

## NATIONAL COMPETITION RULES 2015-2016 (the “Rules”)

### 1. DEFINITIONS

- ‘Board’** means the Scottish Rugby Board.
- ‘Championship Committee’** means the Scottish Rugby Championship Committee who shall assist the Board in the organisation of the National Competitions.
- ‘Championship Secretary’** means the person who deals with the day-to-day running of the National Competitions.
- ‘Clearance’** means Clearance as defined by the Regulations relating to the Game.
- ‘Club’** means a club that is a full member or associate member of Scottish Rugby or is otherwise a recognised rugby body that falls within the jurisdiction of Scottish Rugby.
- ‘Computerised Listing’** means the record of a Club and Players’ Registration details held on Scottish Rugby’s online registration system.
- ‘Cup’** means the Cup, Shield and/or Bowl competition to be contested in accordance with the Cup, Shield and Bowl Regulations.
- ‘Current Union’** means the Union with which a Player is registered.
- ‘Designated Competition’** means a competition in which the Scottish Rugby Regulations on Registration and Eligibility shall apply as may be determined from time to time by the Championship Committee (as listed in Appendix 2).
- ‘Dual Registration’** means the system under which a Player is permitted to play for two Clubs in National Competitions in the same Season.
- ‘Game’** means rugby football played in accordance with the laws, bye-laws and Regulations relating to the Game of the World Rugby as adopted by Scottish Rugby.
- ‘Match’** means a match played as a fixture in a National Competition.
- ‘National Competitions’** means the National League Competition and such other league and knock-out competitions played under the auspices of Scottish Rugby as may from time to time be designated as such by the Board.
- ‘National League Competition’** means the National League Competition comprising the Premiership, National League, Regional Leagues and other designated league competitions.
- ‘Permitted Circumstances’** means that where a Player is Registered with a Club he may be permitted to play the Game for a schools representative team, university representative team, works team, association team, invitational team or social team in any other match than those matches to which the National Competition Rules apply provided that any such team is affiliated to Scottish Rugby.
- ‘Pitch’** means The Ground as defined in World Rugby Law 1.
- ‘Player’** means any person who is named and/or takes part as a player or a replacement in a Match.

<b>‘Player Reference Number’</b>	means the unique personal identifier issued to a Player by the Registrar in accordance with the Regulations and Operating Procedures Relating to Player Registration.
<b>‘Primary Club’</b>	means the Club who currently holds the Player’s registration and is responsible for maintaining all aspects of the Player’s registration details.
<b>‘Registrar’</b>	means the person(s) appointed annually by Scottish Rugby for the purposes of administering Registrations further to these provisions.
<b>‘Registration’</b>	means acceptance by the Registrar of an application and entry on to the Computerised Listing of a Player and <b>‘Registered’</b> shall be construed accordingly.
<b>‘Registration Date’</b>	is the date on which the Registrar accepts the Player’s Registration.
<b>‘Regulations’</b>	means a reference to a Regulation or clause contained within the relevant Premiership, National League, Regional League, Cup (including Shield and Bowl), Reserve League and/or Women’s competition regulations as well as Regulations and Operating Procedures Relating to Player Registration.
<b>‘Regulations Relating to the Game’</b>	means the Regulations relating to the Game as published from time to time by World Rugby.
<b>‘Rules’</b>	means reference to a Rule or clause in the National Competition Rules.
<b>‘Scottish Rugby’</b>	means the Scottish Rugby Union plc.
<b>‘Season’</b>	means the relevant Season starting and finishing on the dates designated by the Board and published from time to time by Scottish Rugby.
<b>‘Secondary Club’</b>	means the one additional Club for whom a Player is formally Registered to play.
<b>‘Team’</b>	means any team which is part of a Club and is participating in a National Competition.
<b>‘Transfer Deadline’</b>	means the date specified as such in each Season by the Board, after which no Player Registration or Dual Registration is allowed except as defined in these National Competition Rules and/or other competition regulations.
<b>‘World Rugby’</b>	means World Rugby, the game’s world governing body.

In these Rules and associated regulations, unless specified or the context otherwise requires, words importing any gender shall include all other genders, and importing singular shall, where appropriate, include plural.

## 2. ORGANISATION AND APPLICATION

- 2.1. To assist the Board in the organisation of the National Competitions a Championship Committee will be constituted comprising:
  - 2.1.1. a Championship Convenor appointed by the Board;
  - 2.1.2. one representative of each of the following groupings: Clubs in the Premiership; Clubs in the National League’s first division; Clubs in the National League’s second

and third divisions; Clubs in the East Regional League; Clubs in the West Regional League; and Clubs in the Caledonia Regional League (all to be appointed annually before the annual general meeting of Scottish Rugby by and from the Clubs competing in each of these groupings);

- 2.1.3. a referees' representative;
  - 2.1.4. a representative from the affiliated schools;
  - 2.1.5. a representative from the women's Club leagues; and
  - 2.1.6. the Reserve League Committee Convener (appointed annually by the Board before the annual general meeting of Scottish Rugby).
  - 2.1.7. the representatives defined in 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 shall be appointed under the terms of the Championship Committee election procedures, as approved by the Scottish Rugby Council from time to time.
- 2.2. To assist the Championship Committee in the organisation of the Regional Leagues and other regional/local competitions three Regional Competitions Committees will be constituted, namely:
- 2.2.1. The Caledonia Region Competitions Committee comprising: the Caledonia Regional League representative on the Championship Committee; two representatives from Clubs in the Midlands area; two representatives from Clubs in the North area; and one representative from a club from each area participating in the Youth Leagues. The Regional League representatives on the Scottish Rugby Council for the Midlands and North areas shall be entitled to attend in a non-voting capacity. The Committee may also appoint other non-voting co-optees as appropriate.
  - 2.2.2. The East Region Competitions Committee comprising: the East Regional League representative on the Championship Committee; two representatives from Clubs in the Scottish Borders area; two representatives from Clubs in the Edinburgh area; and one representative from a club from each area participating in the youth leagues. The Regional League representatives on the Scottish Rugby Council for the Edinburgh and Scottish Borders areas shall be entitled to attend in a non-voting capacity. The Committee may also appoint other non-voting co-optees as appropriate.
  - 2.2.3. The West Region Competitions Committee comprising: the West Regional League representative on the Championship Committee, and four representatives from Clubs in the West Regional League. The Regional League representatives on the Scottish Rugby Council for the Glasgow North and Glasgow South areas shall be entitled to attend in a non-voting capacity. The Committee may also appoint other non-voting co-optees as appropriate.
  - 2.2.4. The club representatives on the Regional Competitions Committees shall be elected under the Regional Competition Committee election procedures, as approved by the Scottish Rugby Council from time to time.
- 2.3. To assist the Championship Committee in the organisation of the Reserve League a Reserve League Committee shall be appointed, comprising a Chairman and an administrator appointed by the Board and one representative elected by the constituent clubs from each of the two National Reserve League divisions, the East Regional Reserve Leagues, and the West Regional Reserve Leagues.
- 2.4. The Championship Committee may appoint other bodies or individuals to assist with the organisation of specific competitions as appropriate.
- 2.5. The Championship Convener shall oversee the routine day-to-day running of the National Competitions and on behalf of the Championship Committee may, where by reason of the

routine nature of the matter and/or such urgency that a meeting of the Championship Committee cannot with reasonable practicability be arranged and subject to any direction given to him by and between meetings of the Championship Committee, exercise any of the powers, discretions and/or authorities given to the Championship Committee in terms of the Rules.

- 2.6. The Championship Committee shall be assisted by a Championship Secretary appointed by Scottish Rugby.
- 2.7. These Rules shall apply to all National Competitions as listed in Appendix 2.
- 2.8. The Board shall from time to time revise the Rules and Regulations for the National Competitions which shall be included in and form the parts of the Schedule to these Rules.
- 2.9. The Season, for the purposes of these Rules, shall commence and end on dates determined by the Board, both being subject to change by the Board from time to time.
- 2.10. The Regional Competitions Committees referred to in paragraphs 2.2.1, 2.2.2 and 2.2.3 shall have the power to administer those leagues below the Caledonia, East and West Regional Leagues providing that any decision taken by those Committees does not conflict with the Laws of the Game, the Regional League Regulations or any relevant definition referred to in Rule 1 above.

### **3. MATCH DATES**

- 3.1. The dates, times and the identity of the home and away Clubs in respect of all fixtures in all National Competitions shall be as determined and notified to Clubs by the Championship Secretary. Where reference is made to Saturday in these National Competition Rules it shall be deemed to apply to Sunday where appropriate in relation to Women's competitions and certain age-grade competitions.
- 3.2. Every Match shall be played on the date and at the time determined and advised by the Championship Secretary unless, first, both Clubs agree to play on another date and/or time and, secondly, this is approved, in advance, by the Championship Secretary or the Match is postponed as provided in these Rules. In addition, the home Club is required to advise the Championship Secretary or relevant Regional Competitions Committee if a Match is to be played at a venue other than that Club's regular ground.
- 3.3. In the event of a postponed or abandoned Match requiring to be rescheduled, other Matches which have been provisionally rescheduled might require to be further rescheduled in order to accommodate the rescheduled Match.
- 3.4. In the event that any Match is not played on the date and time determined and advised by the Championship Secretary in accordance with Rule 3.2 then the Championship Committee reserves the right to apply sanctions to either or both Clubs, including a formal reprimand and warning as to future conduct and/or deduction of up to five league points and/or disqualification from the relevant competition and/or a financial penalty of forfeiture of up to and including the full amount of any participation money which the club may be entitled to. Such penalty will come into effect on a date specified by the Championship Committee, which could be with immediate effect or at time in the future which could be the following season. The Championship Committee will also have the power to suspend such sanction to allow for the Club to demonstrate future compliance with the Rules and Regulations.
- 3.5. Notwithstanding Rule 3.1, in the event that any television or other broadcast media company with which Scottish Rugby has an agreement wishes to exercise their right to broadcast a Match, Clubs shall be obliged to reschedule that Match to the required date

and/or time as notified by Scottish Rugby. No payment or compensation to the Clubs involved shall be due.

- 3.6 The copyright, database and all other rights in the fixture list of all Matches shall vest in and be the property of Scottish Rugby.

#### **4. POSTPONED OR ABANDONED MATCHES**

- 4.1. Subject to Rules 4.2 and 4.3, where a Match is postponed or otherwise not fulfilled it shall be played off on the date and time notified by the Championship Secretary, normally the first available Saturday free of National Competition fixtures, but also midweek if necessary and normally, but not necessarily, at the original venue.
- 4.2. When a Match is abandoned before 60 minutes of play (before 20 minutes of the second half have elapsed) the Match will be replayed as defined in Rule 4.1.
- 4.3. In the event that a Match has begun but is then abandoned after 60 minutes or more have been played (i.e. at least 20 minutes of the second half) the Match will be deemed to have been completed, and the result at the time of the abandonment will stand as the Match result.
- 4.4. For the avoidance of doubt the procedure regarding any yellow cards and/or red cards shown during an abandoned Match and/or any incidents in an abandoned Match that are the subject of citing or misconduct complaints will be the same as if the Match had been completed.

