



## **RFU AASE LEAGUE 2016-2017**

### **COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

#### **1. Description and Form**

- 1.1 The Competition shall be called the RFU AASE League.
- 1.2 All matches must be played in accordance with these Regulations, World Rugby Laws (including any variations and trials that may be adopted by the RFU), World Rugby Regulations and RFU Rules and Regulations, with particular reference to RFU Regulation 15 and the Under 19 Laws variations set out in Appendix 9 of RFU Regulation 15.
- 1.3 Any terms not defined in these Regulations shall have the meanings set out in RFU Regulation 1.

#### **2. Competition Organisation**

- 2.1 The competition will be organised by the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department.
- 2.2 Each season an Organising Committee of three will be established to manage the successful delivery of the Competition.
- 2.3 The Organising Committee shall have discretion to decide on matters not provided for in (and in the interpretations of) these Regulations in the context of the Competition. This discretion shall include the interpretation of these Regulations in accordance with the underlying principles and intent (insofar as it can be ascertained) of the relevant regulation and the interests of rugby union football. Any person affected by the decision of the Organising Committee on matters not provided for in the Regulations shall have the right of appeal against such decision in accordance with paragraph 18 below.
- 2.4 In the discharge of its responsibilities the Organising Committee may further delegate some or all of the powers contained within the relevant Regulations to any individual member(s) of the Organising Committee or staff member(s) of the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department.
- 2.5 If any interested party requires clarification of any of these Regulations, such queries must be submitted to the Organising Committee by email to [tomprice@rfu.com](mailto:tomprice@rfu.com).

#### **3. Competition Format**

- 3.1 The Organising Committee will determine the precise structure of the Competition once the number of participating teams is known.

3.2 League points will be awarded as follows:

- 4 points will be awarded for a win
- 2 points will be awarded for a draw
- 1 point will be awarded to a team that loses a match by 7 points or less
- 1 point will be awarded to a team scoring 4 tries or more in a match
- 1 point will be deducted for failing to submit a team sheet in accordance with Regulation 12 after each match.

3.3 The position of each team within the pool will be determined by:

- a) league points;
- b) match wins;
- c) match points difference; and
- d) match points for.

In each of a) to d) above, the team with the greater league points, match wins, positive match points difference or positive match points for, will be placed higher than any team with fewer league points etc. In the event that, having applied a) to d) above, two teams are still equal, the position of the teams in the Pool stage of the Competition will be determined based on the team achieving the greater number of try bonus points in the Pool stage or by applying a) to d) to the matches involving the two teams.

3.4 Any School/College conceding a match will face sanction (including disqualification) by the Organising Committee.

#### **4. Eligibility of Schools/Colleges**

4.1 The Competition will be open to all Schools/Colleges in England that deliver the RFU AASE Programme for 16 to 18 year olds.

4.2 Educational establishments will only be allowed to enter at the discretion of the Organising Committee.

4.3 Any educational establishments participating in the NatWest Schools Competition or One Term Cup Competition will not be eligible to participate in this Competition.

#### **5. Eligibility of Players**

5.1 Subject to 5.2 below, to be eligible for the Competition a player must be under 18 years of age at midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 or an Under 19 player playing down in accordance with RFU Regulation 15.4.3.

5.2 No team is permitted to include more than two Under 19 players in their match day squad of 23.

5.3 Players taking part in the Competition must be on the roll of the participating School/College on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and in attendance at the participating School/College, unless otherwise agreed by the Organising Committee.

- 5.4 Under 16s and Under 17s can only play in an Under 18 match if the conditions of RFU Regulation 15.3.6 are satisfied and Under 16s cannot in any circumstances play in the front row of the scrum in any Under 18 match (unless the player is an England Academy Player and satisfies the requirements of RFU Regulation 15.3.8).

## **6. The Draw**

- 6.1 The Organising Committee will carry out the draws. The first named team in the draw is the Home team and the second named team is the Away team irrespective of where the game is played.

