

Proposed revisions to National Competition Rules & Regulations – Explanatory Note

The proposed revisions to the adult rugby National Competition Rules 2022/23 (NCRs) highlighted below are being put forward for approval following a review of the comments received in response to the NCR 2022/23 Consultation process (which involved three rounds of open consultations).

The left-hand column provides the wording of the proposed rule (as revised for 2022/23). The right-hand column provides an explanation of the proposed change.

NCR	Notes
<p>3.3 Matches taking place on the same day as a home international played by the senior men’s Scotland team (and in the case of Women’s competitions matches, the senior Scotland Women team), shall kick-off no later than 2 hours prior to the international match kick-off unless written permission is obtained from the relevant Competitions Committee. Where there is agreement between both teams an application to the Championship Committee may be made to request that the kick off time be rearranged.</p>	<p>The revision (being the additional sentence in red) reflects requests from clubs to reorganise fixtures based on the wishes of the teams involved.</p>
<p>3.7 If, as a consequence of government advice a Match cannot be played, the Club must without delay inform the relevant Competition Secretary of the full circumstances and the Match shall be postponed.</p>	<p>The current Covid related rule has been simplified. Competition rules are to revert to pre-pandemic standards whilst maintaining safeguards in the event that the government has to implement any further restrictions which may directly affect rugby competitions.</p>
<p>3.12 Where a Match is postponed for any reason it shall ordinarily be rescheduled to the next available fixture date free of Competition fixtures. Where necessary the relevant Competition Committee may require a rescheduled fixture to be played midweek. Other Matches may require to be rescheduled or further rescheduled in order to accommodate that Match.</p>	<p>The proposed change splits the provisions for ‘postponements’ and ‘abandonments’, setting out how the Competitions Committee will deal with both.</p>
<p>3.13 Where a Match is abandoned before 20 minutes of the second half have elapsed or postponed for any reason it shall ordinarily be rescheduled to the next available fixture date free of Competition fixtures. Where necessary the relevant Competition Committee may require a rescheduled fixture to be played midweek. Other Matches may require to be rescheduled or further rescheduled in order to accommodate that Match</p>	
<p>3.19 A Club subject to penalty under Rule 3.17 or Scottish Rugby may request that the penalty be reviewed by the Competitions Committee, but only on the grounds that the default was caused by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances wholly outwith its control. Requests must be lodged with the Competition Secretary within 72 hours of the scheduled kick-off time. On review the Competitions Committee shall have right to cancel, reduce, affirm or increase the penalty.</p>	<p>The revision see’s the ability for a Scottish Rugby representative to make a request to the Competitions Committee to review a decision made (as per the Disciplinary Rules).</p>

<p>3.21 In the event of a Club not fulfilling a fixture and the opposition Club incurring unnecessary expense, the relevant Competitions Committee may award a financial penalty towards the reimbursement of the non-offending Club's and the Match Official's actual costs. Proof of actual costs will be required.</p>	<p>The revision removes the £1,800 expense cap that can be applied in the event that a club does not fulfil a fixture and the necessary protocols were not followed.</p>
<p>5.4 The team sheet must specify the jersey number or some other form of unique identification, full name and registration number of each Player. Players capable of playing at tight-head prop, loose-head prop and hooker must be highlighted as such. The team sheet must separately identify any Player playing for their Secondary League Club and any Emergency Player Loan Scheme Players.</p> <p>5.5 Any Club wishing to use an identification method other than jersey numbers must request approval from the Championship Committee or respective Competition Committee no later than 10 days before a fixture.</p>	<p>The proposed revision introduces the option for clubs/teams to use other means of identification on the reverse of a players jersey other than 1-22 (for example A-Z).</p> <p>Any team/club wishing to use an identification method other than jersey numbers must apply to the Championship Committee for approval to make such changes.</p>
<p>COMPOSITION OF THE PREMIERSHIP AND NATIONAL LEAGUES</p> <p>2.1 The Premiership and the National Leagues shall comprise:</p> <p>2.1.1 a Premiership, to be contested by 10 Teams in one division;</p> <p>2.1.2 the National Leagues, to be contested by 36 Teams in three divisions of 12.</p>	<p>The revision reverts to the National League structure that was in place prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>
<p>CHAMPIONS, PROMOTION AND RELEGATION</p> <p>3.1 Subject to Rule 10.2:</p> <p>3.1.1 The Team winning the Premiership Final shall be the Scottish Champions.</p> <p>3.1.2 The Team finishing tenth in the Premiership Stage 1 shall be relegated to National 1.</p> <p>3.1.3 The Team finishing first in National League Division 1 shall be promoted to the Premiership.</p> <p>3.1.4 The Teams finishing in first place in each of National League Division 2 and 3 shall be promoted to National League Division 1 and 2 respectively.</p> <p>3.1.5 The Teams finishing in tenth to twelfth places in National League Division 1 shall be relegated to National League Division 2.</p> <p>3.1.6 The Teams finishing in eighth to twelfth places in National League Division 2 shall be relegated to National League Division 3.</p> <p>3.1.7 The Teams finishing in seventh to twelfth places in National League Division 3 shall be relegated to the appropriate Regional League Division 1.</p> <p>3.1.8 The Team finishing in first place in each of the Regional</p>	<p>The revision reflects the changes proposed in the AGM Motion to move to 4 x National Leagues (including Premiership) in 2023/24.</p> <p><i>NB Drafts have also been provided showing (a) the effect on the portion / relegation wording if the AGM Motion is not approved and (b) the effect if the Motion and the Amended are approved [See the Appendix to this paper].</i></p>

