

A-LEAGUE REGULATIONS

2017/2018 Season

‘A’ LEAGUE
REGULATIONS 2017/2018

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1 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions

In these Regulations the following terms shall (unless otherwise required) have the following meanings:

- “Assistant Referee”** a person appointed to act as an Assistant Referee in a Match;
- “Board”** the Board of PRL;
- “Club”** any rugby union club which is, for the time being, a member of the Premiership;
- “Club Appointed Director”** means any director of PRL appointed by a Club as the Club’s “Director” (as such term is used in the Shareholders’ Agreement).
- “Effective Registration”** that a player is registered with a Club in accordance with RFU and pursuant to Regulation 14 of the Registration of Players Regulations;
- “England Academy Player”** a Player who is a member of an RFU academy and whose name is on the list of England Academy Players supplied by the RFU to and held by the Registrar who is qualified to play for England and/or an England U20 Player in the Season and for whom consent has been given by the RFU to play under licence for a Club other than that for whom the Player has an Effective Registration. For the avoidance of doubt, an England Academy Player will not include a member of a Club academy whose name is not on the list of England Academy Players kept by the RFU;
- “Fixture List”** the list for the time being of the “A” League fixtures referred to in these regulations and produced by PRL;
- “Home Club”** in relation to a Match, the Club on whose ground such Match is played or is to be played or (where such Match is not played) should have been played;
- “Laws of the Game”** the laws promulgated from time to time by the World Rugby according to which the game of rugby football union is played throughout the world;
- “Match”** any match forming part of the “A” League;
- “Matchday”** the Monday’s set by PRL or any other day in that same week as agreed by both Clubs and by PRL;
- “Match Official”** means any Referee, Reserve Referee, Assistant Referee, TV Match Official, Time Keeper and any other person appointed by the RFU to officiate at a Match;

“Match Result Card”	Official record of an A League fixture;
“Medical facilities”	as contained in the Minimum Standards Criteria set by the Board for the 2017/2018 season
“PRL”	means Premier Rugby Limited (company number 3096937);
“PRL CEO”	means the Chief Executive of PRL;
“Referee”	a person appointed to act as the referee in a Match;
“Regulations”	these Regulations and any future variation as provided thereof;
“Reserve Referee”	the person appointed to act as the reserve referee in a Match;
“RFU”	Rugby Football Union the sole governing body of the game in England;
“Season”	means a rugby season of 41 weeks commencing on or about 1 September;
“Shareholders’ Agreement”	means the shareholders’ agreement entered into by each of the Clubs in respect of their shareholding in PRL, as amended from time to time;
“Visiting Club”	in relation to a Match the Club which plays or is to play or (where such Match is not played) should have played such Match at the ground of a Home Club, but is not the Home Club for such Match;

1.2 Variations to These Regulations

- (a) These Regulations shall be binding on all Clubs who shall be deemed to have full knowledge of the content of these Regulations.
- (b) These Regulations may be amended from time to time by the approval of 75% of Club Appointed Directors (save for the amending of dates), and any such amendments shall be notified in writing to each Club. Upon receipt of such amended Regulations each of the Clubs shall be automatically bound by any such amended Regulations. Each Club shall be deemed to have received written notification of amendments to these Regulations: (a) if sent by email or fax, on the business day such fax or email is sent, and (b) if sent by post, two business days after the day on which the notification is posted to the Club.
- (c) The Board shall have the discretion to decide on matters not provided for in these Regulations and the Board’s decision(s) in respect of those matters shall be final and binding save for any right of appeal to review as may be specifically reserved under these Regulations.

2. THE COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- (a) The “A” League competition will include 13 Clubs divided into two pools, one pool of 6 teams (contesting the north pool) and one pool of 7 teams (contesting the south pool). The composition of each pool shall be as follows:

South Pool

Bath United
Bristol Rugby
Exeter Braves
Gloucester
Harlequins
London Irish
Saracens Storm

North Pool

Leicester Tigers
Newcastle Falcons
Northampton Wanderers
Sale Jets
Wasps
Worcester Warriors