## **7. Match Management**

- 7.1 Apart from the Final, the Home team is responsible for arranging the fixture at a suitable venue.
- 7.2 Matches must be played by the end of the nominated week allocated by the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department, as set out in Appendix 1. Should this not be possible the Home team must contact the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department to apply for dispensation to play on an alternative date, subject to agreement from the Organising Committee.
- 7.3 The Organising Committee retains the right to specify the date and kick off time for any match in the Competition.
- 7.4 The best possible venue must be used and where appropriate every attempt made to rope off the pitch.

*Note: Both teams must control their spectators. The tension of a competitive league game is not an excuse for abuse from the touchline towards players or officials.*

- 7.5 Matches will be 35 minutes each way. Half-time will be 5 minutes, with both teams staying on the field of play.
- 7.6 Should a fifty point differential occur at any time during a match, then the referee may end the match and the result at that time will stand.
- 7.7 The Home team must advise the referee that the referee's appointment is to an RFU AASE League fixture and advise him/her of the Competition Regulations and U19 Law variations.
- 7.8 Where a match has not been played or the result of a match remains unresolved by the end of the relevant nominated week, the Organising Committee may, in its sole discretion determine the result of the match. This power will only apply to situations where the Organising Committee considers that there is no other opportunity to play/replay a match and the successful delivery of the Competition is at risk.
- 7.9 The Finals will be played at a venue and on such date to be determined by the Organising Committee.

## **8. Replacements/Substitutions (*see Under 19 Variations*)**

- 8.1 The number of replacements and substitutes in all matches shall be no more than eight.
- 8.2 Rolling Substitutions are permitted in all RFU AASE League matches. A player who has been substituted may later replace any player, whether or not that player has been injured.
- 8.3 In the interest of safety each team must have at least six players in their nominated 23 player match squad or at least five players in a nominated 22 player match squad who are suitably trained and experienced to be capable of playing in the front row to ensure that on the first, second or (in the case of a 23 player squad) third occasions (whether due to injury or consequent to a player(s) being temporarily suspended or ordered off) that a front row player is required to be replaced, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.
- 8.4 If on any occasion a front row player requires to be replaced and his team cannot provide a replacement or another player trained and experienced from those who started the match or from the nominated replacements to enable the match to continue safely with contested scrums, the referee having made enquiry of and having confirmed this fact with the manager of the team (or such other person nominated by the School/College as the person responsible for the team), the match will continue with uncontested scrums and (subject to Regulation 8.7 below) the final result will stand.
- 8.5 If on any occasion uncontested scrums are ordered by the referee, in accordance with 8.4 above, due to injury (including blood injury) or consequent to a player being temporarily suspended or ordered off or for any other reason, the team concerned shall not be entitled to replace the player whose departure caused the uncontested scrum. On the return to the field of a front row player who has been temporarily excluded the match shall continue with contested scrums provided it is safe to do so.
- 8.6 In the unusual event that a referee decides to continue the match with uncontested scrums on the grounds of safety, because he cannot safely manage the scrums otherwise, the final result will stand.
- 8.7 The Organising Committee may review the circumstances in every case where a match starts with or is completed with uncontested scrums and shall be entitled to impose penalties in accordance with Regulation 17, subject to the right of appeal set out in Regulation 18.

## **9. Drawn Matches**

- 9.1 In the event that the scores are level at the end of the match, the match will be considered a draw. There will be no extra time in any round.
- 9.2 In the event that the scores are level at the end of the Final, the match will be considered a draw and the trophy will be shared.

## **10. Postponed or Abandoned Matches**

### **10.1 Weather Conditions (including bad light):**

#### **10.1.1 Postponed Match**

If weather conditions (including bad light) look like they may prevent a match being played then the first drawn team must follow any such protocol as may be circulated to the participating teams and the match will be played at a later date unless the Organising Committee exceptionally, and in its absolute discretion, agrees or specifies otherwise.

#### **10.1.2 Abandoned with less than 50 minutes played**

If the match is abandoned solely because of the weather conditions, (including bad light), when less than 50 minutes have been played, then the match will be replayed unless the Organising Committee exceptionally, and in absolute discretion, agrees/specifies otherwise.