<p>Leagues and the team finishing sixth in National League Division 3 shall play-off for the 10th position in National League Division 3 in a format to be determined by the Championship Committee.</p>	
<p>REGIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS</p> <p>4.6 In Caledonia Regional Leagues:</p> <p>4.6.1 If a Club has a reserve team competing in the Competition, a Player who has started a first-team Match for the Club shall be ineligible to play for the Club's reserve team in a Competition match that season unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the Player's Club's first and second teams have concurrent Matches; or b. less than 50% of the Player's appearances that season have been in the starting XV of the first team; or c. dispensation has been granted by the Competition Committee 	<p>The revision recognises that clubs may have more than a 2XV in the competitive leagues and as such regulations introduced to ensure the integrity of competitions are upheld with regards to the movement of players between 1XV and reserve teams.</p>
<p>4.7 In Regional League Division 2 and lower divisions there is no restriction on the number of Dual Registered Players who can be named in a match day squad.</p>	<p>The proposed revision removes the restriction at this level on the number of dual registered players that a club may name in their match day squad.</p>
<p>5.2 At the discretion of the relevant Competitions Committee the U19 Scrummage Law Variations shall apply in the Regional competitions.</p>	<p>The proposed revisions permit each Region to choose to adapt the U19 Scrummage Law variations as determined in consultation with clubs.</p>
<p>WOMENS COMPETITIONS : COMPOSITION AND FORMAT</p>	<p>The revision to the composition and format of the women's competitions reflects the consultation and subsequent outcome of a review of the women's game undertaken during Season 2021/22.</p>
<p>CUP, SHIELD AND BOWL REGULATIONS</p>	<p>The proposed revision is a reintroduction of the Cup, Shield and Bowl regulation to the 2022/23 NCR document as well as review of the composition and format of the Men's Cup, Shield and Bowl competitions.</p>
<p>APPENDIX 2 : GAME ON PRINCIPLES</p>	<p>The revision of the Game On Law Variations sees further variables that teams can adopt in advance of a match (and in agreement with the opposition) in line with adaptations permitted under World Rugby regulations.</p>