#### **5 REGISTRATION, TRANSFER DEADLINE and PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

##### **5.1 Transfer Deadline**

- 5.1.1 Other than pursuant to Rule 5.3 and subject to Rule 5.1.2, a Player shall not be named for a Club in a league or Cup match if, after the Transfer Deadline in any Season, he has transferred clubs in accordance with Rule 5.2.2 or he has received Clearance to play in Scotland and has subsequently been Registered for a Club in Scotland. Dispensation for varying of this rule may be given by the Championship Committee on cause shown by application to the Championship Secretary.
- 5.1.2 Rule 5.1.1 shall not apply to any Player who reaches the age of 18 years on or after the Transfer Deadline in any Season. Nor shall it apply to a Player who, being aged under 18 years, has received dispensation from Scottish Rugby in accordance with Rule 5.7 below.
- 5.1.3 The Transfer Deadline shall apply within the Premiership, National League, and the first divisions of the Regional Leagues. The Transfer Deadline shall apply also in the Women's Premier League subject to provisions in Women's Championship Regulation 2.
- 5.1.4 A Player exempt from the provisions of NCR 5.1.3, though registered with a Club in a Regional League's second division or lower, cannot play for that Club in a national semi-final or Final of the Shield or Bowl competition unless he has applied for dispensation and been granted same by the Championship Committee. It shall be the Championship Committee's right to decide whether good reason has been provided for dispensation.

##### **5.2 Player Registration**

- 5.2.1 A Player shall not be eligible to be included in a Club's Match squad unless or until

that Player is registered with that Club.

- 5.2.2 Other than pursuant to Rules 5.3 and 5.8, before playing for another Club in a National Competition in the same Season a Registered Player must be de-registered by his current Club and Registered by his new Club, subject to the Transfer Deadline specified in Rule 5.1.
- 5.2.3 Except with the agreement in writing of the Championship Committee, a Player may not play in Matches for more than two Clubs in any one Season.

### **5.3 Dual Registration**

- 5.3.1 Subject to the provisions in Rule 5.1, a Player may ask the Club to whom he is currently registered to also register him with a Secondary Club.
- 5.3.2 A Player's Primary and Secondary Clubs must be in different league divisions. At the end of a Season, should a Player's Primary or Secondary Club be promoted or relegated into the same division as his Secondary or Primary Club, the Player must be automatically deregistered from his Secondary Club.
- 5.3.3 A dual-registered player cannot play for the first XV of his lower-placed Club in any of the last three league Matches or in a national quarter-final (or equivalent) or subsequent round of a Cup competition unless at least 50% of his previous first XV match appearances in that same season have been for that Club in National Competition Matches.
- 5.3.4 A Player cannot be registered with a Secondary Club if that club has three or fewer league Matches to play or has qualified for a national quarter-final (or equivalent) or a subsequent round of a Cup, Shield or Bowl competition.
- 5.3.5 A match squad must not include more than five Dual Registered players who are playing for their lower-placed club which is also their Secondary Club.

### **5.4 Team Sheets**

- 5.4.1 No later than 30 minutes before the kick-off in any Match, a Club must deliver a fully completed team sheet to the referee and to the opposition's team manager or coach. A change in the team sheet may be made any time up to kick-off.
- 5.4.2 That team sheet must specify the full name and position of each Player who is eligible and selected to play in the Match. The position of each front-row player (prop or hooker) in every match squad must be defined on the team sheet. The team sheet must also specify the name and registration number of any dual-registered player who is listed by his Secondary Club and any player borrowed from another club under National Competition Rule 5.8 (Emergency Player Loan Scheme).
- 5.4.3 If a Club fails to fulfil the requirements of Rule 5.4.1 and/or Rule 5.4.2, that failure shall be reported to the Championship Committee, who shall consider whether a sanction be imposed. Such sanction shall be a formal reprimand and a warning as to future conduct and/or a deduction of up to five championship points from the Club and/or forfeiture of participation money.
- 5.4.4 A copy of the team sheet, including each player's registration number, must be sent to the Championship Secretary no later than 48 hours after the commencement of the Match.
- 5.4.5 If a Club fails to submit a team sheet in accordance with Rule 5.4.4 then for each team sheet not submitted a sum of £20 of the Club's relevant participation money

may be forfeit. In the event that a club should fail to submit more than four team sheets (for all league and Cup competitions) in the course of any one season, that failure will be reported to the Championship Committee, who shall consider whether a formal reprimand and warning as to future conduct and/or further forfeiture of participation money shall be imposed and whether up to five championship points should be deducted from the Club. If the repeated failure relates to Cup competitions then disqualification from the Cup competition may be imposed.

## **5.5 Ineligible Players**

5.5.1 In the event of an ineligible Player being named in a Match, the Championship Committee or a Regional Competitions Committee shall have the right to impose a penalty on the Club being a formal reprimand and warning as to future conduct and/or the deduction of up to five league points and/or forfeit the tie and/or forfeit a proportion of the Club's participation money, as appropriate. The Player concerned may also be liable to such additional penalty or suspension as the Championship Committee considers appropriate.

5.5.2 Subject to Rule 5.7, a Player shall not be eligible to be included in a Match until he has attained the age of 18 years or is a Player who, being aged under 18 years, has received written dispensation from Scottish Rugby.

## **5.6 Scottish Rugby Contracted Players**

5.6.1 All players contracted to a Scottish professional club are permitted to play in Matches only with the agreement in writing of Scottish Rugby and in accordance with any relevant protocol issued by Scottish Rugby as regards professional clubs and their players in force at the relevant time.

5.6.2 Players contracted to a Scottish professional club shall be registered by Scottish Rugby to the Club to whom they were assigned to under the terms of any such protocol referred to in Rule 5.6.1 as may be in force from time to time.

5.6.3 No player contracted to a Scottish professional team may play in a match against a club which is not entitled to field a contracted player.

## **5.7 Under 18 Players in National Competitions**

5.7.1 No Player will be eligible to play in a Match (or friendly match) unless or until that Player has reached the age of 18 years or has satisfied the provisions of Rule 5.7.3.

5.7.2 A Club may request dispensation from Scottish Rugby that a Player under the age of 18 years be included in a Match.

5.7.3 In order that Scottish Rugby may grant dispensation to a Player in accordance with Rule 5.7.2, the Player must have passed the exception criteria and completed the documentation as directed by Scottish Rugby.

5.7.4 In the event of a Club playing a Player:

5.7.4.1 who has not or whose Club has not completed the documentation as directed by Scottish Rugby or the documentation is incomplete or does not comply with the policies as set down by Scottish Rugby from time to time or

5.7.4.2 where the Player has not received written approval from Scottish Rugby that he is eligible to participate in a Match (or a friendly match)

the Player will be deemed an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 5.5.1 and the Club will be subject to such sanctions as detailed in Rule 5.5.1.

5.7.5 The onus shall be on the Club to ensure that any Player included in a Match

complies with the provisions of this rule.

## **5.8 Emergency Player Loan Scheme**

- 5.8.1 Notwithstanding Rules 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 and subject to all the requirements of Rule 5.8, in the event that a Club would otherwise be unable to fulfil a Match due to a short-term lack of suitably experienced front-row forwards that Club may take on loan no more than two front-row Players from other Clubs without any such Player being or becoming Registered with the Club for whom he will play on loan.
- 5.8.2 Playing on loan for a Club in accordance with this rule shall not mean a Player becomes registered to that Club.
- 5.8.3 Any Club making use of a Player on loan in a Match must notify the referee and the opposition Club of the name and Registration Number of the loaned Player at least 30 minutes in advance of the kick-off.
- 5.8.4 No Player may play on loan in a Match for a Club which is in the same division as his Primary Club.
- 5.8.5 No Player may play on loan to the same Club in more than three Matches per Season or play on loan for more than two Clubs in any one Season unless on cause shown and with prior approval of the Championship Committee.
- 5.8.6 No Player who has already played for his Primary Club in more than eight National Competition Matches (excluding the Reserve League) or for a professional team in that Season may play on loan to a lower-placed Club unless on cause shown and with prior approval of the Championship Committee. For avoidance of doubt, Rule 5.8.6 does not apply to a Player playing on loan to a higher-placed Club.
- 5.8.7 No Player may play on loan for a lower-placed Club in its final three National Competition Matches or later than quarter-finals of the Cup competition. For the avoidance of doubt, Rule 5.8.7 does not apply to a Player playing on loan to a higher-placed Club.
- 5.8.8 The onus is on the Club making use of a Player on loan to ensure compliance with this Rule 5.8. Any Club found to have played a Player outwith the provisions of Rule 5.8 may be penalised subject to the sanction provisions set out in Rule 5.5.

## **6 CLUBS DISQUALIFIED, SUSPENDED OR WITHDRAWING**

- 6.1. In the event of a Club being disqualified or suspended or if a Club voluntarily withdraws from a National League Competition after the start of the Season, the results of all Matches played by that Club shall be deleted and the positions in that division shall be established from the Matches played between the remaining Clubs.
- 6.2. If the deletion of a Club's results in accordance with Rule 6.1 and the subsequent revised positions in the division have a direct effect on promotion or relegation of a Club which has already completed its full programme of fixtures, the Championship Committee (or, where appropriate, a Regional Competitions Committee) may make such arrangements as it deems appropriate to best resolve promotion and relegation.

## **7 TEAM COLOURS**

Clubs must ensure that they avoid a clash of team colours (jersey and/or socks). The Match referee is the sole judge of whether colours clash. When necessary, it shall be the responsibility of the home Club to change. Clubs changing from normal colours (as defined in the Scottish Rugby Record) must advise the opposition and allocated match referee at least 72 hours before the match. For the finals in knock-out competitions the home Club shall be decided by the order

of the semi-final draw.

## **8 FITNESS OF GROUNDS OR CONDITION OF PLAY**

### **8.1. The Pitch**

8.1.1. The onus shall be on the home Club to provide a suitable Pitch complying with World Rugby Law 1.

8.1.2. For all Matches it shall be compulsory for all Clubs to provide adequate padding round the goalposts conforming to World Rugby Law 1.4(d).

### **8.2. Fitness of Ground or Conditions for Play**

8.2.1. Where there is doubt, immediately before kick-off in a Match, determination of the fitness of the ground or the conditions for play shall lie only with the team captains and the referee.

8.2.1.1 The referee will inspect the pitch either alone or with assistant referees appointed to the match by Scottish Rugby or appropriate referee society. The referee will not disclose his decision to either club immediately after his inspection.

8.2.1.2 After the team captains have inspected the pitch, they will inform the referee of their opinion of its state of fitness for play. The referee will then inform the captains of his opinion on the fitness of the pitch. If any one of these three persons deems the pitch to be unplayable the Match will be postponed. The captains will notify their clubs of the decision.

8.2.1.3 The home Club, within 48 hours of the decision not to play the Match, will be responsible for advising the Championship Committee (or other relevant committee) as to why that Match was not fulfilled. The relevant committee will then seek further information per the provisions of NCR 13 (Obligation) in order to decide whether a complaint is to be raised against either or both of the Clubs.

8.2.2. In the event of any doubt over the fitness of the ground and a joint inspection by both team captains is not reasonably practicable, the following arrangements should wherever reasonably practicable be made:

8.2.2.1 If a postponement is considered possible, advance warning must be given to the visiting Club, preferably 24 hours' notice or as near to 24 hours as is reasonably practicable, and the visiting club must be advised of potential alternative arrangements.

8.2.2.2 At this time the home Club shall establish the visiting Club's departure time and a confirmed point of contact immediately before that departure time. If the pitch is doubtful at that time and the visiting Club agree to travel then the home Club must make regular contact during the visiting Clubs' journey to provide updates on the pitch condition.

