

**RFU AASE LEAGUE REGULATIONS  
2019-2020**

**PART A: COMPETITION REGULATIONS SCHEDULE**

A. Competition(s)	1. For the purpose of these regulations, ‘Competition’ shall mean: RFU AASE League
B. Competition Organiser	1. The Competition will be organised by the RFU Competitions (Professional) Department on behalf of the RFU.
C. Disputes Committee	1. Disputes Committee (Professional Competitions)
D. Competition Format	<p>1. The Competition Organiser will determine the precise structure of the Competition once the number of participating teams is known.</p> <p>2. The Competition Organiser 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.</p> <p>3. League points will be awarded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 points will be awarded for a win</li> <li>• 2 points will be awarded for a draw</li> <li>• 1 point will be awarded to a team that loses a match by 7 points or less</li> <li>• 1 point will be awarded to a team scoring 4 tries or more in a match</li> <li>• 1 point will be deducted for failing to submit a team sheet in accordance with Regulation 10 after each match.</li> </ul> <p>4. The position of each team within the pool will be determined by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) league points;</li> <li>b) match wins;</li> <li>c) match points difference; and</li> <li>d) match points for.</li> </ul> <p>5. 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.</p> <p>6. 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.</p> <p>7. Any entrant conceding a match will face sanction (including</p>

	<p>disqualification) by the Disputes Committee.</p> <p>8. The Competition Organiser will determine the date, kick off time and venue of the final.</p>
E. Entrant Eligibility	<p>1. The Competition will be open to those colleges as invited by the Competition Organiser.</p> <p>2. Entrants will only be allowed to enter at the discretion of the Competition Organiser.</p> <p>3. Any Entrants participating in the Schools Cup Competition or Champions Trophy Competition will not be eligible to participate in this Competition.</p>
F. Player Eligibility	<p>1. To be eligible for the Competition a player must be under 18 years of age at midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup> August of the effective season or an Under 19 player playing down in accordance with RFU Regulation 15.5.</p> <p>2. No team is permitted to include more than two Under 19 players (playing down in accordance with Regulation 15) in their match day squad.</p> <p>3. Players taking part in the Competition must be on the roll of the participating educational establishment on the 30<sup>th</sup> September of the effective season and in attendance at the participating educational establishment, unless otherwise agreed by the Competition Organiser.</p> <p>4. Under 16s can only play in an Under 18 match if the conditions of RFU Regulation 15 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).</p>
G. Match Management	<p><b>Team Sheets</b></p> <p>1. Those Players aged U19 must be identified on the Team Sheet.</p> <p><b>Squad</b></p> <p>2. A squad of up to 23 players (15 starting players and 8 substitutes/replacements) can be named for each match.</p> <p><b>Match</b></p> <p>3. Matches will be 35 minutes each way. Half-time will be 5 minutes, with both teams staying on the field of play.</p> <p>4. 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.</p> <p><b>Match Officials</b></p> <p>5. The RFU will appoint an independent referee for each game and notify the home team of the appointment.</p> <p>6. The Home team must advise the referee that the appointment is to a Competition fixture and advise</p>

	him/her of the Competition Regulations and appropriate Law variations.
H. Notification of Results	<p>1. The Home team must inform the RFU Competition Organiser within 24 hours of the end of the match.</p> <p>RFU AASE League – John Aldridge Tel: 0203 118 3136 Email: <a href="mailto:johnaldridge@rfu.com">johnaldridge@rfu.com</a></p>
I. Other Competition Specific Regulations	<p><b>Medical</b></p> <p>1. It is the responsibility of both Entrants in Competition Matches to ensure that each Entrant has:</p> <p>a. an appropriately qualified healthcare practitioner present to attend to Players, and the Referee before, during the Match, at half-time and immediately after the Match. To be considered an appropriately qualified healthcare practitioner the individual must be qualified in accordance with RFU guidelines and/or has undertaken a minimum of the RFU's Immediate Care in Sport Course Level 2 qualification or equivalent; and</p> <p>b. an Immediate Care in Sport Course Level 2 or Level 3 trauma bag, a defibrillator, collars, splints and split scoop.</p> <p>2. It is the responsibility of the Home Entrant to ensure that reasonable medical facilities are available for the use of such medical professionals to include planning of onward emergency care and ambulance access in accordance with RFU Regulation 9.</p>

