.3 above

2.5 No exception to Rules 1 and 2 will be allowed and exceptions to the other Rules will not normally be allowed.

3. Entry applications

3.1 Applications to enter the competition must be made to the Competition Manager on the form and in the format supplied by the Manager and not later than the date specified.

3.2 The applicant shall state the name, telephone number and email of the person to be responsible for future communications. These details will be circulated to the other clubs participating in the competition.

3.3 Entries received after the specified date will not be considered under any circumstances.

3.4 There shall be an entrance fee agreed by the Youth sub-committee which shall be paid on application. Applications without the correct entrance fee will not be accepted.

3.5 **Squad sizes**

3.5.1 For clubs entering one team all eligible players may be registered for that squad.

3.5.2 For clubs entering two teams: The 1st squad is limited to 26 players of which up to 10 may also be registered for the 2nd squad if required. These 10 will not include players of County standard or above. The 2nd squad would contain all remaining players.

3.5.3 Clubs with two sides may not play players in both sides on the same day.

3.5.4 Clubs with two sides should respect the spirit of the competition. Clubs may not rotate players between the two sides in ways which undermine the spirit of the competition. Teams that are reported to have done so will be subject to investigation under the provisions of Rule 9 below.

3.5.5 The Match Day squad shall be limited to a maximum 22 players.

4. **Player eligibility**

4.1 All players must be Under 18 years of age on the 1st September at the start of the season in which they play in the Competition [i.e. September 2018] and must be registered according to the procedures agreed by the RFU. Players aged U19 will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances as defined under RFU Regulation 15.4 *Playing Down* :

15.4.1 Certain age grades are permitted to play down one or two age grades for training and playing if recommended by the player's club, college or school as set out in the table at Regulation 15.5 and only in the following circumstances:

- (a) the player must be in a younger academic year at school/college than the player's academic birth year; or*
- (b) the player's safety may be compromised due to their small stature in comparison to other players in the same age grade or due to a developmental or behavioural issue.*

15.4.2 If players are playing down an age grade, the following additional conditions must be met:

- (a) in each case an assessment is carried out by the club/college/school. Best practice as to how to carry out an assessment is set out in the Code available at www.englandrugby.com/codesofpractice;*
- (b) in respect of club rugby, the approval of an individual who has parental responsibility for the player and the Age Grade Youth*

Chairman, and for U13s and below, the approval of club's Constituent Body is obtained;

(c) in respect of school or college rugby, the approval of an individual who has parental responsibility for the player (who may be the principal in loco parentis) is obtained;

(d) in respect of female U19s, the approval of the RFU is obtained;

(e) if approval is given, the club/college/school must notify the opposing teams and match officials at least 24 hours in advance of the game although an opposition's objection may not prevent the player from playing;

(f) any permission to play down is valid for up to one season only and the player must remain in that lower age grade for the entire Season; and

(g) if playing down two age grades, the written approval of the RFU is required.'

4.2 All players must be genuine players for their Club Under U17 & U18s and to be eligible must be a fully paid up member of the club with regular attendance and not included especially for the competition.

4.3 No player may play for more than one team in the competition in any one season.

4.4. In the interest of player development & retention, this Competition is intended for the U17 & U18 age group. It is therefore expected that registered U17 & U18s players are given priority over U16s players for whom a separate competition exists.

4.5. Clubs who need to play U16's to run a side for the competition or, on occasion, to fulfil a fixture, need to:

(i) Comply with the specific provisions of RFU Regulation 15.3.2 :

If players are playing up, the following conditions must be met:

(a) in each case an appropriate assessment is carried out by the club/school/college. Best practice on carrying out an appropriate assessment is set out in the Code

www.englandrugby.com/codesofpractice;

(b) in respect of club rugby, approval is obtained from an individual who has parental responsibility for the player;

(c) in respect of school or college rugby, approval is obtained from an individual who has parental responsibility for the player (who may be the principal in loco parentis);

(d) in respect of school or college rugby for U16s and above, the individual who has parental responsibility for the player (who may be the principal in loco parentis) is informed that it is possible that this dispensation may result in the player playing with and/or against one or more U19 players who are playing down in accordance with Regulation 15.

(ii) request permission from the competition organiser

(iii) ensure that the player is registered and highlighted as an U16 player.

4.6 All players will be registered for the competition on the Squad Registration Sheet which will e-mailed to the Competition Manager before the start of the competition.

5. Match Day Arrangements

5.1 The Home Side will be responsible for contacting its opponent and for arranging the time, venue and the Referee.

5.2 In the event that the pitch of the designated home side is not available for whatever reason and the away side can host the fixture it shall be played at the away side which will then be responsible for all the arrangements for the fixture.

5.3 For competition and referee administration purposes all matches in this league will kick off at **1.30pm** unless permission has been granted by the Competition Manager for a change in Kick Off time.

5.4 The Competition Manager will normally grant requests for changes to the Kick Off time provided that:

- (i) The opposition has been contacted and agree to the change.
- (ii) The Competition Manager receives the request at least 72 hours prior to the match being played.
- (iii) The Club undertakes to contact and inform the appointed referee in good time.
- (iv) Changes in Kick Off times will not normally be allowed within 72 hours of the match.
- (v) Any club failing to comply with this rule is liable for action to be taken under Rule 2.