#### **10.1.3 Abandoned with 50 or more minutes played**

If a match is abandoned solely because of weather conditions, (including bad light), when 50 or more minutes have been played, then the score at the moment of abandonment shall stand and be deemed the final score in the match. The referee's decision as to the necessity for abandonment and the number of minutes played at the moment of abandonment shall be final.

### **10.2 Other Reasons**

If the referee finds it necessary to abandon a match for any reason other than weather conditions, (including bad light), then, irrespective of the number of minutes played, the result of that match shall be reviewed by the Organising Committee who may order the match to be replayed and/or impose such other sanction as it deems appropriate. The referee's report must be submitted on why play was curtailed.

## **11. Notification of Results**

11.1 The Home team must inform the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department (*see contact numbers in 11.2 below*) within 24 hours of the end of the match.

11.2 RFU AASE League – Tom Price

Tel: 0208 831 6784

Mobile: 07969 661549

Email: [tomprice@rfu.com](mailto:tomprice@rfu.com)

Fax: 0208 892 4446

## **12. Team Sheets**

12.1 The 'Home' side in every round of the Competition **must** complete and submit a team sheet for both sides to Tom Price of the 15 starting players and a maximum of 8 replacements within 48 hours of the final whistle.

12.2 The Team Sheet will contain the following information:

- a) Full Name of Player
- b) Date of Birth of Player (if applicable)
- c) U19 (tick if applicable)
- d) Front row (tick if applicable)

12.3 Each team manager **must** sign the team sheet (where indicated) prior to the start of the match.

12.4 Each School/College must ensure that information provided on a team sheet is accurate and legible. Failure to submit a team sheet, or late submission, will render a School/College liable to sanction. The provision of false or misleading information on players or replacements shall be a serious breach of this Regulation and may give rise to a severe penalty.

### **13. Kit**

13.1 The Home team is responsible for ensuring that there is no clash of colours and that all kit complies with World Rugby Regulations.

13.2 The first drawn team will change shirts in the event of a clash of colour.

13.3 All teams in the Final must wear numbered shirts.

### **14. Referees**

14.1 The RFU will appoint an independent referee for each game and notify the home team of the appointment.

### **15. Disciplinary Procedures**

15.1 When any player is sent off or cited in any match in any of the Competitions, the Disciplinary Regulations and Procedures for Age Grade rugby will apply as set out in Appendix 6 of RFU Regulation 19.

15.2 A player who has been suspended from Club Rugby or Schools' Rugby may not play in any other competition matches whilst under suspension.

### **16. Disputes and Breaches of Regulations**

16.1 Any matters alleged to be in breach of these Regulations and/or RFU Regulations shall be referred immediately to the Organising Committee; c/o the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department in writing or by telephone if necessary, within 24 hours following the conclusion of a match. In any event written confirmation must be sent to the RFU Events & Competitions Department within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match setting out the grounds of the complaint/breach in full. Any dispute will be resolved not less than 5 days prior to the next round of the Competition.

16.2 Subject to a right of appeal by any School/College (see Regulation 18 below) and in accordance with Regulation 17, the Organising Committee shall have the power to discipline any School/College for breach of any of these Regulations and/or any RFU Regulations. Ignorance of these Regulations will not be deemed an excuse in the event of breach.

## **17. Sanctions**

*The test applied to decisions in Regulations 17 and 18 relating to decisions on breach of Regulations and Disciplinary matters is that of “on a balance of probability”.*

17.1 Having reviewed the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department’s evidence, of the Organising Committee finds a breach of a Regulation has occurred it may bring breach proceedings. If it feels there is a case to answer the party committing the alleged breach will be notified and given an opportunity to make submissions or attend a hearing. Such a hearing will be conducted as set out in Appendix 6 of RFU Regulation 19. The National Youth Disciplinary Secretary will be copied in to any such notification.