- (b) The position of a Club in the two “A” League pools shall be established by awarding four league points for a win and two league points for a draw. In addition, one bonus league point will be awarded to a team:-
- i) On each occasion it scores four or more tries in an “A” League match
 - ii) On each occasion it loses an “A” League match by seven points or less.
- (c) In the case of equality in any pool at any stage of the Season, positions at that stage of the season shall be determined firstly by the number of wins achieved and then on the basis of match points differential. A Club with a larger number of wins shall be placed higher than a Club with the same number of league points but fewer wins. If Clubs have equal league points and equal number of wins then a Club with a larger difference between match points “for” and match points “against” shall be placed higher in the “A” League pool than a Club with a smaller difference between match points “for” and match points “against”. Should two Clubs have the same number of wins, the same number of league points and the same match points difference, the Club having scored more match points “for” shall be placed higher in the “A” League pool than the Club having the lesser number of match points “for”. If the above does not establish different “A” League pool positions then the Club in the higher position shall be the Club that has achieved the higher aggregate match points scored by it in the same season against the other Club. If this still does not establish the position then the Club who has won the most matches, excluding its first “A” League match of the season, then its second “A” League pool match and so on, until it can be established which is the higher placed Club.
- (d) The semi-final will be contested between the pool winners who will play at home against the runners up in the opposite pool. For example the winner of the south pool will play at home against the runner up of the north pool and vice versa.
- (e) The winners of each semi-final shall play each other in the Final.
- (f) The venue for the Final shall be determined as follows:
- i) If the Final is between a pool winner and a pool runner-up, the pool winner shall host the Final; or
 - ii) If the Final is between the two pool winners or between the two pool runner-

ups, the team with the greatest average number of tries from the pool stage shall host the Final. However, if the average number of tries is the same, the team with the greatest points difference from the pool stage shall host the Final. In the event that the average number of tries and points difference is the same, the venue for the Final shall be determined by the toss of a coin at the office of PRL. The data for this will be produced from the Match Result Cards held by Stuart Farmer Media Services Ltd.

- (g) The winner of the final shall be the winner of the tournament.
- (h) In the semi-finals and Final of the competition a Club may only play or select as a replacement players who have represented the Club in the pool stages. Additional players not included on the Match Result Cards may only play with the written agreement of the opposition and PRL.

3 FIXTURES AND KICK-OFF TIMES

3.1 Arrangement of Fixtures

- (a) All Matches to be played during a Season shall be arranged by PRL as soon as reasonably practicable following the end of the immediately preceding Season and a list of such Matches shall be sent to each of the Clubs.
- (b) All Matches shall be played on the dates scheduled in the published Fixture List (reproduced below) save (i) where both clubs agree to rearrange a fixture to later in that same week or to another date in the season and PRL has given written approval or (ii) where PRL acting in its absolute discretion decides to rearrange a fixture.
- (c) The north pool (6 teams) will be contested over 10 rounds playing each other home and away.
- (d) The south pool (7 teams) will be contested over two stages as follows:
 - a. Stage One – each team shall play each other once, home or away, over 7 weeks; and
 - b. Stage Two – on completion of Stage One each team shall be seeded from 1 to 7 in accordance with Regulation 2(b) and 2(c) above. The teams seeded 1 to 5 shall play each other once more, home or away, as directed by PRL, over 5 weeks. Teams seeded 6 and 7 shall play each other twice, home and away. The final pool table shall be determined from the results by teams (1 to 5) in both Stage One and Stage Two and the top two teams shall progress to the semi-finals in accordance with Regulation 2(d).
- (d) If any match is rearranged then “A” League matches must take precedence over all other matches involving a Clubs Academy or 2nd XV.
- (e) The reserve dates (south pool on 12th & 19th March 2018, north pool on 26th March 2018 and 16th April 2018) have been identified by PRL to schedule any unfulfilled fixtures and must not to be used for rearranging fixtures between clubs unless in exceptional circumstances and subject to PRL approval.

- (f) Any change in the match arrangements must be notified to PRL and all match officials.
- (g) “A” League matches will kick off at 19.30 on a Monday evening unless agreed otherwise by both teams and PRL.