## **PART B: COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. These Competition Regulations, together with the above Schedule and any attached Annexes (together the "Competition Regulations"), set out in full the regulations that shall apply to this Competition.
- 1.2. These Regulations apply to the Competition in the 2019-20 season and are effective from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019.
- 1.3. All matches must be played in accordance with these Regulations, World Rugby Laws and Regulations (including any variations and trials that may be adopted by the RFU), World Rugby Regulations and RFU Rules and Regulations. In the event of any conflict between a provision of these Regulations and the RFU or World Rugby Rules and Regulations, these Regulations will prevail in respect of that provision.
- 1.4. Unless otherwise specifically defined in these Regulations, any definitions will have the meanings set out in the RFU Regulation 1 (Definitions) which is available on the RFU website.

### **2. Competition Organisation**

- 2.1. The Competition will be administered by the Competition Organiser who shall manage the delivery of the Competition.

- 2.2. The Competition Organiser shall have discretion to decide on matters not provided for in, as well as on the interpretation 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 in the interests of rugby union football.
- 2.3. Any interested party may seek clarification of any of these Regulations by submitting a question to the Competition Organiser in writing.
- 2.4. Any party affected by a decision of the Competition Organiser on matters not provided for in the Competition Regulations shall have a right of appeal against such decision in accordance with Regulation 11 below.
- 2.5. In the discharge of its responsibilities, the Competition Organiser may further delegate some or all of the powers contained within these Regulations to any individual member(s) or staff member(s) of the Competition Organiser.

### **3. Match Management**

#### **Team Sheets**

- 3.1. Each entrant in every match of the Competition must complete and retain a copy of a Team Sheet of the starting players and replacements. Entrants must also submit a copy to the Competition Organiser, within 48 hours of the final whistle of each match, signed by the Team Manager.
- 3.2. The Team Sheet will contain the following information:
  - a) Full Name of Player
  - b) Date of Birth of Player
  - c) Front Row (tick if applicable)
  - d) Such other information as required in the Regulations Schedule
- 3.3. Each Team Manager must sign the team sheet (where indicated) prior to the start of the match.
- 3.4. Each entrant must ensure that information provided on the Team Sheet is accurate and legible. Failure to submit a team sheet, or late submission, will render an entrant liable to sanction. The provision of false or misleading information on players or replacements is a serious breach of these Regulations and may give rise to a severe penalty.

#### **Half Game Rule**

- 3.5. The Half Game Rule will apply to all matches in the Competition in accordance with RFU Regulation 15.12. Suspected breaches of this regulation will be referred to the Disputes Committee in accordance with the process outlined in Regulation 9.2.

#### **Fixtures**

- 3.6. The home team is responsible for arranging the fixture at a suitable venue (defined as the usual home pitch, or alternative school/club/artificial pitch) for all matches with the exception of those listed in the Regulations Schedule.
- 3.7. Matches must be played by the end of the stipulated week as detailed by the Competition Organiser. Should this not be possible, the home team must contact the Competition Organiser to apply for dispensation to play on an alternative date.

- 3.8. The Competition Organiser retains the right to specify the date and kick-off time for any match in the Competition.
- 3.9. In all matches in the Competition, Entrants must select their strongest squad of eligible players.

#### **Kit**

- 3.10. Each team is responsible for ensuring that there is no clash of colours and that all its kit complies with World Rugby Regulations.
- 3.11. The home team will change shirts in the event of a clash of colour.
- 3.12. All teams must wear numbered shirts in the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Final of the Competition as applicable.