5.5.1 The club referee liaison officer is responsible for the appointment of a **qualified** referee for each home fixture. (*See notes on the appointment of referees*)

5.5.2 Referees for each game should be appointed by either the Kent or London Society of Rugby Football Union Referees as appropriate for the club.

5.5.3 The referee should **not** be a member of the club.

5.6 If it does not prove possible to appoint a Society referee then, with the agreement of the opposition, a referee who holds the RFU 15-a-side referee certificate may be appointed provided that such a person has been DRB checked and is not a member of the clubs playing.

Note: This will be an exceptional situation as the Kent Society has agreed to appoint qualified referees.

5.7 Each side shall supply a competent Touch Judge.

5.8 All games will be played on the dates agreed by the County Youth sub-committee and specified by the Competition Manager.

5.9 The Clubs concerned shall immediately notify the competition manager by email of any postponement or abandonment of matches and the reason therefore.

5.10 Due to the tight schedule fixtures may only be postponed due to adverse weather. If a fixture is postponed and the postponement is approved by the County organiser a new date must be mutually agreed as soon as possible to ensure the competition gets back on track. In the event of a side not being able to honour the fixture on the postponed date then the match will be forfeit and treated as a 'walkover'. (see 7.3 and 8.12 below)

6. Results

6.1 Each team manager will prepare a signed team sheet identifying front row players on the form provided on the County Youth website. Managers will be responsible for producing copies themselves and for having the list available before the start of the match..

6.2 It will be the responsibility of the Home Team manager to complete the Match Card available from the County Youth website.

(i) The Match Card will contain the full team list for each team identifying trained front row players; it will be completed before the start of the game and will be provided to the referee.

(ii) The Match Card will clearly identify any players playing up or down in accordance with RFU regulation 15.

(iii) After the game the Match Card will be completed by the referee who will state the score, number of tries, conversions and penalties scored and number of yellow and red cards. The name and Society of the referee will be included.

iv) The completed form will be signed by the referee and by the managers of both teams and returned to the manager of the Home Team prior to the referee leaving the ground.

6.3 The manager of the Home Team will notify the result of the match to the Competitions Manager by email before the end of the day on which the match is held.

6.4 The manager of the Visiting Team has an absolute obligation to assist with the completion of the form in accordance with the above requirement.

6.5 The Match Card, duly completed, must be e-mailed to the Competition Manager no later than 48 hours after the round. The team sheet will be a basis for monitoring conformity with the rules and spirit of the competition.

6.6 Failure to ensure proper and timely completion of the Match Card or the notification of the results may result in disqualification.

7. Match Rules

7.1 Each match will be 35 minutes each way, no extra time will be played in any match

7.2 Referees shall blow no-side (full time) in any game played in this competition if a 50 point differential occurs between teams regardless of time played.

7.3 If a team is unable to fulfil a fixture the opposition will be awarded a 'Walkover'.

7.4 No game will be permitted to start without a minimum of 15 players on each team

7.5 Any team unable to field 15 players will be deemed unable to fulfil the fixture. Any team not able to start the game meeting this requirement should play the game but will be deemed to have lost with the opposition awarded a win on the basis of rule 8.12 below. The losing team will be entitled to a losing point.

7.6 Every team should start the match with sufficient trained front row players to enable contested scrums; this should include at least 1 front row replacement.

7.7 If, after the game has started, uncontested scrums arise due to injury or on the instruction of the referee, on safety grounds, the game will continue to its normal conclusion with the final score standing.

7.8 Replacements will be allowed under the relevant RFU Law.

8. Competition format

8.1 The competition will take the format of 5 rounds divided into 2 groups a) Trojans & b) Spartans who will participate in a combined league & KO format competing for up to 8 trophies, depending on the number of entries,

8.2. The composition of each league will be determined by a seeding committee consisting of a Rugby Development Officer, the Chairman of the Youth sub-committee and the Competition Manager, who will act as secretary to the Committee.

8.4 The basic criteria for seeding will be the relative positions of the clubs entered in the County Under 17s/U18s competitions & relative success in the National U18 Cup in the previous half of the season. In the case of a club which was not entered in relevant competitions in the previous half of the season the seeding committee may take into account other factors which it considers relevant.

8.5 There shall be no appeal against the decisions of the seeding committee

8.6 The Competition Manager will be responsible for the order of games and designating home and away fixtures.

8.7 The Competition will consist of 2 league style and 3 KO rounds :

8.7.1 Round 1- In each group (Trojans or Spartans) teams will be drawn to play 1 team from the same group.

8.7.2 Round 2 – Winning teams from Round 1 of each group will play the losing teams in Round 1 from the same group (as indicated in the Colts Trophy format document)

8.7.3 In each group, the final standings after the first 2 rounds will be calculated on the basis of the existing league format (see 8.8 to 8.13 below).