Fixtures Dates

Date	North Pool	South Pool
4 th September 2017	Round 1	Round 1 (Stage One)
11 th September 2017	Round 2	Round 2 (Stage One)
25 th September 2017	Round 3	Round 3 (Stage One)
2 nd October 2017	Round 4	Round 4 (Stage One)
23 rd October 2017	Round 5	Round 5 (Stage One)
27 th November 2017	Round 6	Round 6 (Stage One)
18 th December 2017	Round 7	Round 7 (Stage One)
1 st January 2018	Round 8	Round 1 (Stage Two)
12 th March 2018		Reserve 1
19 th March 2018		Reserve 2
26 th March 2018	Reserve 1	Round 2 (Stage Two)
2 nd April 2018	Round 9	Round 3 (Stage Two)
9 th April 2018	Round 10	Round 4 (Stage Two)
16 th April 2018	Reserve 2	Round 5 (Stage Two)
22 nd April 2018	Semi-Finals	
30 th April 2018	Final	

3.2 Duration of Matches

- (a) All Matches shall be of 80 minutes duration, divided into two halves of 40 minutes each. In all matches, the interval between each of the two halves shall not be more than 15 minutes during which time the teams will leave the pitch.
- (b) Any Match which from any cause whatsoever falls short of 80 minutes duration may be ordered to count as a completed fixture or to be replayed in full, as PRL may in its absolute discretion determine.
- (c) In the Semi-Finals and the Final, if after 40 minutes of play each way the scores are level, there shall be an immediate period of extra time between the teams of 10 minutes each way, with a one minute interval. If the scores remain equal after this period of extra time then the winner will be the team which has scored the most tries in the game (including extra time). If the scores are level and the number of tries scored is equal, then there shall be a place kick competition (as set out in Schedule 1) to determine the winner.

3.3 Non-Fulfilment of Fixture Obligations

- (a) No Club shall, without just cause (it being within the sole discretion of the PRL CEO to determine whether or not just cause exists), fail to fulfill its fixture obligations in respect of a Match on the date and at the time appointed for such fixture.
- (b) In the event that a Club shall so fail to fulfill a Match or upon receiving a request for a postponement or re-arrangement then, the PRL CEO may, in its absolute discretion award the league points to either side (including for the avoidance of doubt, a bonus point for 4 tries or more), divide the league points between the sides or decide that no league points shall be awarded. The PRL CEO may also award the “winning team” 20 match points on the assumption that they would have scored 4 tries. If the PRL CEO is of the view that a Club has unjustifiably failed to fulfill its obligations he may deduct league points from the Club and/or make an order for a fine to be imposed. In addition or instead he may order the Match to be postponed or re-arranged or replayed on a date specified by it. In each case the PRL CEO shall have regard to the likely final positions of the Clubs at the end of the season (including other Clubs in the “A” League) the commitments of the Clubs concerned and giving priority to arguments of the Club which was not at fault in the event of a dispute on any re-arranged Match date.
- (c) Each Club must notify PRL of any concern in relation to the condition of the pitch and notify PRL of the steps it has taken to minimize disruption to any Match. The Club must retain regular contact with PRL in relation to the condition of the pitch. It is the responsibility of the home Club to monitor the weather conditions in the week leading into any Match.
- (d) The Referee shall determine if the ground is fit for play.
- (e) If weather conditions prevent a Match being played or a Match is abandoned because of such conditions with less than sixty minutes having been played, it is the responsibility of the Match Official and the Home Club (where applicable) to advise the PRL of the reason for non playing or non completion of the Match as soon as possible after the event. PRL will determine if the Match will be replayed on a date specified by PRL or whether the result will stand.
- (f) If a Match is abandoned because of weather conditions when sixty 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.
- (g) If the Referee finds it necessary to abandon a Match for any reason other than weather conditions, then, irrespective of the number of minutes played, the result and score of that Match may be determined by PRL in its absolute discretion. PRL may order the Match to be replayed in which event the Match will take place on a date specified by PRL.
- (h) Any Club which is suspended from playing rugby union football for disciplinary reasons will not be permitted to re-arrange any Match falling to be played within the period of the suspension.
- (i) In addition to and whether or not a penalty is imposed upon a Club by PRL where

in the opinion of PRL the Club failed to honour its Match obligations a Club may be liable to pay to any opposing Club compensation in respect of the losses, damages liabilities, costs or expenses suffered or incurred by such opposing Club as a result of such failure. The amount of such compensation will in default of agreement between the Clubs be determined by PRL.

- (j) Failure to complete any match shall result in the offending club being fined £10,000, unless the PRL CEO at his sole discretion determines otherwise. This shall be determined by PRL as outlined above. For the avoidance of doubt, any fine may be in addition to any compensation awarded.