17.2 Sanctions open to the Organising Committee in respect of any breach of these Regulations and/or RFU Regulations will include but are not limited to the following:

- Reprimand an individual or School/College
- A deduction of league points
- A fine up to £100 and/or an award or reasonable costs as scheduled by either the Organising Committee and/or a complainant
- Order a replay
- Order that the result is that a School/College has lost the match
- Exclusion/disqualification of a School/College from the Competition, for a specific period of time as the Organising Committee may decide.

17.3 Any fines collected by the RFU will be put towards the costs of this Competition. Failure by a School/College to pay a fine or costs will be considered a further breach of these Regulations and may result in the removal of the School/College from future competitions.

## **18. Right of Appeal**

18.1 Should any party wish to appeal a decision of the Organising Committee, that party shall have a right to appeal in accordance with this Regulation 18.

18.2 Any interested party aggrieved at the decision of the Organising Committee may, within 72 hours from the receipt of the letter informing it of the Organising Committee’s decision, lodge an appeal in writing or request a further review of the decision in writing to the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department who shall then notify the National Youth Disciplinary Secretary and the RFU Head of

Discipline. An appeal fee payable to the RFU of £100 is payable at the time of lodging the appeal. This can be refunded if the appeal is successful and if so ordered.

- 18.3 The National Youth Disciplinary Secretary together with the RFU Head of Discipline will direct how the appeal will be heard and conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in Appendix 6 of RFU Regulation 19.

## **19. Obligations**

- 19.1 Each School or College entering its team(s) in this Competition agrees:

- 19.1.1 That by commencing its programme of matches it has entered into a legally binding obligation with the RFU and as a separate covenant with each other team in the Competition and with any sponsor of the Competition in which the team plays;
- 19.1.2 To comply in every particular with these Regulations and all other relevant RFU and World Rugby Regulations;
- 19.1.3 To permit access to its premises during a match to any person authorised by the Organising Committee (with or without notice) to check compliance with all or any of the above.

## **20. Broadcasting & Image Rights**

- 20.1 All broadcasting, media and image rights for this Competition belong to the RFU and all participating Schools/Colleges agree to not, by any act or omission, do anything to prejudice or that is conflict with these rights.
- 20.2 The RFU has determined that participating teams may record matches for the purpose of analysis and non-commercial purposes only. Any team wishing to record a match using television or any audio-visual or electronic media must obtain the permission of both participating teams prior to the match.
- 20.3 Anyone wishing to broadcast any match by means of radio, television or any other audio-visual or electronic media must obtain permission from the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department.
- 20.4 No team shall take any part (either as organiser or participant or in any other way) in any match that is in whole or in part broadcast by means of radio, television or any other audio-visual or electronic media where doing so shall be a breach of any broadcasting or other contract entered into by the RFU or any other person acting for or on behalf of itself or any group or association of Clubs, Schools, Constituent Bodies or Unions.



**APPENDIX 1**

**U18 FIXTURE DATES 2016-17**

Month	W/C	U18
		AASE / Academy
August	15	
August	22	
August	29	AASE Rnd 1 (Stage 1)
September	5	AASE Rnd 2 (Stage 1)
September	12	AASE Rnd 3 (Stage 1)
September	19	AASE Rnd 4 (Stage 1)
September	26	AASE Rnd 5 (Stage 1)
October	3	AASE Rnd 6 (Stage 1)
October	10	AASE Rnd 7 (Stage 1)
October	17	HALF TERM
October	24	
October	31	AASE Rnd 8 (Stage 2)
November	7	AASE Rnd 9 (Stage 2)
November	14	AASE Rnd 10 (Stage 2)
November	21	
November	28	AASE Finals
December	5	CHRISTMAS
December	12	
December	19	
December	26	Academy Rnd 1
January	2	Academy Rnd 2
January	9	Academy Rnd 3
January	16	Academy Rnd 4
January	23	Academy Rnd 5
January	30	Academy Rnd 6
February	6	Academy Rnd 7
February	13	Academy Finals
February	20	HALF TERM
February	27	
March	6	AASE Regional 7s
March	13	AASE 7s - Finals
March	20	