8.2.2.3 An independent assessment on the day of the match should be made either by the intended Match referee or, if not reasonably practicable, by another independent person such as a local referee, referee coach/assessor, Scottish Rugby official or an official from another Club. This assessment is to be made 30 minutes before the visiting Club's intended departure time and the result communicated to the visiting Club and, where appropriate, the Match referee. If this procedure is not carried out by the home Club, the visiting Club shall have the right to make its own arrangements for an

independent inspection. If an independent inspection declares a ground playable and the home Club postpone the fixture, the Championship Committee reserves the right to apply sanctions to the home Club, including under the terms of the relevant Regulation in relation to non-fulfilment of fixtures.

8.2.2.4 If the Match referee calls off a fixture, he should communicate that decision to the Championship Secretary without delay.

8.2.3. Where a Club does not own or have rights over its ground and a ground is declared unplayable by the person or organisation which owns or has rights over the ground, written evidence of such decision must be obtained and made available to the Championship Secretary on request.

### **8.3. Procedures relating to Postponement**

In all National Competitions the following will apply:

8.3.1. In the event of a first or second postponement of a fixture there will be no onus on the home club to seek to play at an alternative venue. If a club wishes to play at an alternative venue it can do so, though only with the opposition's agreement. If the postponement is in the first half of the season and the fixture is a league match, then with the consent of the opposition the fixture may be reversed. The Championship Secretary must be advised by no later than 2.00pm on the day preceding the fixture of any agreed change of venue.

8.3.2. In the event of a third or subsequent postponement of the same fixture the fixture must be played at the opposition's pitch if that pitch is playable. In the event that the fixture is played at the opposition's pitch the opposition will be responsible for the travel costs of the playing squad, coaches, management and medical support staff of the club who would otherwise have been playing at home. For the avoidance of doubt such costs will be no greater than the cost of a coach hire for the return journey but could be calculated at a rate of 45 pence per mile from venue to venue if private transport is utilised, providing that the cost incurred will not exceed the cost of hiring a coach. If there is any dispute regarding the cost of coach hire then the matter will be referred to the Championship Committee for resolution, and the decision of the Championship Committee will be final in that regard and not subject to appeal. If the opposition venue is unplayable or unavailable the Championship Committee may direct where and when the match should be played.

8.3.3. The home club will be obliged to contact the opponents by no later than 72 hours before the kick-off in any fixture to discuss whether any of the contingency plans referred to in 8.2.2 above require to be considered. At that time agreement must be reached by the clubs as to when any final decision will be made regarding the location of the match. That final decision must be taken no later than 1.00pm on the day preceding the fixture.

8.3.4. If the procedures laid out in NCR 8.3 are not followed, the Championship Committee reserves the right to apply sanctions to either or both clubs, including a formal reprimand and warning as to future conduct and/or the deduction of up to five league points and/or disqualification from the relevant competition and/or forfeiture of a proportion of the club's participation money up to the maximum of that as appropriate. In a Cup competition the Championship Committee reserves the right to award the match to the non-defaulting team and if that match is part of a league format to award four league points to the non-defaulting team.

8.3.5. In the event of a club making repeated postponements because of ground conditions, the Championship Committee reserves the right to insist that, for future

National Competition fixtures, the club has on permanent stand-by a suitable alternative venue, which must be available. The Championship Committee also reserves the right in these circumstances to direct where and when any match should be played.

## **9 REPLACEMENTS/SUBSTITUTES**

- 9.1 In all Matches the maximum permitted number of replacements shall be seven. This limit may be further restricted within the regulations for specific competitions. Clubs are reminded of the requirements of World Rugby Law 3.5 when naming substitutes/replacements.
- 9.2 In accordance with World Rugby Law 3.13 the maximum number of rolling substitutions in any Match must not exceed 12. The 15-minute limit on temporary replacements in Law 3.10(a) does not apply to rolling substitutions.
- 9.3 No Player can be included in two squads for Matches which are being played either concurrently or overlapping.

## **10 HALF-TIME INTERVAL**

The half-time interval in a Match shall normally be five minutes. However, the length of the interval in any Match may be altered by the Clubs and notified to the Match referee before kick-off, but it shall not be more than 15 minutes.

Any host Club wishing to retire to covered accommodation at half-time must offer an equivalent facility to the opposition.

## **11 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

Referees shall be responsible for promptly notifying the results and scores in Matches to the Championship Secretary through the referees' results facility on the referee allocation website.

## **12 LAWS OF THE GAME**

In all Matches, except where a Scottish Rugby Bye-law or National Competition Rule provides otherwise, the Laws of the Game of Rugby Union, as specified from time to time by the World Rugby, shall apply. Scottish Rugby subscribe to the use of red and yellow cards (Law 10.6).

## **13 OBLIGATION**

- 13.1. All of the Clubs participating in a National Competition shall be obliged to comply with all Rules and Regulations as made by the Board relating to the relevant competition. For the avoidance of any doubt it shall be the responsibility of the Clubs participating in National Competitions to ensure compliance with all the said Rules and Regulations by its players and officials.
- 13.2. In the event that the Championship Committee determines to investigate whether a Club has or has not complied with the National Competition Rules and Regulations then the Championship Committee will give notice to the Club that such an investigation is to take place. At the same time the Championship Committee will provide the Club with details of the alleged contravention and the possible consequences for the Club if the contravention is established. The Club will be given seven days in which to make any written representation to the Championship Committee and to provide any written

documentation upon which they intend to rely or which the Championship Committee has asked them to produce. Upon completion of the investigations the Championship Committee will forward any other information or documentation uncovered in the course of its investigation to the Club, and the Club shall have 48 hours in which to make any further representations they deem appropriate to the Championship Committee. The Club will thereafter give notice to the Championship Committee whether it is content that the Championship Committee should decide upon the matter under investigation on the basis of the documentation and correspondence produced or whether they wish to appear at a formal hearing. A minimum of 48 hours' notice will be given of the date and time of any formal hearing so assigned, and a Club shall be entitled to be represented by up to two people at said hearing, one of whom must be a member of the Club.

- 13.3 On cause shown, the Championship Convenor, with the consent of the Chairman of the National Competitions Appeal Panel, can extend or shorten any time limit mentioned in NCR 14, either on application by a party or at his own behest. Such decisions are not appealable.
- 13.4 Should the Championship Committee hold that the breach of the Rules and Regulations has been established or that the Club has failed without good reason to respond to any requests made of them by the Championship Committee, the Club shall be liable to sanction by the Championship Committee. This shall include a reprimand and warning as to future conduct or the deduction of up to five league points per established breach and/or a financial penalty up to and including the full amount of any participation money that the Club may be entitled to and/or disqualification and/or and suspension from any National Competition.
- 13.5 Any sanction imposed by the Championship Committee under the Rules and Regulations shall come into effect upon a date specified by the Championship Committee; this could be with immediate effect or at a date in the future which could be at the commencement of the following season, or the sanction could be suspended for such period as the Championship Committee deems appropriate to allow the Club to demonstrate future compliance with the Rules and Regulations.
- 13.6 If it becomes apparent during the course of an investigation by or on behalf of the Championship Committee under the National Competition Rules and Regulations, or subsequent to such an investigation, that any club or representative or player of a club appears to have misled the Championship Committee or the National Competition Appeals Panel in any way in relation to that investigation or has brought into the public domain (by any means whatsoever) matters which are factually inaccurate in relation to such an investigation, then the club and/or the representative and/or the player may, at the discretion of the Championship Committee, be referred to the Scottish Rugby Discipline Panel.
  - 13.6.1 In the event of such a complaint being upheld by the Discipline Panel then such sanction as is deemed appropriate by the Discipline Panel may be imposed on the club including a formal reprimand and warning as to future conduct and/or deduction of participation money up to all sums due to the club and/or deduction of up to five championship points and/or disqualification from competition.
  - 13.6.2 If the party being investigated is a representative of a club or player then the penalties that may be imposed on the representative or player include a formal reprimand and warning as to future conduct and/or a fine not exceeding the amount of participation money that the related club of the individual may be entitled to and/or disqualification from participation in the game of rugby for such period as the Discipline Panel thinks fit.
  - 13.6.3 For the avoidance of doubt, an investigation can be carried out against the club, representative and player at the same time, and sanctions can be applied to all

three.

- 13.7 For the avoidance of any doubt, any reference to decisions of the Championship Committee includes decisions made by the Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other bodies or individuals appointed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations.

## 14 APPEAL PROCEDURE

- 14.1 Scottish Rugby shall establish a National Competition Appeals Panel (the “**Appeals Panel**”) to whom any Club entitled by the provisions of this rule may appeal a decision of the Championship Committee including decisions delegated to the Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other bodies or individuals appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions.
- 14.2 The Chairman and members of the Appeals Panel shall be appointed by the Board and shall not be members of the Championship Committee or the body making the decision appealed against. All members must have suitable (in the exclusive opinion of Scottish Rugby) rugby experience. The Chairman shall be a legally qualified solicitor or advocate in Scotland of at least five years’ standing. The Appeals Panel will comprise when sitting of the Chairman plus a minimum of two and a maximum of three others selected by him from the panel appointed by Scottish Rugby. If the Chairman of the Appeals Panel is unable to sit for whatever reason he may appoint an *ad hoc* Chairman in his place. Such *ad hoc* Chairman shall be legally qualified and have suitable rugby experience as aforesaid. No person, including a Chairman, who is a member of an appellant Club or any other Club with an interest (other than such a general or common interest represented by some incidental benefit accruing to Clubs in a division and arising from a sanction applied to another Club) in the appeal may take part in such an appeal. All decisions of the Appeals Panel shall be made by majority. No member of the Appeals Panel may abstain. The Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of a split decision by a panel of four including the Chairman but otherwise shall have a deliberative vote only.
- 14.3 The decisions which may be appealed against by a Club pursuant to this Rule 14 are, subject to the provisions of this Rule, any decision of the Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other body or individual appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions which imposes a sanction on that Club. For the avoidance of doubt (a) no Club may appeal in respect of any sanction imposed on or other decision made concerning another Club and (b) no appeal may be brought against an operational decision in the running of a National Competition, notwithstanding that the effect of such decision could impact financially on the Club. The only grounds of appeal against a decision are:-
- 14.3.1 the decision of the Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other body or individual appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions was unduly harsh or oppressive.
- 14.3.2 the Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other body or individual appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions misdirected itself in the application (but not the interpretation, which matter is exclusively for the Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other body or individual appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions whose decision thereon shall be conclusive and binding on all parties) of the Laws of the Game and/or the National Competition Rules.
- 14.3.3 there has been a breach of natural justice; or
- 14.3.4 the Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other body or

individual appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions reached a decision which no reasonable Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other body or individual appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions would have reached.

- 14.4 Any Club wishing to appeal against a decision of the Championship Committee, Championship Convenor or Championship Secretary and/or other body or individual appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions, in accordance with Rule 14, must lodge a note of appeal with the Appeals Panel Secretary within seven days of the decision appealed against and must intimate at the same time a copy of that notice of appeal to the party whose decision is the subject of the appeal. The note of appeal must be in writing and must be signed by an office-bearer of the Club. The note of appeal must contain the following:
- (a) the name of the party making the appeal and the office held by the person signing the note of appeal;
  - (b) the decision appealed against, including the details of the party who made the original decision, the date of the decision and any sanction imposed;
  - (c) the full grounds of appeal having regard to the terms of rule 14.3; and
  - (d) any documentation upon which they intend to rely in relation to the appeal.