APPENDIX : ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS FOR PROMOTION / RELEGATION BASED ON AGM OUTCOMES

AGM Motion is Approved	AGM Motion (as Amended) is Approved	AGM Motion is NOT Approved
<p>PREMIERSHIP & NATIONAL LEAGUES</p> <p>3.1 Subject to Rule 10.2:</p> <p>3.1.1 The Team winning the Premiership Final shall be the Scottish Champions.</p> <p>3.1.2 The Team finishing tenth in the Premiership Stage 1 shall be relegated to National 1.</p> <p>3.1.3 The Team finishing first in National League Division 1 shall be promoted to the Premiership.</p> <p>3.1.4 The Teams finishing in first place in each of National League Division 2 and 3 shall be promoted to National League Division 1 and 2 respectively.</p> <p>3.1.5 The Teams finishing in tenth to twelfth places in National League Division 1 shall be relegated to National League Division 2.</p> <p>3.1.6 The Teams finishing in eighth to twelfth places in National League Division 2 shall be relegated to National League Division 3.</p> <p>3.1.7 The Teams finishing in seventh to twelfth places in National League Division 3 shall be relegated to the appropriate Regional League Division 1.</p> <p>3.1.8 The Team finishing in first place in each of the Regional Leagues and the team finishing sixth in National League Division 3 shall play-off for the 10th position in National League Division 3 in a format to be determined by the Championship Committee.</p>	<p>PREMIERSHIP & NATIONAL LEAGUES</p> <p>3.1 Subject to Rule 10.2:</p> <p>3.1.1 The Team winning the Premiership Final shall be the Scottish Champions.</p> <p>3.1.2 The Team finishing tenth in the Premiership Stage 1 shall be relegated to National 1.</p> <p>3.1.3 The Team finishing first in National League Division 1 shall be promoted to the Premiership.</p> <p>3.1.4 The Teams finishing in first place in each of National League Division 2 and 3 shall be promoted to National League Division 1 and 2 respectively.</p> <p>3.1.5 The Teams finishing in tenth to twelfth places in National League Division 1 shall be relegated to National League Division 2.</p> <p>3.1.6 The Teams finishing in eighth to twelfth places in National League Division 2 shall be relegated to National League Division 3.</p> <p>3.1.7 The Teams finishing in seventh to twelfth places in National League Division 3 shall be relegated to National League Division 4.</p> <p>3.1.8 The Team finishing in first place in each of the Regional Leagues and one additional team (to be determined by the Championship Committee) shall be promoted to National League Division 4.</p>	<p>PREMIERSHIP & NATIONAL LEAGUES</p> <p>3.1 Subject to Rule 10.2:</p> <p>3.1.1 The Team winning the Premiership Final shall be the Scottish Champions.</p> <p>3.1.2 The Team finishing tenth in the Premiership Stage 1 shall be relegated to National 1.</p> <p>3.1.3 The Team finishing first in National League Division 1 shall be promoted to the Premiership.</p> <p>3.1.4 The Teams finishing in first and second places in each of National League Division 2 and 3 shall be promoted to National League Division 1 and 2 respectively.</p> <p>3.1.5 The Teams finishing in eleventh and twelfth places in each of National League Division 1 and 2 shall be relegated to National League Division 2 and 3 respectively.</p> <p>3.1.6 The Teams finishing in tenth to twelfth places in National League Division 3 shall be relegated to the appropriate Regional League Division 1.</p> <p>3.1.7 The Team finishing in first place in each of the Regional Leagues shall be promoted to National League Division 3.</p>
<p>REGIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS</p> <p>3.1 Subject to the requirements of NCR 10.2:</p> <p>3.1.1 the Team finishing in first place in each of the Regional Leagues and the team finishing sixth in National League Division 3 shall play-off for the 10th position in National League Division 3 in a format to be determined by the Championship Committee.</p> <p>3.1.2 the Team(s) relegated from National League Division 3 shall be accommodated in the relevant Region's Division 1.</p>	<p>REGIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS</p> <p>3.1 Subject to the requirements of NCR 10.2:</p> <p>3.1.1 the Team finishing in first place in each of the Regional Leagues shall be promoted to National League Division 4.</p> <p>3.1.2 one additional team, to be determined either through a play-off competition amongst the second placed teams in each Regional League or by some other means (at the discretion of the Championship Committee) shall be promoted to National League Division 4.</p>	<p>REGIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS</p> <p>3.1 Subject to the requirements of NCR 10.2:</p> <p>3.1.1 the Team finishing in first place in each of the Regional Leagues shall be promoted to National League Division 3.</p> <p>3.1.2 the Team(s) relegated from National League Division 3 shall be accommodated in the relevant Region's Division 1.</p>

