

Competition Rules

Shepherd Neame Kent Cup

1. The Competition is open to all Clubs, which are in full membership and affiliated membership of the Kent County RFU and shall be played under the Rules and Regulations of the Rugby Football Union.
2. The management of this Competition shall be vested in the County Committee which shall appoint a Sub-Committee to be known as the Competitions Sub-Committee, which shall be responsible to the County Committee for organising the Competition and shall have full powers so to do and deal with all disputes and transgressions, including the power to disqualify any participating Club which may infringe any of the Rules of the Competition.
3. Only Bona Fide playing members of participating Clubs who have played 5 matches during the season for any team of the Club may be selected and no player may play for more than one Club in the Competition in any one season. Failure to comply with this rule will carry automatic disqualification of both Club and player in the current Competition.
4. NCA clubs playing in National League 1 level must enter their 3rd/Development teams (or lower) in the Kent Cup and Plate competitions. The definition of a 3rd/Development team player is any player selected for their team in the Kent Cup or Plate must NOT have been in consecutive starting 1st or 2ND XV(i.e excluding replacements) line-ups in the 5 games prior to any Kent Cup or Plate match.

Clubs at levels 4 to 6 must enter their 2nd team teams .The definition of a 2nd team player is any player selected for their team in the Kent Cup or Kent Plate must NOT have been in consecutive starting 1st XV (ie excluding replacements) line ups in the 5 games prior to any Kent Cup or Kent Plate match .

4 replacements will be allowed in all Kent competitions; out of the squad of 19, 5 must be able to play Front Row with a max of 9 player interchanges.

4. Application to enter the Competition must be made to the Competitions Officer in writing or email not later than 30th June. The applicants shall state the name address and telephone number of the person to be responsible for future communications. The draw shall take place on 31st June whereafter participating Clubs will be notified immediately. Entries received after **30th May** will not be considered under any circumstances. There shall be an Entrance Fee of £25.00, which shall be paid on application.
5. All matches shall be played on the dates determined by the Competitions Sub-Committee in rounds sufficient to accommodate the number of Clubs properly entered. Each round shall be freshly drawn and the home-side in each round will be the first drawn side. Only 4 replacements are allowed to attend matches, but all 4 may be used.
6. Referees shall be appointed by the Kent Society of Referees. All expenses, except travelling expenses, for the rounds shall be borne by the home side. No Club may charge an entry fee or a compulsory programme charge in any round prior to the Final except

with the agreement of the visiting club. Failure to play a match on the appointed day, or such other day as agreed by the Competitions Sub-Committee, will result in the elimination of the side deemed responsible by the Competitions Sub-Committee.

7. All results must be notified in writing to *the Competitions Officer* by the winning side which shall give the name of the Referee and Society of which he is a member. Results must reach the *Competitions Officer* not later than 48 hours after the closing date of the Round. A failure to notify may result in disqualification.
8. The Final will be played on a date and at a ground to be decided by the Competitions Sub-Committee which will be responsible for making all arrangements for this match. All expenses, except travelling expenses, shall be borne by the County Union which shall dispose of any profit arising by distribution to the participating clubs in a manner decided by the County Union.
9. If at the end of normal playing time the scores are equal, the team which has scored the greater number of tries shall be deemed the winner. If the number of tries is equal, the teams will change ends and continue playing a further 10 minutes each way. If at the end of this period the scores are still equal and the number of tries are equal then there shall be a replay on the visiting team's ground or if mutually agreed between the two teams, the match may be decided by the toss of a coin – the visiting team to call.

In the case of the Final, if after forty minutes play each way the scores are level there shall be an immediate period of extra time of ten minutes each way with a one minute interval. If the scores are then still equal the team who scored the most tries shall be the winner. If after extra time there shall be an equality of scores and of

tries, the team that has scored the most goals from tries shall be the winner. If this does not produce a result, there shall not be a replay and the trophy will be shared.

10. The Referee shall have the power to order play to commence fifteen minutes after the official kick-off time, which for all games except any matches that take place in *August and April*, shall be 2.00 pm, unless otherwise agreed with the *Competitions Officer*

Shepherd Neame Kent Shield

1. The rules of the Kent Cup Competition apply to The Shield Competition FOR 2ND XV team players (clubs at level 7 & 8 only) sides that play one match and lose can enter the Plate Competition .

Shepherd Neame Kent Plate

1. The Rules of the Kent Cup Competition apply to the Plate Competition except where these Rules specifically exclude them.
2. The Plate Competition is open to all Clubs who enter the Kent Cup / Shield and who play and lose one match in that competition, whether that match be in the First or Second Round. A Club that does not fulfil its first match will be excluded from the Plate Competition. The Plate Competition will be drawn following the second round of the Kent Cup & Kent Shield and each round will be subject to a fresh draw.

3. Subject to Rule 2, each Club who applies to enter the Kent Cup & Kent Shield will automatically be entered for the Plate Competition **unless that Club expressly indicates in writing that it does not wish to take part.**
4. All matches shall be played on the dates determined by the Competitions Sub-Committee in rounds sufficient to accommodate the number of clubs properly entered. The Home Side shall be the first drawn in every round save in the Final.
5. Except for the Final *and any matches that take place in April* all matches will kick-off at 2.00 pm, unless otherwise agreed with the Competitions Secretary.

Shepherd Neame Kent Vase and Shepherd Neame Kent Salver

1. The Rules of the Kent Cup Competition apply to the Vase and Salver Competitions except where these Rules specifically exclude them.
2. The Vase and Salver Competitions are open to all Clubs who play in the Kent Leagues or who do not participate in the National or London Leagues.
3. All matches shall be played on the dates determined by the Competitions Sub-Committee in rounds sufficient to accommodate the number of clubs properly entered. The home side shall be the first drawn in every round save the Final.
4. Except for the Finals and any matches that take place in April all matches will kick-off at 2.00 pm, unless otherwise agreed with the Competitions Officer.