#### **4. Replacements**

- 4.1. Rolling Substitutions are permitted in all matches. A player who has been substituted may later replace any player, whether or not that player has been injured (subject to Regulation 4.4).
- 4.2. Where the Competition permits a match-day squad of 22 players (15 starting players and 7 substitutes/replacements), each team must have nominated in advance at least five suitably trained and experienced front row Players in their nominated match squad, to ensure that: (a) on the first occasion that a replacement hooker is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums; and (b) on the first occasion that a replacement prop is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.
- 4.3. Where the Competition permits a match-day squad of 23 players (15 starting players and 8 substitutes/replacements), 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.
- 4.4. Subject to 4.6 below, if on any occasion a front-row player requires to be replaced and his team cannot (for any reason, including injury, temporary blood injury, temporary exclusion following a yellow card, or permanent exclusion following a red card) provide a replacement, or another suitably trained and experienced player from the nominated squad, 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 Entrant as the person responsible for the team), the match will continue with uncontested scrums. The team concerned shall not be entitled to replace the player whose departure caused the uncontested scrums and (subject to Regulation 4.6 below) the final result will stand. On return to the field of play of the front-row player who had been temporarily excluded or injured, the Match shall continue with contested scrums.
- 4.5. In the unusual event that a Referee decides to continue the game with uncontested scrums on the grounds of safety, because he cannot safely manage the scrums otherwise, the final result will stand, subject to Regulation 4.6.
- 4.6. The Competition Organiser may review the circumstances where a match is completed

with or contains uncontested scrums and in its sole discretion may impose penalties in accordance with Regulation 10, subject to the right of appeal set out in Regulation 11.

## **5. Drawn Matches**

### **5.1. Matches in a League Format**

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.

### **5.2. Matches in a Knock-Out Format (other than the final)**

In the event that the scores are level at the end of a match, the winner of the match will be the team that has scored most tries. If this does not produce a winner, the team that has scored the most conversions from tries will proceed to the next round. If this still does not produce a winner or the score is 0-0, the away team shall proceed to the next round.

### **5.3. Final**

If scores are level at the end of the match, the following order of events shall be applied in order to determine the winner of a drawn match: number of tries, number of conversions from tries, first try, first points. If this does not produce a winner or the score is 0-0, the title will be shared.

## **6. Postponed or Abandoned Matches**

### **6.1. Weather Conditions (including bad light)**

#### **6.1.1. Postponed Match**

If weather conditions (including bad light) prevent a match being played, despite the teams having followed any Postponed Match Notification Procedure as may be notified to the participating Entrant by the Competition Organiser, the match will be played at a later date unless the Competition Organiser exceptionally, and in its absolute discretion, agrees/specifies otherwise.

#### **6.1.2. Abandoned with Fewer than 50 minutes played**

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

#### **6.1.3. Abandoned with 50 or more minutes played**

If a match is abandoned solely because of weather conditions (including bad light) when fifty or more minutes have been played, 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.

### **6.2. Other Reasons**

If the Referee finds it necessary to abandon a match for any reason other than weather conditions (including bad light), irrespective of the number of minutes played, the result of that match shall be reviewed by the Competition Organiser. The Competition Organiser 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.

## **7. Match Officials**

- 7.1. The responsibility for providing Match Officials for each match will be in accordance with the Competition Regulations Schedule.

## **8. Disciplinary Procedures**

- 8.1. The RFU has the power to investigate all allegations of foul play or misconduct on or off the field of play, and all such matters shall be dealt with in accordance with the Age Grade Rugby Disciplinary Procedures, as detailed in Appendix 6 of RFU Regulation 19.
- 8.2. When any player is sent off or cited in any match in the Competition, the Disciplinary Regulations and Procedures for Age Grade rugby will apply as set out in Appendix 6 of RFU Regulation 19.
- 8.3. Any rugby disciplinary incident that arises in a School, College or Club match shall be reported to the CBAGDS within 48 hours by the school, college, club disciplinary officer or person(s) with delegated authority.
- 8.4. A player who has been suspended from Club Rugby or Schools' Rugby may not play in any other competition matches whilst under suspension.
- 8.5. Playing sanctions imposed on an Age Grade Player are to be in accordance with the framework set out in RFU Regulation 19 Age Grade Rugby sanctions table. Any non-playing sanctions imposed are only to be in addition to the playing sanction.