4 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- (a) Subject to Regulation 2(h) a Club may play or select as a replacement any player aged at least 18 years of age for an “A” League fixture, whether or not that player has Effective Registration with that Club, provided that the Clubs Academy Manager, Director of Rugby or Coach responsible for the team for any particular fixture, is satisfied that each player selected has the ability to participate in a game when opposition players maybe experienced professional players. A player who has not reached his 18th Birthday shall only play if he has specific written consent from the RFU’s Head of Regional Academies in accordance with RFU Regulation 15.3.8.
- (b) Any player selected in an “A” League squad for any match must not have played 41 minutes rugby or more in any game in the period 24 hours prior to kick off of the “A” League fixture. For the avoidance of doubt, any player who has played 40 minutes rugby or less in the 24 hours prior to kick off is available to be selected in the “A” League.
- (c) In all Matches a minimum of 5 replacements and substitutes are required. These replacements and substitutes are permitted in accordance with Law 3 and the World Rugby resolutions/rulings/directives relating thereto and the Clubs shall comply with such Law and resolutions/rulings/directives.
- (d) In the interests of safety each team playing in the “A” League must have at least five (5) players in the squad, who can play in the front row who are suitably trained and experienced to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement hooker is required and on the first occasion that a replacement prop forward is required (whether due to injury or consequent to a player(s) being temporarily suspended or ordered off) the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.
- (e) If on any occasion any front row player requires to be replaced and his team cannot provide a replacement or other player suitably 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 confirmed this fact with the Captain of the team or such other person nominated by the Club as the manager or other person responsible for the team will order uncontested scrums.
- (f) Where a player(s) is/are temporarily suspended from the field of play which creates a second or subsequent occasion that a replacement hooker is required or a second or subsequent occasion that a replacement prop forward is required and

his team cannot provide a replacement or other player suitably trained and experienced to enable the Match to continue safely with contested scrums the Referee having confirmed this fact with the Captain of the team or such other person nominated by the Club as the manager or other person responsible for the team the Match shall continue but for the duration (and only for the duration) of the temporary suspension with non-contested scrums and the Match result will be unaffected.

- (g) If on any occasion where uncontested scrums are ordered by the Referee as a result of there being no suitably trained and experienced front row replacement for any reason (which includes injury, temporary blood injury, temporary exclusion (i.e. following a yellow card) or permanent exclusion (i.e. following a sending off)), the team concerned shall not be entitled to replace the player whose departure caused the uncontested scrums. On return to the field of play of the front row player who has been temporarily excluded or injured the Match shall continue with contested scrums.

5 PLAYING KIT

5.1 Colours

PRL shall determine which choice of colours a Club wears in any Match, although PRL shall, where appropriate but in their absolute discretion, endeavor to allow a Home Club and the Clubs in the “A” League final to wear their first choice colours.

5.2 Jersey Advertising

In Matches Players’ jerseys may carry advertising subject to any requirement from time to time specified by PRL, the RFU and/or the World Rugby.

5.3 Numbering of Jerseys

In Matches in each season jerseys shall be numbered in accordance with World Rugby Regulations. All Clubs are to obtain the letters and numbers for such jerseys exclusively from PRL and from no other supplier.

6 REFEREES, RESERVE REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

6.1 Selection

As soon as practicable before a Match, the RFU shall notify the relevant Club(s) of the Referee, Reserve Referee and Assistant Referees, for such Match.

6.2 Home Club’s responsibilities

In relation to “A” League matches the Home Club shall be responsible for:

- (a) making available to the Referee, Reserve Referee and the Assistant Referees separate suitable changing room facilities; and
- (b) providing an official from the Home Club to act as the 4th official who shall be

responsible, under the authority of the Referee, for the touchline operation of replacements, “blood bin” and “sin bin” in conjunction with the Reserve Referee. In the event that one of the Assistant Referees is required to replace the Reserve Referee such 4th official may be called upon to act as one of the Assistant Referees at the request of the Referee.