No appeal shall proceed if a note of appeal is not so lodged, unless upon application the Appeals Panel Chairman considers that sufficient cause has been shown to allow any dispensation with any part of this rule.

- 14.5 The Appeals Panel Secretary shall, within 48 hours of receiving an appeal, intimate the note of appeal to the party against whom the appeal is taken and provide that party with seven days in which to respond to any matters contained within the note of appeal; any response lodged must be intimated by the Appeals Panel Secretary to the appellant party within 24 hours of receiving same.
- 14.6 The Appeals Panel Secretary shall thereafter consult with the Appeals Panel Chairman and set a time date and place for the hearing of the appeal which shall be notified by the Appeals Panel Secretary to the appellant party and the party who made the original decision; such notification must give at least seven days' notice of the time and place of the hearing unless the urgency of the situation dictates that a shorter period of notice should be given. An appellant may request a postponement of any hearing assigned on cause shown. The decision to grant such a postponement or not shall be the matter for the discretion of the Appeals Panel Chairman in consultation with the Appeals Panel Secretary, and no appeal will lie from Appeals Panel Chairman's decision. Such a postponement may be granted on one occasion only.
- 14.7 No appeal shall be decided upon grounds not contained within the note of appeal lodged by the appellants. The Appeals Panel may, on cause shown, allow further grounds of appeal to be stated providing that the party who made the original decision is given an opportunity, within a reasonable time, to answer same.
- 14.8 The Appeals Panel shall have power to regulate its own procedure, subject to compliance with National Competition Rules and Regulations. The appellant and the party who made the original decision shall have the right to be present at the appeal hearing. The appellant club may be represented by up to two persons, one of whom must be a member of that club. The Appeals Panel shall have full discretionary powers to call for and consider such evidence as it thinks appropriate. Where evidence is given before the Appeals Panel, there shall be no cross-examination of witnesses except through the Chairman to the extent that the Appeals Panel in its discretion permits. The deliberations of the Appeals Panel shall be in private.

- 14.9 Having heard such evidence considered appropriate by the Appeals Panel, and any submission made by or on behalf of the appellant Club, the Appeals Panel may decide to:
- 14.9.1 affirm the decision of the Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other body or individual appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions;
  - 14.9.2 uphold the appeal by setting aside the decision appealed against and quashing any sanction imposed by the Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other body or individual appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions;
  - 14.9.3 uphold the appeal in part by setting aside part only of the decision appealed against and/or modify any sanction imposed;
  - 14.9.4 refuse the appeal and increase the sanction imposed by the Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other body or individual appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions;
  - 14.9.5 defer consideration of the appeal for such period not exceeding six weeks pending receipt of information, evidence or clarification from the Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other body or individual appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions or from a person not present at the appeal hearing;
  - 14.9.6 stay a decision of the Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other body or individual appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions pending the consideration of such further information etc. as is mentioned in Rule 14.9.5 above and final determination of an appeal; or
  - 14.9.7 take any step which in the exercise of its discretion the Appeals Panel considers it would be appropriate to take in order to deal justly with the appeal.
- 14.10 The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be advised by the Appeals Panel Secretary to the secretary of the appellant Club as soon as reasonably practicable after the conclusion of the hearing. Where it considers it appropriate, the Appeals Panel may deliver an oral decision at the conclusion of the hearing. A written statement giving reasons for a decision of the Appeals Panel shall be given if so requested by the appellant Club immediately on the conclusion of the hearing or if the Appeals Panel so decide. The Championship Committee or the Appeals Panel may make public in the national press or otherwise its decisions and the identity of the Club or Clubs concerned.
- 14.11 The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding on all concerned.

## **15 NOTICES**

Any notice served pursuant to the Rules and Regulations shall be in writing and shall be delivered by email, facsimile or first-class post. All notices shall be deemed, until the contrary proved, to have been received (a) on the date of receipt if sent by email, (b) on the date of successful transmission if sent by facsimile, or (c) within 24 hours if sent by first-class post; all addressed appropriately to the secretary of the club or the secretary of the body who either made the decision or whose decision is subject of appeal or the secretary of the appeals panel.

## **16 EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

16.1 In the case of exceptional circumstances the Championship Committee, with the prior approval of the Board, shall have the discretion to decide on matters not provided for in (and in the interpretation of) the National Competition Rules and Regulations and at its

discretion to decide on and take action on all matters not provided for or upon which interpretation is required in the National Competition Rules and Regulations. For the avoidance of doubt, this discretion shall include the interpretation of these National Competition Rules and Regulations in accordance with the underlying principles and intent (insofar as it can be ascertained) of the relevant regulation and the interests of the Game.

- 16.2 The Championship Committee may, on cause shown, relieve a club from the consequences of failure to comply with a provision in the Rules and Regulations which is shown to be a mistake, oversight or other excusable cause on such conditions as the Championship Committee thinks fit.
- 16.3 The Championship Committee's decision(s) in respect of those matters referred to in Rules 16.1 and 16.2 above is final and binding save for any Club's right to appeal or review or such other rights of appeal or review as may be reserved.

## **17 REVISION**

These National Competition Rules and Regulations shall be subject to periodic review and may, from time to time and subject to the approval of the Board, be amended by the Championship Committee.

## PREMIERSHIP AND NATIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2015-2016

### **1. COMPOSITION OF THE PREMIERSHIP AND NATIONAL LEAGUE**

1.1. The Premiership and National League will comprise:

- 1.1.1. the Premiership, to be contested by 10 Clubs in one division; and
- 1.1.2. the National League, to be contested by 36 clubs in three divisions, each of 12 Clubs.

1.2. The Premiership shall be played in two stages.

- 1.2.1 In stage 1 each Club shall play every other Club in the division in two matches per Season on a home-and-away basis.
- 1.2.2 In Stage 2 the Clubs finishing in first to fourth places in Stage 1's league table will contest a knock-out play-off to decide the Premiership winners. In the first round of the play-off the Clubs placed first and second in Stage 1 will play at home against the Clubs respectively placed fourth and third. Thereafter a Final will be contested by the winners in the first round of the play-offs. The home Club in the final will be the Club placed higher in the league table at end of Stage 1. If the scores are level after 40 minutes of play each way in any of the three play-off Matches then the provisions for extra time defined in Cup, Shield and Bowl Regulations 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 (Drawn Matches) will apply.

1.3 In each division of the National League each Club shall play every other Club in two matches per Season on a home-and-away basis.

1.4 The final placings in the Premiership and National League divisions, the Clubs to be promoted to and relegated from those divisions, and the composition of those divisions in the succeeding Season shall be in accordance with lists issued on behalf of Scottish Rugby by the Championship Secretary at the end of each Season.

1.5 The structure of the Premiership and the National League and the number of Clubs playing in each division in each subsequent Season shall not be changed without a full playing Season's notice being given to Clubs by Scottish Rugby. Such notice must be accompanied by appropriate details of how the new structure will be effected through revised promotion and relegation.

### **2. COMPETITION POINTS**

In all Premiership and National League Matches, four points shall be awarded for a win and two points shall be awarded for a draw ("**Match Points**"). In addition, one bonus point shall be awarded to a Club scoring four or more tries and one bonus point shall be awarded to a losing Club which finishes within seven points or fewer of the points scored by the winning Club ("**Bonus Points**").

### **3. CHAMPIONS, PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

3.1. At the end of Season 2014-2015,

- 3.1.1. The Club winning the Premiership Final, as defined in Regulation 1.2.2, will be Scottish Champions.
- 3.1.2. The Club finishing last in the Premiership's Stage 1 league table will be relegated to the National League's Division 1.
- 3.1.3. The Club finishing at the top of the National League's Division 1 table will be

promoted to the Premiership.

- 3.1.4. The Club finishing ninth in Stage 1 of the Premiership and the Club finishing second in the National League's Division 1 will meet in a play-off Match at a neutral venue on a date and at a time to be arranged by the Championship Secretary. The winner of the play-off will play in the following Season's Premiership and the loser will play in National League Division 1. If the scores are level after 40 minutes of play each way in the play-off Match then the provisions for extra time defined in Cup, Shield and Bowl Regulations 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 (Drawn Matches) will apply.
- 3.1.5. The two Clubs finishing in first and second places in each of the National League's Divisions 2 and 3 will be promoted to the respective Divisions 1 and 2.
- 3.1.6. The two Clubs finishing in eleventh and twelfth places in each of the National League's Divisions 1 and 2 will be relegated to the respective Divisions 2 and 3.
- 3.1.7. The three Clubs finishing in tenth to twelfth places of the National League's Division 3 will each be relegated to the appropriate Regional League (Caledonia or East or West).
- 3.1.8. The Club finishing in first place in each of the three Regional Leagues (Caledonia, East and West) will be promoted to National League Division 3, as provided by Regional League Regulation 3.1.

3.2. In the event of either the number of Clubs in any division in future Seasons falling short or any revision of the National Competition structure, right is reserved to the Championship Committee to adjust promotion and relegation to restore the number of Clubs in each division to the appropriate level. Normally, within the National Competitions, any vacancy arising before the Scottish Rugby annual general meeting immediately preceding the Season in question shall be filled by an additional Club being promoted before one Club fewer is relegated. In the event of an additional Club requiring to be promoted from the Regional Leagues to the Championship, that additional Club will be promoted from the Regional League of the withdrawing Club's region.

#### **4. METHODS OF DECIDING PLACINGS IN A DIVISION, PROMOTION OR RELEGATION IN CASE OF POINTS EQUALITY**

- 4.1. In the event of Clubs in a division being equal in league points gained, placings shall be determined ranked on a descending basis according to their respective differences between "points for" and "points against" with the Club with the greater or greatest such difference being placed higher or highest.
- 4.2. Should Regulation 4.1 above fail to separate Clubs then the aggregate score over the Premiership or National League fixtures between the Clubs that Season shall decide between them.
- 4.3. In the event that none of the above can determine which of two Clubs should be placed the higher and an issue of promotion or relegation or a division title depends on their respective rankings then a play-off match will be arranged at a neutral venue. The date, kick-off time and venue of such play-off match shall be arranged by the Championship Secretary. If the scores are level after 40 minutes of play each way in such play-off, extra time will be played as defined in Cup, Shield and Bowl Regulations 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 (Drawn Matches).

#### **5. NON-FULFILMENT OF FIXTURES AND DEDUCTION OF LEAGUE POINTS**

- 5.1. No Club shall, without just cause, fail to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of a Match on

the date and time appointed for such fixture. It shall be for the Championship Committee to determine whether or not just cause exists.

- 5.2. In the event that a Club shall so fail to fulfil a fixture on a date notified, the Championship Committee may award the league points to either Club or divide the league points between the Clubs or decide that no league points shall be awarded and order that the match be replayed in accordance with National Competition Rule 4. The Championship Committee will also have the authority to impose sanctions as defined in National Competition Rules 3.4 and 13.4. The Championship Committee will also have the power to suspend such sanction to allow for the Club to demonstrate future compliance with the Rules and Regulations.
- 5.3. In the event of a Club not fulfilling a fixture and the opposition Club incurring unnecessary expense, the offending Club may be liable to a financial penalty which shall be deducted from the Club's financial distribution from the Scottish Rugby the following Season. Any such penalty shall not exceed £1,800 per match and shall be used to reimburse the non-offending Club all or some of the costs actually incurred for the unplayed match. Suitable evidence of these costs must be submitted along with a written claim for reimbursement to the Championship Secretary within 28 days of the date of the match in question.
- 5.4. Any Club which, in the same Season, fails to fulfil more than two National Competition fixtures will have its case considered by the Championship Committee who will have the power to disqualify and automatically relegate the Club.
- 5.5. In the event of Regulation 5.4 applying to a Club for a second consecutive Season, the Club may be suspended from participation in any or all National Competitions and remain so suspended until the Championship Committee determines otherwise.

