# D:\My Documents\Kent Rugby\Logos\Kent logo small.JPGKENT RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

## UNDER 17s LEAGUE

## COMPETITION RULES 2019-2020

**General**

This competition will beplayed **and must be completed in the period September to December 2019.** The competition is designed specifically for clubs who are seeking to retain and challenge U17 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.

**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.

**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.

**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 and not rotate players between the two sides in ways which undermine the spirit of the competition

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

**Player eligibility**

4.1 All players must be Under 17 years of age on the 1st September at the start of the season in which they play in the Competition and must be registered according to the procedures agreed by the RFU. Players aged U18 will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances as defined under RFU Regulation 15.4

4.2 All players must be genuine players for their Club Under 17s 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 age group. It is therefore expected that registered U17s 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 season or, on occasion, to fulfil a fixture, need to:

(i) comply with the specific provisions of RFU Regulation 15.3.2

(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.

**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**1.30am** 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:

* 1. The opposition has been contacted and agree to the change.
  2. The Competition Manager receives the request at least 72 hours prior to the match being played.
  3. The Club undertakes to contact and inform the appointed referee in good time.
  4. Changes in Kick Off times will not normally be allowed within 72 hours of the match.
  5. 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 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 If by mutual consent a fixture is postponed and the postponement is approved by the County organiser a new date must be mutually agreed **within a week of the** **postponement**. Further postponement will not normally be agreed. 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)

**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.

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

**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.

**Competition format**

8.1 The competition will take the format of a league or leagues depending on the number of entries,

8.2. If there is more than one league 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 competitions in the previous season. In the case of a club which was not entered in relevant Under 17s competitions in the previous 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 Each side will play all the other sides in the league once only.

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

8.8 Points

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 4 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 There will be no play-offs. There will be a separate Colts Cup competition in the period January to April.

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June 2019