- (c) An authorised representative of a Club participating in a Match must deliver to the Referee for such Match, at least one hour before the kick-off time for such Match, a Match Result Card (in such form as PRL may from time to time determine) containing a list of the full names of each of the Players of that Club who are to take part or act as replacements in such Match.
- (d) Within two hours of the end of the Match the Referee shall complete each Match Result Card given to him by inserting the result of such Match (including the number of tries, goals and penalty goals scored and the timing of any replacements or substitutions during such Match) and shall sign and return such Match Result Card to the relevant Club.
- (e) The Home Club shall, within four hours after the end of the Match, complete and sign the Match Result Card and send it by email to Stuart Farmer Media Services Ltd at stuart@sfmsltd.co.uk or such person or agency as PRL may determine and notify the Clubs from time to time and such person shall hold the definitive table of results for the Aviva Premiership Rugby A League.
- (f) The Match Result Card will be the only evidence acceptable from a Club of the names of the players who played or were replacements for the Match without prejudice to the right of the Club to produce supporting evidence in the event of a question being raised.
- (g) The Home Club shall be responsible for (1) the recording of full and unedited footage of the Match and (2) the provision of such footage to PRL (or a third party authorised by PRL) in a format as directed from time to time by PRL. Such full and unedited footage of the Match shall be provided to PRL (or a third party authorised by PRL) for use on a free of charge basis for injury surveillance and research as agreed by PRL.

6.3 Uniforms

When on duty at a Match, the Referee, Reserve Referee, and 4th official and the Assistant Referees shall be required to wear such match kit (including footwear) as may from time to time be determined by the RFU.

7 MEDICAL MATTERS

7.1 Attendance of a Medical Practitioner for Players, the Referee and the Assistant Referees

- (a) It is the responsibility of each clubs in an “A” League match, and the “A” League Final to ensure that:
 - (i) it has an appropriately qualified medical practitioner present pitch side to attend to its Players, the Referee and the Assistant Referees during the match, at half-time and immediately after the match; to be considered

appropriately qualified a medical practitioner must demonstrate that he/she is fully registered with the General Medical Council (GMC), and can demonstrate that he/she has met the criteria set by the PRL/RFU/PGB Immediate Care in Sport Course (ICIS) Steering group for the Season; and

- (ii) it has an appropriately qualified physiotherapist or a BASRAT approved sports rehabilitator, present throughout the Match to attend to their respective Players and also, if necessary, to the Referee and the Assistant Referees. To be considered suitably qualified a physiotherapist must demonstrate that he/she is a Chartered Physiotherapist, registered with the Health Professions Council and can demonstrate that he/she has met the criteria set by the PRL/RFU/PGB Immediate Care in Sport Course (ICIS) Steering group the season. To be considered suitably qualified BASRAT approved sports rehabilitator he/she must demonstrate that he/she is registered with the Health Professions Council, possesses the appropriate professional indemnity insurance and can demonstrate that he/she has met the criteria set by the PRL/RFU/PGB Immediate Care in Sport Course (ICIS) Steering group for the Season.
- (b) It is the responsibility of the Home Club in “A” League matches, and the “A” League Final to ensure that such medical facilities as are defined in the Minimum Standards Criteria document are available for the use of qualified medical practitioners as required in Regulation 7.1(a) above.

7.2 Head Injuries

Any Player who has suffered concussion in any match or training session must be managed according to the World Rugby Medical Regulation 10 and World Rugby’s Concussion Guidelines and the RFU’s Concussion Management Programme (as defined in the Immediate Care in Sport Course (ICIS)), including post concussion testing with Cogspport (or such other recognised psychometric test that the RFU’s Concussion Management Programme shall from time to time specify).

8 DISCIPLINE, BREACHES AND INSURANCE

8.1 Misconduct and Breach

- (a) All allegations of foul play on the pitch, and all allegations of misconduct either on or off the pitch which may constitute a breach of RFU Rule 5.12 shall be investigated in accordance with the RFU Disciplinary Regulations, and the RFU shall have exclusive jurisdiction to take disciplinary action and apply sanctions to Clubs, Officials, Players and any other Members. Without prejudice to these powers, PRL shall have the right to take additional measures against a Club, Official, Player or member, or (where the RFU decides to take no action), to take separate disciplinary action including action for any breach of these regulations.
- (b) Any breaches of these Regulations shall be dealt with by PRL in accordance with the PRL Disciplinary Regulations, save for those matters set out at Regulations 3.3(b) and 8.1(a) above.