## **6. NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN MATCHES**

- 6.1. In all Matches each Club must start with 15 players and must include in its side at kick-off a suitably experienced front-row.
- 6.2. Any Match played in which a Club does not comply with Regulation 6.1 shall not count as a Match. The Match shall be declared not-fulfilled, and the above Regulation 5 in relation to non-fulfilment of fixtures shall apply.
- 6.3. For the purpose of this Regulation 6, a Club may request the match referee to delay the kick-off to enable it to achieve a full side of 15 players at kick-off, where some or all of the Players have been unavoidably delayed, but no Match may be delayed by such time as would mean that the Match could not be completed in good time, the match referee being the sole judge in this regard.

## **7. REPLACEMENTS/SUBSTITUTES**

- 7.1 The number of replacements and substitutes in league Matches shall be as follows:
  - Premiership and National League Division 1:** the number of permitted replacements for each Club shall be not more than five and not fewer than four.
  - National League Division 2 and 3:** the number of permitted replacements for each Club shall be not more than four and not fewer than two.
  - Play-offs** (as defined in Regulations 3.1.4 and 4.3): the number of permitted replacements shall be not more than seven and not fewer than five.
- 7.2 There shall be no requirement for parity between the two teams as to the number of replacements.

- 7.3 The requirements of World Rugby Law 3.5 (The Front Row – Replacements and Substitutions) shall apply when naming substitutes/replacements. For the avoidance of doubt, the requirement for suitably trained front-row players will be deemed to have been complied with notwithstanding that those suitably trained front-row players may have commenced the match playing in different positions.
- 7.4 World Rugby Law 3.13 (Rolling Substitutions) also shall apply.
- 7.5 The Championship Committee will have the authority to penalise a Club up to five championship points and/or impose any other sanction or sanctions defined in National Competition Rules 3.4 and 13.4 for any infringement of Regulations 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4.

## **8. REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND TOUCH JUDGES**

Scottish Rugby shall annually appoint a pool of referees for Matches in the Premiership and National League and may supplement persons to the pool or remove persons from same as it shall consider appropriate. Scottish Rugby shall assign referees from this pool for each Match in the Premiership and National League. In addition, Scottish Rugby shall appoint assistant referees for all Matches in the Premiership and the National League's Division 1. The home Club's local referee society shall appoint referees for Matches in the National League's Divisions 2 and 3. For every Match in the National League's Divisions 2 and 3 each of the two Clubs must provide one touch judge. Responsibility for confirmation of the match referee and, where appropriate, the assistant referees shall lie with the home Club.

## **9. MATCH BALLS**

In all Premiership and National League Matches the home Club must provide at least three match balls conforming to World Rugby Laws 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5.

## **REGIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2015-2016**

### **1 COMPOSITION OF REGIONAL LEAGUE DIVISIONS**

- 1.1 The Regional Leagues will comprise:
  - 1.1.1 The Caledonia Regional League, to be contested by Clubs in the region in a league format to be decided by the Caledonia Regional Competitions Committee.
  - 1.1.2 The East Regional League, to be contested by Clubs in the region in a league format to be decided by the East Regional Competitions Committee.
  - 1.1.3 The West Regional League, to be contested by Clubs in the region in a league format to be decided by the West Regional Competitions Committee.
- 1.2 Division 1 in each Regional League shall comprise 10 clubs. The format of each lower division, though normally comprising a maximum of 10 clubs, shall be defined by the appropriate Regional Competitions Committee.
- 1.3 The final placings in the divisions in the Regional Leagues, the Clubs to be promoted to and relegated from those divisions and the composition of those divisions in the succeeding Season shall be in accordance with lists issued on behalf of Scottish Rugby by the Championship Secretary at the end of each Season.

### **2 MATCHES AND SEASON**

- 2.1 In Caledonia 1, East 1 and West 1, each Club shall play every other Club in the same division in two Matches per Season on a home-and-away basis. The formation and organisation of all leagues below the Regional Leagues Division 1 will be arranged by the appropriate Regional Competitions Committee.
- 2.2 In all Matches, four points shall be awarded for a win and two points shall be awarded for a draw ("**Match Points**"). In addition, one bonus point shall be awarded to a Club scoring four or more tries and one bonus point shall be awarded to a losing Club which finishes within seven points or fewer of the points scored by the winning Club ("**Bonus Points**").

### **3 CHAMPIONS, PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

- 3.1 The first-placed Club in Division 1 of each of the three Regional Leagues will be promoted to National League Division 3.
- 3.2 The first-placed Club in each Regional League's Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1.
- 3.3 Promotion and relegation between Divisions 1 and 2 and between lower divisions may be further adjusted by the Regional Competitions Committee as provided in Regulations 3.4 and 3.5 below and also taking account of the number of Clubs, if any, relegated from National League Division 3 as defined in Premiership and National League Regulation 3.1.7.
- 3.4 A Club's second and lower XVs may play in the Caledonia Regional League's second and lower divisions. These reserve XVs cannot be promoted to that Regional League's first division.
- 3.5 Before the start of each season, promotion and relegation between each Regional League's second and lower divisions at the end of that season will be determined by the appropriate Regional Competitions Committee.
- 3.6 In the event of either the number of Clubs in any division in future Seasons falling short or any revision of the National League Competition structure, right is reserved to the

relevant Regional League Committee to adjust promotion and relegation to restore the number of Clubs in each division to the appropriate level. Normally, within the National League Competition, any vacancy arising before the Scottish Rugby annual general meeting immediately preceding the Season in question shall be filled by an additional Club being promoted before one Club fewer is relegated. In the event of an additional Club requiring to be promoted from the Regional Leagues to the National League, that additional Club will be promoted from the Regional League of the withdrawing Club's region.

- 3.7 In the event that, after promotion and relegation, the number of Clubs in a Regional League division shall be odd, Regulation 3.5 shall be applied to increase the number of Clubs in that division to an even number for the following Season.

#### **4 METHODS OF DECIDING PLACINGS IN A DIVISION, PROMOTION OR RELEGATION IN CASE OF POINTS EQUALITY**

- 4.1 In the event of Clubs in a division being equal in league points gained, placings shall be determined ranked on a descending basis according to their respective differences between "match points for" and "match points against" with the Club with the greater or greatest such difference being placed higher or highest.
- 4.2 Should Regulation 4.1 above fail to separate the two Clubs then the aggregate score over the two League fixtures between the Clubs that Season shall decide between them.
- 4.3 In the event that none of the above can determine which of two Clubs should be placed the higher and an issue of promotion or relegation or a championship title depends on their respective rankings then a play-off match will be arranged at a neutral venue. The date, kick-off time and venue of such play-off match shall be arranged by the appropriate Regional Competitions Committee Secretary.
- 4.4 If the scores are level after 40 minutes of play each way in such play-off, extra time will be played as defined in Cup, Shield and Bowl Regulation 8 (Drawn Matches).

#### **5 NON-FULFILMENT OF FIXTURES AND DEDUCTION OF LEAGUE POINTS**

- 5.1 No Club shall, without just cause, fail to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of a Match on the date and time appointed for such fixture. It shall be for the Regional Competitions Committee to determine whether or not just cause exists.
- 5.2 In the event that a Club shall so fail to fulfil a fixture on a date notified the Regional Competitions Committee may award the points to either Club or divide the points between the Clubs or decide that no points shall be awarded and order that the match be replayed in accordance with National Competition Rule 4. The Regional Competitions Committee will also have the authority to impose sanctions as defined in National Competition Rules 3.4 and 13.4. The Regional Competitions Committee will also have the power to suspend such sanction to allow for the Club to demonstrate future compliance with the Rules and Regulations.
- 5.3 In the event of a Club not fulfilling a fixture and the opposition Club incurring unnecessary expense, the offending Club may be liable to a financial penalty which shall be deducted from the Club's financial distribution from Scottish Rugby the following Season. Any such penalty shall not exceed £1,800 per match and shall be used to reimburse the non-offending Club all or some of the costs actually incurred for the unplayed match. Suitable evidence of these costs must be submitted along with a written claim for reimbursement to the Championship Secretary within 28 days of the date of the Match in question.
- 5.4 Any Club which, in the same Season, fails to fulfil more than two National Competition

fixtures will have its case considered by the relevant Regional Competitions Committee who will have the power to disqualify and automatically relegate the Club.

- 5.5 In the event of Regulation 5.4 above applying to a Club for a second consecutive Season, the Club may be suspended from participation in all or any National Competitions and remain so suspended until the Championship Committee determines otherwise.
- 5.6 The relevant Regional Competitions Committee shall have absolute discretion in regard to the deduction of championship points.

## **6 NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN MATCHES**

- 6.1 In all Matches in Divisions 1 and 2 of the Regional Leagues, Clubs must start the match with 15 players, and each Club must include in its side at kick-off a suitably experienced front row.
- 6.2 Below Division 2, the relevant Regional Competitions Committee may permit matches to be played with fewer than 15 players, subject to compliance with World Rugby Law 3.3 (at least five players in the scrum at all times). In Matches organised under the auspices of any of the Regional Competitions Committees, if a Club competes in a Match with fewer than 15 players but with at least 12 players, the Match shall be declared as fulfilled.
- 6.3 In the lowest Division of each Regional League, a Match may start with uncontested scrums subject to compliance with World Rugby Laws 3.3 (at least five players in the scrum at all times) and 3.5(a) (the Club requesting uncontested scrums cannot include replacements in the match squad). The Club requiring to start a Match with uncontested scrums must advise the opposition and the referee as soon as practically possible, though no later than 30 minutes before kick-off in that Match. That Club must also advise the appropriate Regional Competitions Committee as soon as practicably possible, though no later than 48 hours after the kick-off in that Match.
- 6.4 Any Match played in which a Club does not comply with Regulations 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 above shall not count as a Match. The Match shall be declared not-fulfilled, and Regional League Regulation 5 shall apply.
- 6.5 For the purpose of this Regulation 6, a Club may request the referee to delay the kick-off to enable it to achieve a full side at kick-off where some or all of the Players have been unavoidably delayed, but no Match may be delayed by such time as would mean the Match not being able to be completed in good time, the referee being the sole judge in this regard.
- 6.6 The Under 19 Variations to the scrum (World Rugby Laws 20.1 (f), 20.9 (j) and (k), and 20.11(a)) shall apply below Division 3 in the Caledonia Regional League. For the avoidance of doubt, except where Regulation 6.3 above applies, full scrummaging (World Rugby Law 20 except 20.13) shall be played in all Divisions of the East and West Regional Leagues and Divisions 1 to 3 in the Caledonia Regional League.

## **7 REPLACEMENTS/SUBSTITUTES**

- 7.1 In all league Matches between Clubs in Division 1 of any of the Regional Leagues, the maximum permitted number of replacements shall be four.
- 7.2 In all league Matches between Clubs in any Regional divisions below Division 1, the maximum permitted number of replacements shall be seven.
- 7.3 In Regional League Matches there is no requirement for there to be parity between the two competing clubs as to the number of replacements.
- 7.4 The requirements of World Rugby Law 3.5 (The Front Row – Replacements and

Substitutes) shall apply when naming substitutes/replacements. For the avoidance of doubt, the requirement for suitably trained front-row players will be deemed to have been complied with notwithstanding that those suitably trained front-row players may have commenced the match playing in different positions.