8.7.4 The Top 8 sides of the Trojan group will go through to the Cup/Plate. The remaining sides in the Trojan group (up to 8 sides) will go through to the Bowl/Shield. If there are fewer than 8 sides in the bottom half of Trojans group, the top teams in the Spartans group will go through to the Bowl/Shield to make up 8 sides (e.g. If there are only 4 sides in the bottom half of the Trojans group, the Top 4 in the Spartans group will join them in the Bowl/Shield

8.7.5 Remaining sides in the Spartan Group will be cascaded down to the next trophy competitions based on their standings after Rounds 1&2 (Salver/Vase, Tanker/Jug).

8.7.6 Each trophy competition will have a Quarter Final. The Winners will play in the Semi Final of the primary trophy (i.e. cup), the losers play the semi-final of the secondary trophy (i.e. Plate) and so on.

8.7.7 The allocation of opponents will be randomised using a standard software package.

8.7.7 All winners & losers of the semi-finals will proceed to a Finals day at a selected venue to compete in finals or 3rd/4th place matches.

8.7.8 In the event of a draw in the KO rounds see 8.14 below

8.8 Points in Rounds 1 & 2

8.8.1 The winning team in each match will receive 4 points.

8.8.2 Both teams will be awarded 2 points for a draw

8.8.3 The losing team will be awarded 1 point and a further 1 point if the losing margin is 10 points or fewer.

8.8.4 One bonus point will be awarded to a team scoring 4 tries or more

8.9 If a team is unable to fulfil a fixture the opposition will be awarded a 'Walkover' and receive points and a notional score of 30 points to 0 and a try bonus (see also rule 8.20 below).

8.10 When calculating points difference in the league tables the Competition Manager will allocate a maximum of plus, or minus, 50 points even if the actual difference was greater than 50 points.

8.11 Following the completion of all league matches, if teams are tied on points then points difference will be used to break the tie.

8.12 If Rule 8.11 fails to break any ties then the result of the match between the two teams will prevail and should that be a draw the Competition Manager will evaluate red and yellow cards as a means to break the tie.

8.13 The Competition Manager reserves the right, in consultation with the Chair of the Youth sub-committee and other members of the Committee, as appropriate, to review the outcomes of results at the league fixtures with particular reference to the impact of 'Walkover' results.

8.14 In the event of a draw in KO matches, the results will be decided on :

8.14.1 – The side that scores the most tries, if equal, goals (conversions), if equal number of yellow/red cards (red count as 2 yellows)

8.14.2 – If still equal in the QF/SF stage the Away Side will win

8.14.3 – If still equal in the Final or 3rd/4th playoffs will be decided on drop-outs from 22 metre line (5 players selected from each side). If still equal after all 22 players the result will be decided on the toss of a coin.

9. Behaviour likely to bring the game into disrepute

9.1. All clubs participating in the competition have a duty to ensure that players, coaches, supporters understand that 'behaviour likely to bring the game into disrepute' (RFU Regulation 5.12) will not be tolerated.

9.2. For the avoidance of doubt 'behaviour likely to bring the game into disrepute' shall mean 'any conduct, behaviour, statements and/or practices on or off the playing enclosure during or in connection with a Match or otherwise, that is unsporting and/or cheating and/or insulting and/or unruly and/or ill-disciplined and/or that brings or has the potential to bring the Game and/or its appointed personnel or Match Officials into disrepute'. Edited from World Rugby.

9.3. Cases of such behaviour should be noted on the match card (Rule 6 above) and signed by the referee.

9.4. All cases will be reported by the Competition Manager to the County Youth Disciplinary Secretary who will initiate an immediate enquiry in accordance with RFU regulations. The Secretary will oversee any disciplinary process in conjunction with the clubs and the County Disciplinary Committee.

9.5. If a club and /or an individual or individuals is/are found guilty of behaviour which brings the game into disrepute then, the sanctions outlined below may be administered by a disciplinary panel in accordance with the RFU regulations.

9.6. The sanction may include:

9.6.1. - a caution and warning as to future conduct;

9.6.2. - a fine;

9.6.3. - a suspension for a specified number of Matches (including all on-field activities) or period of time;

9.6.4. - expulsion from the remainder of the competition

9.6.5. - suspension from involvement in officiating, coaching and/or administration of the Game;

9.6.6. - the deduction or cancellation of points

9.6.7. - the cancellation of a Match result;

9.6.8. - the forfeiture of a Match;

9.6.9. - any combination of the above or such other sanction as may be appropriate

9.7. Regardless of whether any instance of such behaviour is being investigated under the RFU disciplinary process, the Competition Manager, in conjunction with the County Youth Disciplinary Secretary and Chair of the Youth Sub Committee may consider the circumstances of any report. If the behaviour is considered prejudicial to the reputation, good conduct or spirit of the competition, the Competition Manager reserves the right to impose upon the team of the offending club a points deduction, cancellation or forfeiture of a match result, suspension or exclusion of the team from the competition. They may also impose any other restriction or condition to any further games played by the team or club in that competition, as is deemed reasonable to prevent or minimise any reoccurrence of the poor behaviour.

January 2019