8.2 Appeals

- (a) Any appeal from a decision made pursuant to Regulation 8.1(a) shall be made to an Appeals Panel constituted by the RFU. An appeal shall be commenced by the appellant lodging with the RFU (Head of Discipline), a notice of appeal within fourteen days of the decision.
- (b) Any appeal from a decision made pursuant to Regulations 8.1(b) or 3.3(b) shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 6.1 of the PRL Disciplinary Regulations.

8.3 Insurance

Each Club must ensure that all players competing in any Aviva “A” League match are insured under the central policy of insurance provided by PRL.

9 GROUNDS

9.1 Facilities and Equipment

- (a) Each Club shall provide such reasonable facilities at its ground as may be determined from time to time by PRL and in particular shall have as a minimum the medical facilities set out in the Company’s Minimum Standards Criteria. PRL may require a Club to take such steps as it shall specify if such facilities are not being provided or are not being provided to a standard reasonably acceptable PRL.
- (b) All Clubs in the “A” League shall be obliged to use a specified ball for all Matches as may be determined by PRL from time to time.
- (c) Following the publication of the fixtures, all Clubs must provide PRL with the venue of all matches.

9.2 The Pitch

- (a) Each Club shall take all reasonable steps to maintain its pitch to an adequate standard. PRL may require a Club to take such steps as it shall specify if it is not satisfied that its pitch is being maintained to an adequate standard.
- (b) Each Club’s pitch shall comply with the Laws of the Game and any World Rugby ruling and/or directions relating to the same. Furthermore no Club shall change its pitch size from the size at the start of the season and as registered.
- (c) Where an Artificial Pitch is to be used the Home Club must inform PRL in writing, prior to such Artificial Pitch being used for a match in the A League Competition, that the pitch complies with World Rugby Regulation 22 and is an RFU approved pitch.
- (d) The Home Club is responsible for correctly and clearly marking its pitch and it must make proper provision to ensure that all spectators are kept at a reasonable distance from the field of play by a permanent barrier.

- (e) Each Club must ensure that team replacements and coaching staff are not permitted pitchside except within structures specifically provided for them or within the boundaries of the 'technical area' as determined in Schedule 2 or at and for the extent of half-time or, in the case of team replacements, for the purpose of warming up only, at the end of the pitch towards which such replacements' team is attacking.
- (f) The Home Club shall provide the Visiting Club with six seats in two blocks of three, one behind the other, on, or in close proximity to, the halfway line in a reasonably elevated position for the coaching staff and match analysis staff of the Visiting Club.
- (g) Each Club must make provision for two technical areas as outlined in Schedule 2 and shall comply and shall ensure that all coaching and playing personnel comply with the requirements contained therein.
- (h) Any player temporarily suspended when playing in a Match must remain in the "technical area" or leave the playing enclosure and be clearly and readily identifiable to the fourth official.
- (i) Any player ordered off must leave the playing enclosure.
- (j) When a decision as to the fitness of a pitch for the playing of a Match is necessary, it shall be made by the Referee following consultation with both teams, or in the absence of such Referee, a referee approved by PRL; such decision being made as early as reasonably possible.

9.3 Safety

All Clubs must have a valid health and safety certificate in respect of their ground at the time Matches are played at their grounds.

9.4 Public Liability Insurance

Each Club shall ensure that it has public liability insurance cover for a minimum of £10 million for each Match covered by these Regulations and in accordance with any insurance requirement under the Sponsorship Agreement.

SCHEDULE 1

PLACE KICK COMPETITION

If at the end of the 'A' League semi final match or the 'A' League Final referred to at Regulation 3.2(c) the scores remain equal, then the referee will conduct a place-kick competition to determine the winner of the match, according to the following procedures:

- 1 All players and match officials will remain on the playing area. The referee will call the captains of the two teams to the centre circle and will conduct two coin tosses. The first toss of the coin will decide which team selects the end at which all place-kicks must be taken; the second toss of the coin will decide which team selects whether it wishes to kick first or second. For the avoidance of doubt, it may be that the same team wins both tosses in which case it may select the end at which all place kicks must be taken and whether it wishes to kick first or second in sequence.
- 2 Each team must nominate five players to take part in the competition. Only players on the playing area at the final whistle may be nominated. No substituted players or players who have been shown a red card may take part at any time. For clarification purposes, any player who has received a yellow card and who remains in the sin bin at the time of the final whistle may not take part in the place kick competition. The order in which the nominated players will kick does not have to be predetermined.
- 3 The match officials and the ten nominated players (five from each team) will assemble on the halfway line. Team management and players not nominated must remain behind the halfway line in the side of the playing area not used. No one other than the match officials and the participating players is allowed in the part of the playing area being used for the competition (including around the playing area, behind the posts, etc).
- 4 The five players from each team will kick from five different points, all on the 22 metre line, as follows (see diagram below):

First point: exactly in front of the posts.