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

- 9.1. Subject to the right of appeal in accordance with RFU Regulation 19, the Disputes Committee shall have the power to discipline any Entrant or person for breach of any of these Regulations and/or any RFU Regulations. Ignorance of any such regulations cannot be deemed an excuse in the event of breach.
- 9.2. Any matters alleged to be in breach of these Regulations and/or RFU Regulations shall be referred immediately to the Disputes Committee; c/o the Competition Organiser within 24 hours following the conclusion of a match. Written confirmation must be sent to the Competition Organiser within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match setting out the grounds of the complaint/breach in full.
- 9.3. The Disputes Committee shall have jurisdiction to impose such penalty as it thinks fit including, but not limited to, financial sanctions, disqualification and suspension. For the avoidance of doubt, this power shall include a power to impose any sanction for breaching these or any other RFU Regulation, in line with tariffs and guidelines where these exist.

## **10. Sanctions**

- 10.1. Having reviewed the Competition Organiser's evidence or the Disputes 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 Age Grade Disciplinary Secretary will be copied in to any such notification.
- 10.2. Sanctions open to the Disputes 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 Entrant
  - A deduction of league points
  - A fine up to £100 and/or an award or reasonable costs as scheduled by either the Disputes Committee and/or a complainant
  - Order a replay
  - Order that the result is that an Entrant has lost the match
  - Exclusion/disqualification of an Entrant from the Competition, for a specific period of time as the Disputes Committee may decide.
- 10.3. Any fines collected will be put towards the costs of this Competition. Failure by an Entrant to pay a fine or costs will be considered a further breach of these Regulations and may result in the removal of the Entrant from future competitions.

## **11. Right of Appeal**

- 11.1. Should an Entrant or other party who is involved in the proceedings wish to appeal a decision of the Disputes Committee, that party shall have a right to appeal in accordance with this Regulation 11.
- 11.2. Such aggrieved party may, within 72 hours from the receipt of the letter or notice informing it of the Disputes Committee's decision, lodge an appeal in writing to the Competition Organiser, who shall then notify the National Age Grade Discipline Secretary and the RFU Head of Discipline.
- 11.3. The National Age Grade Discipline Secretary, together with the RFU Discipline Department, will direct how the appeal will be heard and conducted and will issue case management directions until a panel is appointed to hear the appeal. Any appeal will normally be determined by written submissions unless the National Age Grade Discipline Secretary and RFU Discipline Department consider it appropriate to have a live hearing in which case such hearing will take place as soon as practicable to avoid undue delay to the next round. The decision of the appeal panel is final.

## **12. Broadcasting, Media and Image Rights**

- 12.1. All broadcasting, media and image rights relating to the Competitions belong solely and exclusively to the RFU, and all participating entrants agree not, by any act or omission, to do anything to prejudice, or that is in conflict with, these rights.
- 12.2. In all Competition matches 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.
- 12.3. 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 by contacting the Competition Organiser.
- 12.4. 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.



### **13. Obligations**

13.1. Each Entrant entering its team in this competition agrees:

- a) that, by commencing its programme of matches in the Competition, it has entered into a legally binding obligation with the RFU, and, as a separate covenant, with every other team in the Competition and with any sponsor and/or commercial partner as may be associated with the competition in which the team plays;
- b) to comply in every particular with these Regulations, the RFU Rules and Regulations, and the World Rugby Rules/Regulations;
- c) to permit access to its premises during a match to any person authorised by the RFU, or Competition Organiser (with or without notice) to check compliance with all or any of the above Regulations.

## ANNEX 1

### AASE U18 FIXTURE DATES 2019-20

<b>Month</b>	<b>W/C</b>	
August	12	
August	19	
August	26	
September	2	AASE Rnd 1 (Stage 1)
September	9	AASE Rnd 2 (Stage 1)
September	16	AASE Rnd 3 (Stage 1)
September	23	AASE Rnd 4 (Stage 1)
September	30	AASE Rnd 5 (Stage 1)
October	7	AASE Rnd 6 (Stage 1)
October	14	AASE Rnd 7 (Stage 1)
October	21 (half term)	
October	28	
November	4	AASE Rnd 8 (Stage 2)
November	11	AASE Rnd 9 (Stage 2)
November	18	AASE Rnd 10 (Stage 2)
November	25	
December	2	AASE Finals