7.5 World Rugby Law 3.13 (Rolling Substitutions) also shall apply.

7.6 The Regional Competitions Committee will have the authority to penalise a Club up to five championship points and/or impose any other sanction or sanctions defined in National Competition Rules 3.4 and 13.4 for any infringement of Regulations 7.1, 7.2, 7.4 and 7.5.

## **8 REFEREES AND TOUCH JUDGES**

Referees for Regional League matches shall be appointed by the home Club's local referee society. For all these Matches each of the two Clubs must provide one touch judge. Responsibility for confirmation of the Match referee shall lie with the home Club.

## RESERVE LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2015-2016

### **1 COMPOSITION OF THE RESERVE LEAGUE**

- 1.1 The 2015-2016 Reserve League will be contested in three tiers:
  - 1.1.1 Tier 1 will be the National Reserve League, comprising Division 1 (contested by 10 Teams) and Division 2 (contested by 12 Teams);
  - 1.1.2 Tier 2 will be the Regional Reserve League, comprising at least two Divisions in each of the East and West Regions.
    - 1.1.2.1 Division 1 in each Region will be contested by 10 Teams.
    - 1.1.2.2 Division 2 and (when appropriate) lower Divisions in each Region will be contested by such number of Teams as is defined by the Championship Committee on a season-by-season basis.
  - 1.1.3 In Tier 3 a programme of friendly fixtures will be compiled for those Teams who are less able to commit to a programme of regular league Matches.
- 1.2 Club reserve Teams in the Caledonia Region and not playing in the National Reserve League will form part of the Caledonia Regional League structure under the governance of Caledonia Regional Competitions Committee.

### **2 MATCHES AND SEASON**

- 2.1 In the National Reserve League and the Regional Reserve League, each Team shall play every other Team in the same division in two Matches per Season on a home-and-away basis.
- 2.2 All fixtures shall be arranged and issued by the Championship Committee.
- 2.3 In all Matches, four points shall be awarded for a win and two points shall be awarded for a draw ("**Match Points**"). In addition, one bonus point shall be awarded to a Team scoring four or more tries and one bonus point shall be awarded to a losing Team which finishes within seven points or fewer of the points scored by the winning Team ("**Bonus Points**").

### **3 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

- 3.1 At the end of Season 2015-2016 the following promotion and relegation arrangements will apply:
  - 3.1.1 Between National Reserve League Divisions 1 and 2 promotion and relegation will be on the basis of two up, two down.
  - 3.1.2 Each of the four Teams finishing ninth to twelfth in National Reserve League Division 2 will be relegated to the relevant Regional Reserve League Division 1.
  - 3.1.3 In the event that a Caledonia Team is relegated from National Reserve League Division 2 that Team will be placed in either a Caledonia Regional League division or an appropriate Regional Reserve League's first division. Where that Team is to be placed shall be the responsibility of the Championship Committee in consultation with the Reserve League Committee and the relevant Regional Competitions Committee.
  - 3.1.4 The Teams finishing first in each of the East and West Regional Reserve Leagues' first division will be promoted to National Reserve League Division 2.
  - 3.1.5 Between the relevant Regional Reserve Leagues' other divisions, two clubs shall be

relegated and two clubs promoted except where the Reserve League Committee implement play-offs and/or where Regulation 3.2 is implemented with the numbers in a division or divisions requiring to be rationalised.

- 3.2 In the event of either the number of Teams in any division in future Seasons falling short or any revision of the Reserve League structure, right is reserved to the Championship Committee to adjust promotion and relegation to restore the number of Teams in each Division to the appropriate level. Within the Reserve League, any vacancy arising before the Scottish Rugby annual general meeting immediately preceding the Season in question shall be filled by an additional Team being promoted before one Team fewer is relegated. In the event of an additional Team requiring to be promoted from any Regional Reserve League, an additional Team will be promoted from the Regional Reserve League of the withdrawing Team's region.
- 3.3 A Club's 3<sup>rd</sup> XV and other lower designated Teams cannot play in the same or higher division than that Club's 2<sup>nd</sup> XV or other higher designated Teams.
- 3.4 In the event that, after promotion and relegation, the number of Teams in one of the Regional Reserve Leagues shall be odd, Regulation 3.2 shall be applied to increase the number of Teams in that division for the following season to an even number.
- 3.5 A Team having played in Tier 3 may apply to the Championship Committee for consideration for inclusion in the relevant Regional Reserve League. In making such application, the Team will require to satisfy the Championship Committee that it can fulfil the obligation to play a full programme of fixtures in the relevant Regional Reserve League.
- 3.6 The determination of the Championship Committee in respect of relegation and promotion matters shall be final and binding on all participating Clubs, Teams and Players.

#### **4 METHODS OF DECIDING PLACINGS IN A DIVISION, PROMOTION OR RELEGATION IN CASE OF POINTS EQUALITY**

- 4.1 In the event of Teams in a division being equal in points gained, placings shall be determined ranked on a descending basis according to their respective differences between "points for" and "points against" with the Team with the greater or greatest such difference being placed higher or highest.
- 4.2 Should Regulation 4.1 above fail to separate Teams then the aggregate score over the league fixtures between the Teams that Season shall decide between them.
- 4.3 In the event that Regulations 4.1 and 4.2 cannot determine which of two Teams should be placed the higher and an issue of division title or relegation depends on their respective rankings, a play-off Match played at a neutral venue arranged by the Championship Secretary shall be necessary to decide between them.
- 4.4 If scores are level after 40 minutes of play each way in such play-off then extra time will be played as defined in Cup, Shield and Bowl Regulation 8 (Drawn Matches).

#### **5 NON-FULFILMENT OF FIXTURES AND DEDUCTION OF LEAGUE POINTS**

- 5.1 If a Team fails to fulfil a Match other than in accordance with National Competition Rule 8 (including a Match that has been postponed or rescheduled or a Match that has had its kick-off time, date and/or its venue altered pursuant to the National Competition Rules):
  - 5.1.1 that Team's opponents will be credited with a 28-0 win as well as four Match Points and a four-try Bonus Point, and

- 5.1.2 the Team responsible for the cancellation will receive no point unless a friendly match is played, in which event one Match Point will be credited to that Team.
- 5.2 If a Match is cancelled on match-day other than in accordance with National Competition Rule 8 as defined in 5.1, a sanction of one league point will be imposed on the Team responsible for that cancellation. In addition, if the home Team is responsible for such cancellation that Team will be liable to reimburse the visiting Team for any unavoidable travelling expenses incurred.
- 5.3 The Reserve League Committee, as provided by National Competition Rule 3.4, shall have the power to deduct up to five league points for any infringement of Regulations 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3.
- 5.4 Any Team which, in the same Season, fails to fulfil more than two Tier 1 or Tier 2 Reserve League fixtures may have its case considered by the Reserve League Committee who will have the power to disqualify and automatically relegate the Team.
- 5.5 In the event of Regulation 5.4 applying to a Team for a second consecutive Season, the Team may be suspended from participation in Tier 1 or Tier 2 of the Reserve League and remain so suspended until the Championship Committee determines otherwise.

## **6 NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN MATCHES**

- 6.1 In every Match in the National Reserve League Division 1 each Team must start with a squad of at least 15 players and must include in its side at kick-off a suitably experienced front row.
- 6.2 The Reserve League Committee may permit matches in the National Reserve League Division 2 and the Regional Reserve League to be played with fewer than 15 players, subject to compliance with World Rugby Law 3.3 (at least five players in the scrum at all times). If a Team competes in a Match with fewer than 15 players but with at least 12 players, the Match shall be declared as fulfilled. For the avoidance of doubt, where a Team does not have suitably trained front-row Players before the Match such that contested scrums cannot take place, the referee will order uncontested scrums in accordance with World Rugby Laws 3.5 (i) and (j), and that Team cannot list replacements in accordance with World Rugby Law 3.5(a).
- 6.3 Any Match played in which a Team does not comply with Regulation 6.1 or 6.2 shall not count as a Match, the Match shall be declared non-fulfilled, and Regulations 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 in relation to non-fulfilment of fixtures shall apply.
- 6.4 For the purpose of this Regulation 6, a Team may request the referee to delay the kick-off to enable it to achieve a full side at kick-off where some or all of the Players have been unavoidably delayed, but no Match may be delayed by such time as would mean the Match not being able to be completed in good time, the referee being the sole judge in this regard.
- 6.5 Any Player who has been named in the Scottish Rugby Premier Division/professional team draft is ineligible to participate in Matches within the Reserve League in that season.
- 6.6 Any Player named in the starting XV of his Club's previous first-team Match in a National Competition or for a professional team then that Player will be ineligible to participate in that round of the Reserve League Competition unless his Club has a concurrent first-team Match which has not been subsequently postponed, abandoned or rescheduled.
- 6.7 A dual-registered Player, without permission from the Reserve League Committee, cannot play in his Secondary Club's last three Reserve League Matches unless at least 50% of his Reserve League Match appearances in that same season have been for that club.

6.8 The Reserve League Committee shall have the authority to penalise a Club up to five league points for any infringement of Regulation 6.1, 6.2, 6.5, 6.6 and 6.7.

## **7 REPLACEMENTS/SUBSTITUTES**

7.8 In all Matches in the Reserve League the maximum permitted number of replacements shall be seven. This limit may be restricted within the regulations for specific competitions and will be restricted by 6.2 above. There is, in such Matches, no requirement for there to be parity between the two competing Teams as to the number of replacements.

7.9 The requirements of World Rugby Law 3.5 (The Front Row – Replacements and Substitutes) shall apply when naming substitutes/replacements. For the avoidance of doubt, the requirement for suitably trained front-row players will be deemed to have been complied with notwithstanding that those suitably trained front-row players may have commenced the match playing in different positions.

7.10 World Rugby Law 3.13 (Rolling Substitutions) also shall apply.

7.11 In Matches in the East and West Regional Leagues (with the exception of Division 1 in each league) and in Tier 3, the World Rugby Under 19 Variations to the scrum (World Rugby Laws 20.1 (f), 20.9 (j) and (k), and 20.11(a)) shall apply.

7.5. The Reserve League Committee shall have the authority to penalise a Club up to five league points for any infringement of Regulations 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4.

## **8 TEAM SHEETS**

National Competition Rule 5.4 (Team Sheets) shall apply in the Reserve League to National Divisions 1 and 2, East Region Division 1, and West Region Division 1.

## **9 REFEREES**

The appointment of referees for Reserve League Matches shall be carried out by the home Club's local referee society, failing which appointment the referee shall be provided by the home Club and failing that the away Team. The fixture should not be postponed if a club referee is the only person available. For all these matches each of the two Clubs must provide one touch judge. Responsibility for confirmation of the Match referee shall lie with the home Team.

## **10 RESERVE LEAGUE COMMITTEE**

The Reserve League Committee shall oversee the routine day-to-day running of the Reserve League on behalf of the Championship Committee, and where by reason of the routine nature of the matter and/or such urgency that a Committee meeting cannot with reasonable practicality be arranged, the convenor of the Committee may exercise any of the powers, discretions and/or authorities given in terms of these Regulations.