Second point: at the intersection of the 15 metre line and the 22 metre line on the left hand side of the posts.

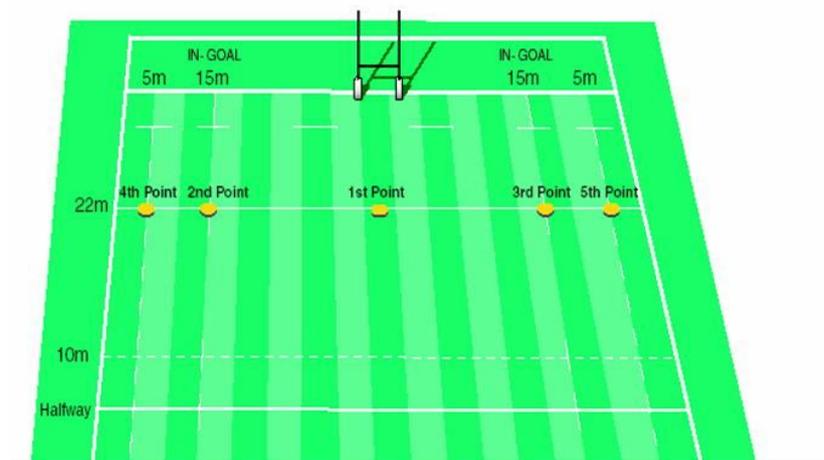
Third point: at the intersection of the 15 metre line and the 22 metre line on the right hand side of the posts.

Fourth point: at the intersection of the 5 metre line and the 22 metre line on the left hand side of the posts.

Fifth point: at the intersection of the 5 metre line and the 22 metre line on the right hand side of the posts.
- 5 The referee starts the competition by calling the first player selected from the team kicking first to the first kicking point. Once the player has taken the kick, the referee calls a player from the opposing team to kick from exactly the same spot.
- 6 The next two players (one from each team) will kick from the second point in turn. This will continue until all five players from each team have kicked (the next players kicking respectively from the third point, fourth point and finally the fifth point).

- 7 After the five nominated players from each team have taken their kicks, the referee will declare the winning team based on the number of successful kicks. If there is an equal number of successful kicks, the competition continues on a 'sudden death' basis.
- 8 The referee calls for two new players (one from each team) to kick at goal, from the first kicking point (see above). No substituted players or players who have been shown a red card may take part at any time. For the avoidance of doubt, a player who has received a yellow card and who remains in the sin bin at the time of the final whistle may not take part in the place kick competition. The order in which the nominated players kick does not have to be predetermined. No player may kick a second time until all members of the team who were on the playing area at the final whistle of the second half of the match have taken a kick.
- 9 The competition will continue two kicks at a time (one from each side), going progressively through the five kicking points stated above (and repeating the process if necessary) until one player succeeds with a kick and the player from the other side taking the same kick misses it. Once that happens, the team of the player who succeeded with the kick will be declared the winner.
- 10 Throughout the place kick competition:
 - 10.1 Once a player has positioned the ball on the kicking tee, he must take the kick within one minute. Should he take longer, the referee shall declare the kick void.
 - 10.2 After each kick, the referee records the number of the player and whether or not the attempt was successful.

Whether or not a goal is scored from each attempt is the sole decision of the referee, who may at his sole discretion rely on the assistance of his Assistant Referees. The referee's decision shall be final and binding.



Schedule 2

Technical Area

1. Dimensions of the Technical Area

- a. For all Matches two technical areas shall be provided within the playing enclosure on the same side of the pitch, each one on either side of the half-way line and outside the field-of-play.
- b. These technical areas must be marked on the ground.
- c. The line nearest the touch line must be parallel to the touch line and be at least one metre from the field of play.
- d. The technical area must not exceed ten metres in length.
- e. Wherever practically possible the areas should be behind advertising hoardings with easy access to the field of play.