## **CUP, SHIELD AND BOWL REGULATIONS 2015-2016**

### **1 COMPETITIONS' DESCRIPTION AND TROPHIES**

- 1.1 The competitions shall be called "The Scottish Rugby Cup Competitions" (the "Cups") and shall be contested by the Clubs qualified to play in the National Competitions together with any other Club approved by the Championship Committee.
- 1.2 The Cups shall comprise competitions for a Cup, Shield and Bowl.

### **2 ELIGIBILITY AND FORMAT**

- 2.1 The Cups shall be open to all Clubs as specified in Regulation 1 who shall qualify as follows:
  - 2.1.1 The Cup shall be contested by the 46 Clubs who compete in the Premiership and National League.
  - 2.1.2 The Shield shall be contested by the Clubs who compete in the first and second divisions of the three Regional Leagues. The Championship Committee or the relevant Regional Competitions Committee may make necessary adjustments to this regulation where a Regional League's second division is contested in two or more parallel sections.
  - 2.1.3 The Bowl shall be contested by the remaining Clubs competing in the three Regional Leagues and any other Club as decided by the Championship Committee from time to time.
- 2.2 Any infringement of National Competition Rule 5 may result in the disqualification from the competition for that Season of the Club involved. The Championship Committee shall also have the power to reinstate a Club in the competition if it has been eliminated by a Club in breach of Rule 5. This power will cease to apply 24 hours before the kick-off of the next round of the competition following the round in which the breach occurred.

### **3 FORMAT**

- 3.1 The Cup competition shall be played in a knock-out basis.
  - 3.1.1 In the Cup competition:
    - 3.1.1.1 The first round shall be contested by the 36 Clubs in the National League;
    - 3.1.1.2 The second round shall be contested by the 18 Clubs winning in the first round and by six Premiership Clubs (excluding the four Clubs who were placed first to fourth in the Premiership at the end of the previous Season);
    - 3.1.1.3 The third round shall be contested by the 12 Clubs winning in the second round and by the four Clubs excluded from that second round;
    - 3.1.1.4 The fourth round (the quarter-final round), the semi-finals, and the final shall be each be contested by the Clubs winning in the previous round.
- 3.2. The Shield and Bowl competitions shall each have two stages (the first regional, the second national).
  - 3.2.1. Local competitions for the Shield will be organised in each of the following four regions/areas:
    - West
    - Edinburgh
    - Caledonia

- The Borders
- 3.2.2. Local competitions for the Bowl will be organised in each of the following four regions/areas:
- West
  - East (Edinburgh and the Borders)
  - Midlands
  - North
- 3.3 The relevant Regional Competitions Committee will organise the Shield and Bowl competitions in each region/area.
- 3.4 All of these regional competitions must be completed and a winner decided at each level in each region/area before the beginning of the second (national) stage. The date for the start of the national stage will be as advised in advance by the Championship Secretary.
- 3.5 In the second (national) stage of the Shield and Bowl the four regional winners at each level will contest the respective competition's national semi-finals. The Championship Committee will be responsible for the organisation of the national semi-finals and finals of the Shield and the Bowl.

#### **4 THE DRAW**

- 4.1 The draw for each round of the Cup competition shall be open without seeding except as provided in Regulation 3.1.1. In each Shield or Bowl competition where any stage is played in a knock-out format the draw shall be open without seeding.
- 4.2 Where a competition is contested throughout in a knock-out format the draw for the first round shall be made and published no later than 1 August of each year.
- 4.3 The draw for subsequent rounds shall ordinarily be made during the week immediately following the scheduled date for the preceding round.
- 4.4 Where a Shield or Bowl regional competition is played initially in a league format the fixture dates shall be published no later than 1 August of each year.

#### **5 VENUES AND GATE RECEIPTS**

- 5.1. Every match in a knock-out competition except for the national final shall be played at the home ground of the first-drawn Club. The home Club may request the approval of the Championship Committee to play a Match at an alternative venue; such request must be submitted in writing to the Championship Secretary at least seven days in advance of the Match, though that deadline may be waived in emergency circumstances as defined in the National Competition Rule 8.5.
- 5.2. The venues for the national finals of the Cup, Shield and Bowl shall be determined by the Board.
- 5.3. For all Matches except the national finals, all gate receipts shall be shared by the two Clubs on an equal basis, and the visiting Club's share of the receipts shall be provided to it at the end of the Match. No Club shall be entitled to deduct any match advertising or travel expenses before the division of the gate receipts. However, deduction of VAT is allowable where it is required to be paid by the home club.
- 5.4. Any privilege of free admission is not applicable for any Match, and all spectators shall be charged the same level of entrance fee for equivalent accommodation.

## **6 DATES OF ROUNDS**

- 6.1 Cup, Shield and Bowl rounds and, where appropriate, league-format fixtures shall be played on dates as advised by the Championship Secretary at the start of the Season.
- 6.2 In exceptional circumstances, and subject to the approval of the Championship Committee, Clubs may arrange by mutual agreement to play Matches on dates earlier than the dates set for the rounds concerned. Application to rearrange Matches must be submitted to the Championship Secretary in writing and signed by both Clubs concerned.

## **7 COMPETITION POINTS (League Format)**

In each Shield and Bowl Match where the competition is played in a league format, four points shall be awarded for a win, two points shall be awarded for a draw, and no shall be awarded for a loss ("**Match Points**"). In addition, one bonus league point shall be awarded to a Club scoring 4 or more tries and one bonus league point shall be awarded to a losing Club which finishes within 7 points or fewer of the points scored by the winning Club ("**Bonus Points**").

## **8 DRAWN MATCHES (Knock-out Format)**

- 8.1 In all knock-out Matches, if after 40 minutes of play each way the scores are level, there shall be an immediate period of extra time between the two teams of 10 minutes each way, with a one-minute interval. A coin should be tossed by the referee before commencement of extra time to determine direction of play. If the scores are still equal after 10 minutes each way in extra time, the team that has scored more tries (including in extra time) shall be the winner. If this still does not produce a result, the team that has scored more conversions (including in extra time) shall be the winner. If this still does not produce a result, the team that has scored more drop goals (including in extra time) shall be the winner.
- 8.2 If Regulation 8.1 does not produce a result, in all rounds up to and including the national semi-finals, the away Club shall go forward into the next round.
- 8.3 In any Match played at a neutral venue arranged by the Championship Committee and also, where appropriate, in the regional finals, there shall be further 10-minute periods of extra time as required (the direction of play being decided by the toss of a coin before the first such period of extra time) during which the team which scores first shall be the winner.
- 8.4 Regulations 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 shall not to apply in Matches in the league formats.

## **9 METHODS FOR DECIDING QUALIFYING PLACINGS IN EVENT OF EQUALITY IN LEAGUE FORMAT COMPETITIONS**

- 9.1 In the event of two or more Clubs being equal in league points gained, placings to define further qualification shall be determined ranked on a descending basis according to their respective differences between "points for" and "points against" with the Club with the greater or greatest such difference being placed higher or highest.
- 9.2 Where Clubs have played a home-and-away league, if Regulation 9.1 above fails to separate Clubs, then the aggregate score over the appropriate fixtures in the Shield or Bowl between the Clubs that Season shall decide between them. Where Clubs have played a home-or-away league, if Regulation 9.1 above fails to separate Clubs, then the result in the Shield or Bowl match between the Clubs in that league shall decide between them. For the avoidance of doubt, where Clubs have not played in the same league pool, Regulation 9.2 will not apply.
- 9.3 Should 9.1 and 9.2 fail to separate Clubs, then placings shall be determined ranked on a

descending basis according to their tries scored (including penalty tries) in all the qualifying matches, with the Club with the greater or greatest number of such tries being placed higher or highest.

- 9.4 Should none of the above separate Clubs, then a cut of cards arranged by the Championship Secretary shall determine the qualifier or qualifiers.

## **10 POSTPONED AND ABANDONED MATCHES**

- 10.1 When a Match is postponed or abandoned it shall be played off on the first available date free of National League fixtures (National Competition Rule 3) and if necessary it shall be played midweek. Under normal circumstances, rescheduled Matches in Cup competitions shall take priority over rescheduled League matches although Clubs may, by mutual agreement and subject to the approval of the Championship Committee, arrange to reschedule a postponed or abandoned Cup Match on an earlier date. In the event of a dispute over the rescheduling of a postponed fixture, the Championship Committee shall have the power to arrange a date on which the fixture is to be played and also, if necessary, the venue. A Club failing to observe a direction for the playing of a fixture shall be liable to disqualification from the competition and any other sanction that the Championship Committee deems competent in terms of NCR 3.4.
- 10.2 For the avoidance of doubt, a Cup, Shield or Bowl fixture can be rescheduled only once. In the event that a rescheduled fixture cannot be played in accordance with Regulation 10.1, whether in a league or knock-out format, the winner of the Match shall be decided by a cut of cards.

## **11 NON-FULFILMENT OF FIXTURES**

- 11.1 Any Club, without just cause, not fulfilling a Cup, Shield or Bowl knock-out format fixture on the date and at the kick-off time notified by the Championship Secretary may be disqualified from the tournament and/or be subject to other sanctions defined in National Competition Rules 3.4 and 13.4.
- 11.2 If the failure to fulfil a Cup fixture is during a league-format competition, Premiership and National League Regulation 5 and, if necessary, National Competition Rule 6.1 may also apply.
- 11.3 If the failure to fulfil a Shield or Bowl fixture is during a league-format competition, Regional League Regulation 5 and, if necessary, National Competition Rule 6.1 may also apply.

## **12 NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN MATCHES**

- 12.1 Premiership and National League Regulation 6 shall apply to all Matches in the Cup competition.
- 12.2 Regional League Regulations 6.1, 6.3 and 6.4 shall apply to all Matches in the Shield competition.
- 12.3 Regional League Regulations 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 shall apply to all Matches in the Bowl competition.
- 12.4 National Competition Rule 5.1.4 will apply in that a Player exempt from the provisions of NCR 5.1.3, though with a Club in a Regional League's second division or lower, cannot play for that Club in a national semi-final or final of the Shield or Bowl competition unless he has applied for dispensation and been granted same by the Championship Committee. It shall be the Championship Committee's right to decide whether good reason has been provided for such dispensation.

- 12.5 In the Caledonia Regional Bowl competition the Under 19 Variations to the scrum (World Rugby Laws 20.1 (f), 20.9 (j) and (k), and 20.11(a)) shall apply in any Match contested by at least one Caledonia Regional League Division 4 Club.

### **13 REPLACEMENTS/SUBSTITUTES**

- 13.1 With the exception of the Cup quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals and the Shield semi-finals and finals, the maximum permitted number of replacements shall be as follows:
- 13.1.1 In the Cup the maximum permitted number of replacements shall be not more than five and not fewer than four; and
  - 13.1.2 In all regional Matches in the Shield the maximum permitted number of replacements shall be four.
- 13.2 For the Cup quarter-finals, semi-finals and final, for the Shield semi-finals and final, and for all Matches in the Bowl the maximum number of replacements shall be seven.
- 13.3 There shall be no requirement for parity between the two teams as to the number of replacements except in the national finals.
- 13.4 The requirements of World Rugby Law 3.5 (The Front Row – Replacements and Substitutes) shall apply when naming substitutes/replacements in all Cup, Shield and Bowl Matches. For the avoidance of doubt, the requirement for suitably trained front-row players will be deemed to have been complied with notwithstanding that those suitably trained front-row players may have commenced the match playing in different positions.
- 13.5 World Rugby Law 3.13 (Rolling Substitutions) also shall apply in all Cup, Shield and Bowl Matches.
- 13.6 For any infringement by a Club of Regulations 13.1, 13.2, 13.4 and 13.5, the Championship Committee will have the authority to impose a sanction or sanctions defined in National Competition Rules 3.4 and 13.4.
- 13.7 The Scottish Rugby Board shall determine in advance of each season whether the World Rugby Under 19 Variations to the scrum (World Rugby Law 20.1 (f), 20.9 (j) and (k), and 20.11(a)) shall apply to Bowl Matches.