2. Personnel permitted in the Technical Area

- a. No more than two medically trained persons (certified doctors or physiotherapists only) and two water carriers per team are permitted to operate from the technical areas. One of these medics is free to “track” play on the side of the playing area containing the technical areas in order to provide immediate medical assistance when required. Both medics and water carriers must wear the appropriate identification as instructed by PRL.
- b. One Team Manager (who may be coaching personnel) is permitted within the Technical Area and will identify himself as the Team Manager to the officials. The Team Manager must wear the appropriate identification as instructed by PRL and once identified, the Team Manager must not inter-change with any other member of his team’s management.
- c. No other person (including other team officials) is permitted in the technical area.
- d. One other medically trained person (in addition to those identified in Paragraph 2. a. of this Schedule above) may be positioned on the far side of the playing area on the touch line opposite the technical area and is free to “track” play in order to provide immediate medical assistance when required. This medic must wear the appropriate identification armbands as instructed by PRL.
- e. Where practically possible any medical person operating on the far side of the playing area from the technical area or on the technical area side of the playing area must stay outside the advertising hoardings. The medical personnel may keep up with play, but must pay due regard to the needs and rights of players, match officials, spectators, broadcasters and commercial partners.

- f. All medical personnel may enter the field of play in accordance with Law at any time a player is injured. They must not obstruct, interfere or aim comments at match officials except to notify match officials of a severe injury when requesting that the Match be stopped.

3. Roles of personnel in the Technical Area

- a. Water may only be taken on the field during stoppages in play for injuries in the playing area and when a try has been scored. Water carriers must remain in the technical area at all other times.
- b. The two water carriers are not permitted in the playing area during penalty kicks at goal unless one enters the playing area with the sole intention of providing a kicker with a kicking tee.
- c. The two water carriers must not obstruct, interfere or aim comments at match officials except to notify match officials of a severe injury when requesting that the Match be stopped.
- d. Players may come to the touch line adjacent to the technical area to receive water.

4. Management of the Technical Area

- a. All personnel permitted in the technical area must have some distinguishing mark as designated by PRL e.g. arm bands/vests.
- b. The fourth and fifth officials will manage the technical areas. If there is a transgression of the protocol, the matter will be reported to the match referee.
- c. The match referee may caution any offender or at his discretion expel the person(s) from the playing enclosure for any breach of the protocol.

5. Personnel outside of the Technical Area

- a. The replacement bench and the location of any Clubs coaching teams should, wherever possible, be in a designated area within the stand and in close proximity to the halfway line and the technical area. In circumstances where this is not possible, each Club shall ensure that the replacements will remain seated within the technical area at all times, except when warming up.
- b. If replacements require warming up and there is not an area outside the playing enclosure, they may warm up in the opposition in-goal area.

6. Management of Replacements and Substitutions

- a. The management of the replacement and substitution process is the responsibility of the Number 4 and 5 Officials. Replacements and substitutes are only permitted to enter the field of play after the 4 or 5 has communicated to the Referee and this has been acknowledged by the Referee.
- b. When a replacement or substitution of a player is going to take place, the team manager or person administering replacements and substitutions on behalf of a team, must present a completed substitution / replacement form to the Number 4 or 5 Official that clearly indicates the number of the player leaving the field of play, the reason for a player leaving the field of play and the number of the player who will be entering the field of play in that player's place, once permitted to do so by the Number 4 or 5.
- c. The Number 4 or 5 will escort the player entering the field of play to the touch line at the halfway line and will only let that player enter the field of play when the player leaving the field of play has crossed the touch line, the touch in goal line or the dead ball line and is off the field of play.
- d. A replacement player may be allowed to enter the field of play before the player leaving the field of play crosses the touch line, the touch in goal line or dead ball line if the player leaving the field of play is injured such that it necessitates the player being escorted from the field of play by medical personnel. In such cases the Number 4 or 5 will indicate to the replacement player when they are permitted to enter the field of play.
- e. If for any reason there are more than fifteen players on the field of play during play, the Number 4 or 5 Official(s) will make contact with the Referee and inform him of the situation. The Referee will apply Law 3.2 and order that the Captain of the offending team removes the extra player(s) from the field of play and will award a penalty kick to the non offending team.