### **14 REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND TOUCH JUDGES**

- 14.1 Scottish Rugby will appoint referees and assistant referees for all Cup Matches.
- 14.2 Scottish Rugby will also appoint referees and assistant referees for final Matches in the Shield and the Bowl.
- 14.3 For Shield and Bowl Matches (apart from the national finals) referees will be appointed by the home Club's local society. In Shield and Bowl Matches (apart from the national semi-finals and finals) each Club will provide one touch judge. In the national semi-finals of the Shield and Bowl, assistant referees will be appointed by the home Club's local society.
- 14.4 The home Club is responsible for confirmation of the match referee and, where appropriate, the assistant referees in every Match.

### **15 MATCH BALLS**

In each Cup Match the home Club shall provide at least three match balls conforming to World Rugby Law 2. This Regulation is recommended for each Shield and Bowl Match.

## **16 ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES**

Where reference is made to the Championship Committee in these Regulations, the relevant responsibility shall be deemed to be delegated to the appropriate Regional Competitions Committee in matters relating exclusively to the regional stages of the Shield and Bowl.

## **REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES RELATING TO PLAYER REGISTRATION 2015-216**

### **1. DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of these Regulations and Operating Procedures the definitions contained within Rule 1 of the National Competition Rules shall apply unless otherwise noted below.

### **2. ELIGIBILITY**

2.1. Subject to Regulation 2.2, each Club shall procure that all of its Players who play the Game for the Club are registered.

2.2. Where a Player is playing pursuant to:-

2.2.1. Rule 5.3 of the National Competition Rules (Dual Registration); or

2.2.2. Permitted Circumstances

the Player may play in any Match for the Club concerned, subject always to compliance with these Regulations and the National Competition Rules, where applicable.

2.3. No application for registration should be made for a player who is transferring Union until completed documentation indicating Clearance is received by the club and player. Failure to do so could result in the club being penalised for fielding an ineligible player.

### **3. REGISTRATION**

3.1. Subject to National Competition Rule 5.2.3, a Player can be registered to only one Primary Club and only one Secondary Club at any time.

3.2. A Player will be registered with a Club where an application for registration is submitted online and, subject to these Regulations, indicated on the online system that the registration has been accepted.

3.3. A Player's Registration may be cancelled, whether with retrospective effect or otherwise where appropriate, where the Player concerned or relevant Club has breached the Regulations relating to the Game, these Regulations and/or the Bye-Laws, resolutions or Rules of Scottish Rugby.

### **4. EVIDENCE OF REGISTRATION**

4.1. A Player's registration status on any particular date shall be determined by reference to the listing of registered players for the Club on the Scottish Rugby online registration system.

4.2. Each Player shall be allocated a unique Player Reference Number.

4.3. Where any enquiry or issue arises concerning a Player's eligibility, the Player's current or, if not current, most recent Player Reference Number must be quoted.

### **5. OFFENCES**

5.1. It shall be an offence for a Player, Club or any official of a Club to breach the Regulations Relating to the Game as relating to player movement and Clearance or these Regulations.

5.2. Subject to Regulation 2.2, it shall be an offence:-

5.2.1. for a Club to play a Player in a Match who is not Registered to the Club and eligible to participate in the Match concerned; and

5.2.2. for a Player to play a Match for a Club to which he is not registered.

## **6. DEACTIVATION**

- 6.1. Subject to the provision of written evidence to the Registrar that the Club has been notified of the Player's intention, a Registered Player may notify the Registrar that his Registration to a Club be cancelled.
- 6.2. A player must be informed by the club to whom he is registered if that club intends to deactivate his registration.
- 6.3. A Player's Registration shall continue indefinitely until cancelled or annulled in accordance with these Regulations.

## **7. TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION**

- 7.1. Where a Player wishes to transfer from one Club to another, the Club to which he is transferring should make an application for transfer on the online system.
- 7.2. The Player requiring transfer is not eligible to play for the Club to which he is transferring until acceptance of the transfer is indicated on the online system and his name appears on the Club's list of registered players.

## **8. LOSS OF REGISTRATION**

- 8.1. A Player will automatically cease to be Registered to a Club:-
  - 8.1.1. upon having his Registration cancelled by the Championship Committee; or
  - 8.1.2. where his Registration is annulled in accordance with these Regulations; or
  - 8.1.3. where a Player plays a Match for any Club in breach of any of those parts of the Regulations relating to the Game as applying to player Movement and Clearance.
- 8.2. The Championship Committee may suspend a Player's Registration pending resolution of any investigation in to a Player's Registration or eligibility.

## **9. OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Any Club seeking to register a Player must comply with the Operating Procedures as set out in Appendix 1 and as may be amended, supplemented or revised from time to time by the Championship Committee.

## **10. BREACH OF THESE REGULATIONS**

- 10.1. Where the Championship Committee suspect that a person or Club may have acted in breach of these Regulations, the Championship Committee shall be entitled to undertake such investigations, enquiries and hearings as they deem necessary.
- 10.2. Where a breach of these Regulations is established, the Championship Committee shall be entitled to impose such sanction, including pecuniary penalties, deduction of points and orders in relation to costs, as they deem fit.
- 10.3. For the avoidance of doubt, it shall be a breach of these Regulations to:-
  - 10.3.1. attempt to or actually register a Player without that Player's written approval; and/or

10.3.2. mislead the Registrar, Championship Committee or Scottish Rugby in any matter relating to Registration and eligibility.

10.4 A party alleging that the Championship Committee have made an adverse finding shall be entitled to appeal to Scottish Rugby's National Competition Appeals Panel. The procedure to be adopted shall be governed by the National Competition Rules.

## **11. POWER OF DELEGATION**

The Championship Committee shall have the power to delegate any of their powers, duties or obligations under these Regulations to any person, committee or body provided that such power having been delegated shall not preclude the Championship Committee from exercising that power if appropriate.

## **12. POWER TO REVISE THE REGULATIONS AND AMEND OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Where there has been any omission or error in these Regulations or Operating Procedures, the Championship Committee will have the power to rectify such error or omission in the manner they see fit.

## **13. DISPUTES**

13.1. Any dispute on the application of or arising out of these Regulations or Operating Procedures shall in the first instance be referred, by way of written notice, to the Registrar. The notice of complaint must include the following details:

13.1.1. the facts relating to the complaint;

13.1.2. the grounds of complaint; and

13.1.3. the remedy sought.

13.2. The Registrar shall consider any complaint received and provide a written decision to the complainant within a practicable time. The Registrar shall be entitled to request further evidence (in any form) and from whomever he chooses, as deemed necessary.

13.3. If the dispute is not resolved to any of the parties' satisfaction the complainant may appeal, by way of written notice, to the Championship Committee within 7 days of receipt of the Registrar's decision. The notice of appeal must include the following details:-

13.3.1. a copy of the original complaint;

13.3.2. a copy of the Registrar's decision; and

13.3.3. the grounds of appeal.

13.4. No fresh evidence or grounds of complaint can be introduced pursuant to Regulation 13.3 where the same could have reasonably been adduced at first instance.

13.5. The Championship Committee shall be entitled to request further evidence (in any form) and from whomever they choose, as deemed necessary.

13.6. The decision of the Championship Committee shall be intimated in writing to all relevant parties within a practicable time.

13.7. The Championship Committee's decision shall be final and binding subject to Regulation 13.9.

13.8. The Registrar and/or the Championship Committee (as applicable) shall have the power to impose a costs order upon the complainant further to proceedings brought under this

Regulation 13.

- 13.9. A party against whom the Championship Committee makes an adverse finding shall be entitled to appeal to the Scottish Rugby's National Competition Appeals Panel. The procedure to be adopted shall be governed by National Competition Rules.

#### **14. OMISSIONS AND INTERPRETATION**

- 14.1. Where there is any dispute in the interpretation of or inconsistency between the Regulations and Operating Procedures, the Registration Regulations will prevail.
- 14.2. The Championship Committee reserve the right to decide on any matter not provided for in these Regulations and the Operating Procedures or to rectify any administrative error. The Championship Committee's decision shall be final and binding.
- 14.3. Where any provision of these Regulations is held by any Court or competent authority to be illegal, void or unenforceable in whole or in part the remainder of the Regulations shall continue to be enforceable.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **OPERATING PROCEDURES**

#### **1. DEFINITIONS**

The Definitions set out in Rule 1 of the National Competition Rules shall apply and in addition:

**'Application Documents'** means those documents required by Regulation 3 of these Operating Procedures and such other documents as may be properly required by the Registrar to be submitted further to application for Registration of a Player and shall include all data to be completed and submitted via an online form.

#### **2. GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION**

- 2.1. The Application Documents (online application) must be fully and correctly completed.
- 2.2. The Application Documents must be submitted to the Registrar online in the prescribed form.
- 2.3. Any documentation in support of or further to an application, not capable of electronic transmission, must be sent to the Registrar.

#### **3. DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED FOR REGISTRATION**

- 3.1. The Registrar shall publish from time to time online forms in a prescribed form that shall be required to be completed and submitted pursuant to the Regulations.
- 3.2. The Registrar shall not accept any application for registration, de-registration or transfer pursuant to the Regulations in any other form than that which is prescribed.

#### **4. GENERAL**

- 4.1. No Club may assume that any application for Registration of a Player will result in Registration and eligibility unless and until the Club has received confirmation on the online system
- 4.2. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player may play for the Club for which he is registered in a Designated Competition Match from the Registration Date.
- 4.3. Where a Player requires a work permit visa or other permit or consent to play a Match in Scotland and such work permit visa or other permit or consent is for a specified period, Registration must be deactivated at the end of that time period.
- 4.4. Where a Club has any enquiry in relation to the Regulations and/or these Operating Procedures the Club should contact the Registrar.

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

#### **1. Designated Competitions and Dates in respect of Season 2015-2016**

This Appendix is issued by the Championship Committee further to the National Competition Rules and Regulations and Scottish Rugby's Regulations on Registration and Eligibility.

#### **2. Designated Competitions**

The National Competition Rules and the Scottish Rugby Regulations on Registration and Eligibility shall apply to the following Leagues:

Premiership and National League

Caledonia, East and West Regional Leagues

Scottish Rugby Cup Competitions (Cup, Shield and Bowl)

Reserve Leagues

Women's Premier League, National League and National Development League

Women's Cup Competitions (Sarah Beaney Cup, National Plate and National Bowl)

Scottish Schools Cup competitions

Scottish Rugby's National Youth Cup

Scottish Rugby Youth Leagues

Any such other national competition for schools and youths as may be established by the Scottish Rugby Board relating to the Season.

#### **3. Dates for 2015 and 2016**

Close Time begins	11 May 2015
Close Time ends	31 July 2015
Transfer Deadline	28 November 2015
Close Time begins	23 May 2016
Close Time ends	5 August 2016